

**Malady & Wooten, LLP**

Legislative Report

March 28, 2013

For questions, contact:

**Drew Lyons**

Phone: 717.236.9600

Email: [dlyons@malady-wooten.com](mailto:dlyons@malady-wooten.com)



**Pennsylvania Golf Course Owners Association**

**\*PLEASE NOTE\* Your report will be sent on Thursday this week because the office is closed for Good Friday. The report will be sent on Friday next week.**

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

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**Session Schedule:**

**2013 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE**

April	8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24
May	6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15
June	3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

**2013 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE**

April	8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 29, 30
May	1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14
June	3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

## **BILL REPORT**

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**\*ATTACHED TO THE REPORT\***

## **STATE NEWS**

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### **UNIONS, STATE TO BATTLE OVER PROPOSED PENSION CHANGES**

The changes Gov. Tom Corbett has proposed for the state pension systems are still in draft form, awaiting legislative sponsorship, debate and votes. But should the revisions to retirement benefits for school and state workers become law, the prospect of a court battle is so certain that the Corbett administration and labor unions already are discussing their cases.

### **NEW TURNPIKE CEO VOWS TO CHANGE CULTURE**

When Turnpike CEO Mark Compton finished reading an 85-page grand jury report charging widespread corruption at the agency, he concluded, "It was sickened." Compton, a former deputy PennDOT secretary, joined the turnpike as top executive on Feb. 1, less than six weeks before the grand jury alleged a "pay-to-play" scheme in which campaign contributions and gifts paved the way to turnpike contracts. Now Compton, 39, vows to "change the culture" at the agency where corruption has surfaced periodically.

### **HORSE RACING SEES INCREASE IN BETTING**

Pennsylvania horse racing enthusiasts put more money down at the track in 2012, state regulators say. Money wagered on horse racing tracks rose 12 percent in 2012 compared to the year before, according to a new report the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. Statewide, players bet \$776.9 million on horse racing in 2012, up from \$690.3 million the year before. While a noteworthy jump over 2011, it's only a little higher than the previous few years.

## **IN THE NEWS**

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### **First Lady Susan Corbett Kicks off DCED on the Road Tourism Luncheon**

PA Tourism Office Launches New VisitPA.com, Releases 2013 Vacation Guide

**Skytop** – First Lady Susan Corbett joined Pennsylvania Tourism Office representatives today in the Poconos to discuss the impacts of tourism in the commonwealth and to launch a redesign of [visitPA.com](http://visitPA.com), featuring new travel content to make roadtrip planning easier and more interactive.

"As Pennsylvania's First Tourist, I'm excited to participate in today's announcement to launch a redesign of [visitPA.com](http://visitPA.com)," First Lady Corbett said. "The new website will make it easier for travelers to explore Pennsylvania just in time for the spring and summer travel season."

With more than two million visitors using [visitPA.com](http://visitPA.com) as a travel destination resource in 2012, the website plays a critical role in connecting travelers to Pennsylvania's diverse attractions.

"We invite visitors to experience the history, adventure, diversity and splendor of the commonwealth through our new website," said Carolyn Newhouse, deputy secretary for Innovation & Investment at the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). "Whether you are looking for iconic attractions, world-class museums or recreational opportunities, [visitPA.com](http://visitPA.com) is the ultimate resource to inspire travel to Pennsylvania."

VisitPA.com now welcomes visitors with a fresh homepage featuring an interactive state map and connections to 44 regional roadtrips. For the first time, vacationers can seamlessly plan a getaway using BookDirect, a free tool that allows visitors to quickly determine hotel rates and make lodging reservations immediately. New features on beer, wine and food are just a taste of the new site content, and group travelers can now access direct links to information on meetings, conventions and group tours.

The Pennsylvania Tourism Office also released today its 2013 "Best of Pennsylvania" Vacation Guide to help travelers explore the state's most popular destinations and regional roundups focused on Trip Tips, Not-to-Miss lists and Kidsylvania ideas. The cover pays tribute to Gettysburg and Pennsylvania's 150th commemoration of the Civil War, in addition to features on "State of the Art" and the State Games of America hosted in Pennsylvania this summer.

First Lady Susan Corbett was joined by DCED Secretary C. Alan Walker and the Pennsylvania Tourism Office as part of *DCED on the Road*, a series of events across Northeast Pennsylvania to discuss Governor Corbett's plans for economic growth, job creation and community development.

DCED representatives will spend three days, March 25 – 27, traveling throughout Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill and Wayne counties, visiting successful projects, and meeting with community, economic development and tourism partners.

The "Best of Pennsylvania" guide is available online at [visitpa.com/pa-vacation-guide](http://visitpa.com/pa-vacation-guide) or by calling 1-800-VISIT PA.

### **DEP Awards 26 Counties Nearly \$2.2 Million in West Nile Virus Grants**

**Harrisburg** – The Department of Environmental Protection today announced it is awarding nearly \$2.2 million in West Nile Virus Control program grants to 26 counties, which are slated to begin surveillance activities in early April.

"This grant funding will help the counties that are most affected by West Nile Virus to monitor and control mosquitos," DEP Secretary Mike Krancer said. "It is important for us to work with our county partners to protect human health at the local level."

DEP developed the funding proposals in consultation with county officials. The total county grant award is about \$20,000 more than the 2012 grants. This additional grant funding will be used to cover the costs of new spray equipment for county-based West Nile Virus (WNV) programs. Gov. Corbett's proposed 2013-14 budget maintains 2012 funding levels for DEP's WNV Control program.

Because of the mild winter and early spring, 2012 proved to be a record year for WNV in Pennsylvania. The first positive mosquito was discovered May 4, 2012, the earliest ever. That kicked off a year that brought the highest recorded numbers of human, bird, mosquito and veterinary positives since 2003.

In humans, the virus can cause West Nile fever and encephalitis, an infection that can cause inflammation of the brain and death. Most people bitten by an infected mosquito will never develop any symptoms, and only one person in 150 people with symptoms will develop the more serious West Nile encephalitis.

To reduce the risk of WNV, DEP and county staff use a combination of education, source reduction and mosquito control. Mosquito control is largely done by using larval control products, such as Bti, which is derived from soil bacteria. If necessary, man-made adult mosquito control products derived from the chrysanthemum flower are used to reduce mosquito populations when they pose an elevated risk of infecting people. Adult mosquito control products are effective in controlling mosquito populations and pose little to no harmful effect to humans, plants or other animals.

The DEP WNV program will begin mosquito surveillance in early May. Residents are encouraged to remove all standing water from their property to prepare for mosquito season and prevent infection.

To report a dead bird or file a mosquito complaint, or for more information about WNV, visit [www.westnile.state.pa.us](http://www.westnile.state.pa.us) or call 717-346-8238.

**Editor's note:** Below is the list of the 2013 West Nile Virus Control grants for each county:

Adams - \$71,688  
Allegheny - \$164,816  
Beaver - \$34,598  
Berks - \$53,310  
Blair - \$35,509  
Bucks - \$156,699  
Cambria - \$62,044  
Centre - \$55,200  
Chester - \$110,701  
Cumberland - \$60,904  
Dauphin - \$91,000  
Delaware - \$110,498  
Erie - \$81,079  
Fayette - \$37,670  
Franklin - \$57,380  
Lackawanna - \$55,411  
Lancaster - \$104,153  
Lawrence - \$42,000  
Lebanon - \$69,519  
Lehigh - \$92,992  
Luzerne - \$79,500  
Monroe - \$30,000  
Montgomery - \$129,114  
Philadelphia - \$219,998  
Westmoreland - \$71,152  
York - \$112,000

### **PENNVEST, DEP Announce Results of Forward Nutrient Credit Trading Auction**

Next Auction Planned for June 12

**Harrisburg** – The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) and the Department of Environmental Protection, along with financial information services company Markit, held on March 20 the first “forward” auction in 2013 for the sale and purchase of nutrient credits in Pennsylvania’s Chesapeake Bay watershed.

A “forward” auction means that the certified credits sold will be delivered later and applied to the 2013-15 compliance years. The auction affords wastewater treatment plants and other regulated entities the opportunity to purchase credits to meet their nitrogen and phosphorus discharge limits for these compliance years.

“PENNVEST’s and DEP’s commitment to helping Pennsylvania meet its nutrient discharge goals for the Chesapeake Bay watershed were further enhanced by this auction, ” PENNVEST executive director Paul Marchetti said. “We continue to work together and with all parties interested in trading to create a cost-effective and useful tool for Pennsylvania communities, farmers and, most importantly, for the health of our rivers, streams and, ultimately, the Bay.

PENNVEST hosts the auctions to encourage the trading of nutrient credits in the Susquehanna and Potomac watersheds. DEP’s nutrient credit trading program offers a cost-effective way for facilities that

are subject to nitrogen and phosphorus limits to meet those limits by working with other facilities, non-point sources or both.

For its auctions, PENNVEST is supported by Markit, which provides the platform for enrollment and eligibility, auctions and registry services. Markit provides operations and infrastructure services to environmental programs worldwide.

This was a two-round auction, with the first round in the morning and the second in the afternoon. In the first round, the following credits were bought and sold:

Susquehanna nitrogen, 2013: 10,000 credits for \$2.98 per credit; and  
Susquehanna nitrogen, 2015: 5,000 credits for \$3.12 per credit.

In the second round, the following credits were bought and sold:

Susquehanna nitrogen, 2013: 7,000 credits for \$2.99 per credit; and  
Susquehanna nitrogen, 2014: 5,000 credits for \$3.05 per credit.

PENNVEST encourages the trading of nutrient credits by acting as a clearinghouse in the credit market, entering into contracts to buy and sell credits. By participating in these transactions, PENNVEST provides market certainty to buyers and sellers, which encourages more activity in the market. Hosting periodic auctions is one way for PENNVEST to facilitate these nutrient credit trades.

PENNVEST's next auction is scheduled for June 12. This will be a "forward" auction of certified credits to be applied toward meeting nutrient discharge limits during the 2013-15 compliance years. The enrollment period for that auction is expected to begin on April 17.

For more information, visit [www.pennvest.state.pa.us](http://www.pennvest.state.pa.us) or call 717-783-4493.

- 03-27-2013     **Report: Hunters, anglers add to state economy**  
Hunting and fishing are big business in Pennsylvania. Both are supported in the Keystone State by 1.42 million people. According to the latest numbers released in February by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Pennsylvania hunters and anglers spent \$1.5 billion... - [York Daily](#)
- 03-26-2013     **Poconos featured in National Geographic map series**  
The Pocono Mountains region has become one of just 11 in the nation to be featured in a National Geographic DestinationMap program. The map was unveiled at an event Monday at the Skytop Lodge by officials of National Geographic and the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau.... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 03-26-2013     **DEP wants to intensify river study**  
HARRISBURG - The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has released a work plan outlining what it says are "intensive efforts" to continue studying and sampling dozens of locations in the Susquehanna River basin throughout 2013. It will include analysis of water quality, water flow,... - [Shamokin News-Item](#)
- 03-25-2013     **Pennsylvania House OKs bill to uncap townships' funding limit**  
HARRISBURG - The state house approved legislation on Wednesday authored by state Rep. Rob Kauffman, R-Chambersburg, that will remove the cap on the amount of funds that township boards of supervisors may dedicate to the construction, maintenance and support of local hospitals and tourism... - [Chambersburg Public Opinion](#)

## WEEK IN REVIEW

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- 03-28-2013 **LCB poll: 45% of Pa. liquor buyers are 'bootleggers'**  
HARRISBURG — The Keystone State's Prohibition-era liquor laws encourage some residents to buy alcohol from other states and bring it back to Pennsylvania. It used to be called bootlegging, which refers to the illegal manufacture, sale or distribution of alcohol. Yet Pennsylvania has a criminal statute... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 03-28-2013 **Pennsylvania still a top energy producer**  
Beaver — Coal, natural gas, nuclear power — we've got it all. Pennsylvania ranks fourth in terms of coal production, eighth in natural gas production and second in electricity generation from a nuclear plant, data shows. Pennsylvania is the fourth largest coal-producing state in the nation, with... - [Beaver County Times](#)
- 03-27-2013 **Bill pushes utilities to extend natural gas service**  
HARRISBURG - Legislation introduced by two key senators Tuesday would give state government a role in directing utilities to extend natural gas service to business and residential areas that lack it. The bills sponsored by Sen. Gene Yaw, R-23, Williamsport, and Majority... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 03-27-2013 **Why is Pennsylvania's unemployment picture lagging behind the improving national rate?**  
The headline was the slight dip in Pennsylvania's unemployment rate for February – a one-tenth of a percent improvement to 8.1 percent. But by comparison, the nation's unemployment rate was four-tenths of a percent lower than that last month, at 7.7 percent.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 03-26-2013 **Castille says 7th justice key to major Pa. rulings**  
HARRISBURG, Pa. — Filling the vacant seventh seat on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court may make it easier for the justices to resolve some major pending cases, Chief Justice Ronald Castille said Monday... - [AP](#)
- 03-26-2013 **Liquor privatization bill faces uncertain future in Pa. Senate**  
A bill that would get the state out of the liquor business might be running out of steam. Even before members of the House passed House 790, Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi said there might not be enough support in his 27-member Republican caucus to push the legislation through.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 03-25-2013 **Taxpayers, turnpike users pay price for corruption**  
HARRISBURG — Colorado-based Ciber Inc. snagged a 2005 Turnpike Commission contract with a \$3.2 million bid almost seven times higher than IBM's \$496,000 low bid, a decision that reeked of insider dealing, witnesses told a grand jury. The Ciber contract, some witnesses testified, wasn't even necessary. It... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 03-25-2013 **Suspended Supreme Court Justice Joan Orié Melvin resigns seat from high court**  
Suspended state Supreme Court Justice Joan Orié Melvin submitted her letter of resignation to Gov. Tom Corbett on Monday, nearly a month after an Allegheny County jury found her guilty of misusing state-paid employees to campaign for her seat on the high court.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)