

Malady & Wooten, LLP

Legislative Report

April 26, 2013

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Pennsylvania Golf Course Owners Association

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Session Schedule:

2013 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

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 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

PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION Notices

[Commission meeting](#)

INTRODUCTION OF CONSUMPTIVE WATER RESOURCE ACT

MEMORANDUM

Posted: April 22, 2013 03:08 PM

From: Representative P. Sturla

To: All House members

Subject: Introduction of Consumptive Water Resource Act

In the near future I will introduce legislation that will create a consumptive water usage fee, to require that those extraordinary non-agriculture and non-public municipal water withdrawals made within the Commonwealth, for commercial or industrial purposes greater than 10,000 gallons per day, be required to pay a 1/100th of a cent per gallon fee to the Commonwealth. Under my legislation, the Department of Environmental Protection will be tasked with the regulation and collection of the water resource fee. The monies collected will only be used for water preservation and conservation programs throughout the Commonwealth. DEP will assess where these monies are needed most and provide these funds to programs dedicated to the preservation and conservation of water resources within the Commonwealth.

Section 27 of the Pennsylvania State Constitution states:

The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.

This section of the State Constitution makes it clear that water withdrawn from the waterways of the Commonwealth are by right "the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come." And that government is obligated to protect and preserve this resource from harm as a "trustee of those resources." Pennsylvania's waterways are impacted daily by massive withdrawals for the purposes of for profit business and industry, it is only fair that if this is to continue, that the Commonwealth benefit in the form of a fee that can be used to maintain this very resource.

Please join me in co-sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

COSPONSOR MEMOS

Rep. Miller

- [Maximum County Hotel Room Tax Increase](#)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Joint Legislative Conservation Committee

MONDAY - 5/6/13

12:00 p.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

Environmental Issues Forum with presentation entitled, "PA Fish and Boat Commission Fiscal Slope: Spending Reallocation Plan and Revenue Generating Options"

House Tourism and Recreational Development (INFORMATIONAL)

WEDNESDAY - 5/8/13

9:00 a.m., Harrisburg Hilton, 1 North Second Street, Harrisburg

Informational meeting on tourism industry policy priorities

House Tourism and Recreational Development (PUBLIC HEARING)

THURSDAY - 5/16/13

9:00 a.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Public hearing on:

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|---|
| HB 871 | Day, Gary | Amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally), in other subjects of taxation, further providing for excise tax on hotel room rental. |
| HB 872 | Day, Gary | Amends the Tax Reform Code, in sales and use tax, further providing for definitions. |
| HB 873 | Day, Gary | Amends the County Code, in fiscal affairs, further providing for authorization of certain hotel room rental taxes; & in grounds & buildings, further providing for certain hotel room rental taxes. |
| HB 874 | Day, Gary | Amends the Community and Economic Improvement Act further providing for definitions relating to tourism and marketing tax. |
| HB 875 | Day, Gary | Amends Title 64 (Public Authorities & Quasi-Public Corporations), in PA Convention Center Authority, further providing for hotel room rental tax and continuation of existing tax. |

House Democratic Policy Committee (INFORMATIONAL)

THURSDAY - 6/6/13

10:00 a.m., Room 418 Main Capitol (Rescheduled from 3/21/13)

Informational public briefing on PA Fish & Boat Commission's Fiscal Slope: Spending Reallocation Plan and Revenue Generating Options

COMMITTEE NEWS

House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

4/24/13, 11:50 a.m., G-50 Irvis Office Building

The committee met to consider one bill.

HB 1171 Dunbar, George - (PN 1470) Amends the Alternative Energy Investment Act repealing provisions relating to the Alternative Energy Production Tax Credit Program - The bill was **reported as committed with a request to re-refer** to the Finance Committee with Representatives Matt Bradford (D-Montgomery), Steve McCarter (D-Montgomery), and Steve Santarsiero (D-Bucks) voting in the negative.

Jonathan Lutz, executive director of the committee, provided an overview of the bill and noted that he is not aware of any tax credits being awarded under the program.

Minority Chairman Greg Vitali (D-Delaware) queried why the program was not funded, noting that it initially received a number of applications. Rep. Eli Evankovich (R-Westmoreland) argued the House Finance Committee would be better suited to investigate that question. Rep. Matt Gabler (R-Clearfield) agreed, pointing out that the Finance Committee has undertaken a review of the state's tax credit programs and it would be fitting for this proposal to be included in that review. Chairman Vitali indicated he does not disagree with these arguments, but pointed out the program is administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and is thus in the committee's "wheelhouse" and he wants to understand the history behind the program. Chairman Vitali also asked what programs would potentially benefit from the tax credit. Lutz suggested a company that makes solar panels and produces power would qualify. To the chairman's initial question, he explained the bill was passed at a time when a number of similar programs were enacted and just as the recession began, both of which contributed to the program not being utilized.

Chairman Vitali said he would support the motion to re-refer the bill in the spirit of cooperation, but emphasized his vote is not an endorsement that the program should be eliminated as proposed in the bill.

Chairman Ron Miller (R-York) acknowledged the legitimacy of Chairman Vitali's questions, but said the bill was mistakenly referred to the committee in the first place and he has been asked to re-refer it.

Rep. McCarter echoed his chairman's concerns and said he could not support the motion to re-refer because he believes this committee should be more involved in vetting the proposal.

House Tourism & Recreational Development Committee

4/25/13, 11:00 a.m., Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg

The committee conducted an informational meeting on the activities and events planned for the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Chairman Stern thanked Gettysburg and Adams County along with the Adams County Commissioners for inviting the committee to hear about the activities and events that will be occurring this year in connection with the 150th anniversary.

Rep. Moul, who represents the Gettysburg/Adams County area, briefly discussed the cooperation between the community organizations, federal, state and county government which he described as "definitely a public-private partnership." He added, "When we come together, we can make huge things happen."

Norris Flowers, President, Gettysburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, commented, "People representing Gettysburg and Adams County here are a true partnership." He said, "We have been on this for almost four years to make this happen." Flowers discussed the sesquicentennial celebration of the Civil War which began in April, 2011, will end in April 2015, and what it will do for Adams County from an economic standpoint. He explained, "We estimated early on that the total economic impact of the sesquicentennial for Gettysburg and Adams County would be \$2 billion in visitor spending." Flowers told the committee members, "I will tell you through the first two years we are trending with those numbers." He also said the expectation was for four million visitors in 2013 which is about a 20 percent increase over normal visitation and those numbers are trending as well. Flowers asserted, "It is important for all of us in this room to understand this is more than just Gettysburg and Adams County. This is huge for this region and for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." He acknowledged that events held at Manassas and Antietam during the past two years also had a positive impact on the visitation numbers for Gettysburg and Adams County. Flowers pointed out that the planning goes beyond this June and July but through 2015. He emphasized, "It is essential that we capitalize on the economic opportunities for 2014, 2015 and beyond and take full advantage of the sesquicentennial of the US Civil War." Flowers highlighted some of the events planned for the coming year including a parade on July 3; the reenactment to be held July 4 through July 7 with over 10,000 reenactors planning to participate; honoring the Medal of Honor Society in September; and commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. He also noted that events are already taking place and suggested people check out the www.gettysburgcivilwar150.com website for the latest information on events and activities. According to Flowers, Gettysburg and Adams County have been receiving worldwide media attention and has been chosen by several travel publications as the number one travel destination for 2013. He pointed out his office receives about 30 telephone calls per day from people looking for rooms. Flowers said they have had to book rooms for people in Harrisburg, Hershey and Lancaster because the local hotels are all booked. He assured people, "We will have a room for you."

Robert Kirby, Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park, said that he has been with the National Park Service (NPS) for 32 years and has been involved in planning big events throughout the country. He observed, "I have to say that I have never seen a community come together better; I have never seen people get along better; I have never seen such leadership emerge in a non-defined leadership role as I have seen in this community." Kirby thanked several of the local leaders, groups and organizations. He told lawmakers, "I think we are up to the challenge." Kirby reported that a \$1.2 million transit/parking system has been put in to move people around the community and a traffic plan has been developed. He also reported the NPS has resurfaced all 12 miles of its roads in the park; repainted all of its bridges; and is currently putting in a new safety trail along the Taneytown Road. Kirby said the NPS began special programs in April 2011 which continue. He noted the only victim of the federal sequester has been the cancellation of an academic seminar that was scheduled for October. Kirby highlighted several events including the ceremony releasing the new Gettysburg commemorative stamp scheduled for May 23 at the Visitors Center; the "Gettysburg: A New Birth of Freedom" commemorative ceremony featuring author Doris Kearns Goodwin and singer Trace Adkins scheduled for June 30; and the Voices of the Battle program scheduled for July 4. He also noted that the NPS will conduct over 200 ranger-led programs on July 1 through July 4 on such topics as key moments of the battle, an overview of the battle; and battlefield experiences.

Joanne Hanley, President, Gettysburg Foundation, spoke about the "excellent support and communication" between the various groups in organizing the sesquicentennial. She also discussed the Foundation's close partnership with the NPS. Hanley highlighted the following scheduled events:

- May 24 - Opening of the George Spangler Farm Civil War Field Hospital Site
- June 16 - Treasures of the Civil War Exhibit
- June 29-30/July 5-7 - Sacred Trust: History Talks & Book Signings
- July 1 - Salute to the States

Barbara Franco, Director, Seminary Ridge Museum, told lawmakers that the museum is opening on July 1 at 10:00 a.m. She pointed out that was when the fighting started around Seminary Ridge. Franco also

noted that on the weekend before the opening two skirmish reenactments are scheduled along with an encampment. She said the Virginia History Mobile will be parked on the campus of the Seminary. Regarding the new museum, Franco commented, "This is truly a partnership at every level." She said, "The partnership of the Seminary and the Adams County Historical Society really undergirds all the work we have done here." Franco also acknowledged several partners including the National Park Service, the Gettysburg Foundation, Gettysburg College, and Main Street Gettysburg among others. According to Franco, "One of the important things about this project is anniversaries come and go but I think the really strong anniversaries are the ones that leave a legacy for the future." She added, "In many ways the rehabilitation of this building and the opening of this museum really is a legacy project for the 150th anniversary of Gettysburg." Franco outlined how the museum will highlight the events of the first day of the battle; the care of the wounded during and after the battle; and discuss faith and freedom and the reasons for the Civil War. She noted much of the fighting on July 1 took place on the Seminary grounds and also noted that the building housing the museum was used as a hospital for the wounded until September, 1863. Franco explained that the three goals of the museum are education, preservation and economic development. She discussed how grants and tax credits helped in the development of the museum. Franco also talked about the importance of demographics and identifying who is coming now and who will be coming in the future. She said the museum is targeting families, faith-based organizations and African-American groups.

Flowers said events are scheduled all year. He commented, "As important as this year is, it is not as important as 2014 and beyond and our partners understand that." Flowers told lawmakers he tells people, "This is our Olympics." He noted that tourism is the number one industry in Adams County and it is the number one employer. Flowers described this year's events as "just the beginning."

Rep. Matzie asked about television coverage of the events and whether the events may be streamed on the Internet. Kirby responded that coverage may be "catch as catch can." Flowers added there has already been a spike in media coverage. He said that media from around the world will be here and social media is setting up. Flowers also talked about possible live coverage on morning television shows. A producer from the Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN) noted that they have submitted a proposal to the NPS regarding coverage of events.

Noting the housing of people in Harrisburg and Lancaster, Rep. Denlinger asked if the hospitality industry has expressed any interest in future construction or expanding local facilities. Flowers explained that when occupancy hits a certain level there is an increase in building and then occupancy drops off because of the increase in rooms. He also explained that the occupancy has gone up every year so there is some interest from developers. Flowers added they have seen some smaller types of developments that are online now and coming online.

A question was raised about security considering the recent events in Boston. Flowers responded, "In the last 10 days, the conversations about security and talks with law enforcement have increased."

BILL REPORT

ATTACHED TO THE REPORT

STATE NEWS

PANEL TO STUDY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING GAINING MOMENTUM

A push to take a fresh look at the five-decade-old funding formula for community colleges got another shove by the House Education Committee. It approved legislation, sponsored by Rep. Jim Marshall, R-Beaver, to form a 19-member task force to examine the sustainability of the current funding model. The panel also will look at accessibility and affordability issues related to community college. His bill gives the task six months to complete its work.

COURT RULES CORBETT'S CALENDAR SHOULD BE RELEASED

A state appeals court ruled that Gov. Tom Corbett's public calendar should be turned over to the press without redactions, a decision that could affect Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's attempts to keep his calendar secret. Nils Frederiksen, spokesman for the Governor's Office of General Counsel, said Corbett's office will not appeal. The seven-member Commonwealth Court panel unanimously upheld a decision by the state Office of Open Records ruling that the governor's office must turn over requested calendar entries and emails without redacting portions that it claimed are protected by exceptions to the state's Right to Know Law.

CASTOR STILL A CRITIC, NOT YET A CANDIDATE

Montgomery County Commissioner Bruce L. Castor Jr. has a decision to make: Fish or cut bait. Will he challenge Gov. Corbett in the 2014 Republican primary, after criticizing him openly as a weak leader since the fall? Or would that be a political death trap? "He does a bad job of communicating what he's doing and a bad job of prioritizing," Castor said in an interview last week. "I think that's what the Republican base has been most disappointed in, that there hasn't been the overt showing of leadership they thought they were going to get."

IN THE NEWS

LAWMAKERS, BUSINESS LEADERS TOUT NATURAL GAS VEHICLES, MARCELLUS WORKS PACKAGE

Business leaders from across the state joined a bipartisan group of House members today to highlight the benefits of natural gas as a fuel for heavy duty and commercial vehicles in Pennsylvania, and to promote the Marcellus Works legislative package.

"Just as timber, coal and steel allowed Pennsylvania to prosper in the past," Rep. Stan Saylor (R-York) said, "so will natural gas, as we work to tap our growing energy industry here."

Rep. Saylor remarked that in addition to the economic benefits of natural gas, it has environmental benefits, compared to traditional combustion engines. He said a reduction in 90 percent of carbon monoxide emissions is possible by switching to natural gas, along with decreases in non-methane organic gasses, nitrogen oxide, and carbon dioxide.

"This can and should be our reality of the future," Rep. Saylor said.

Nick DeBenedictis, Chairman and CEO of Aqua America, Inc, said the provisions of the Marcellus Works package are "just the right thing to do environmentally because the payoff is less pollution when more compress natural gas (CNG) vehicles are on the road."

DeBenedictis reported Aqua expects to have 90 CNG vehicles in operation within the next five years, and has pilot-tested five vans, two dump trucks, and two biofuel pick-up trucks that run on natural gas. He characterized the legislative package as the "jumpstart" the industry needs in Pennsylvania.

Karen Teslovich, President of CNG One Source, and Mark Pergolese, General Manager of Republic Services, added their support for natural gas and Marcellus Works. Pergolese said CNG reduces greenhouse gas emissions and offers quieter vehicles than those powered by traditional engines. In addition he said a greater benefit to the commonwealth is increased energy security, as dependence on foreign fuel sources declines.

“The benefits of natural gas are clear,” Pergolese said.

Tony Bandiero, Director of Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities, said his organization has been pushing for more natural gas and other greener energy solutions for 20 years. He said the mission remains unchanged – to drive support for cleaner fuels in Pennsylvania. He called the Marcellus Shale “a game-changer” and urged support for more adoption of CNG vehicles.

The Marcellus Works package includes nine bills sponsored by Representatives Saylor, Dan Moul (R-Adams), Kathy Watson (R-Bucks), Jim Marshall (R-Beaver), Tina Pickett (R-Bradford), Gordon Denlinger (R-Lancaster), Eli Evankovich (R-Westmoreland), and Seth Grove (R-York). They are:

- [House Bill 301](#) (Saylor) - Creates a tax credit for private fleet vehicles
- [House Bill 302](#) (Moul) - Establishes Keystone Transit grant program to cover the incremental cost of transitioning to natural gas buses.
- [House Bill 303](#) (Watson) - Creates a revolving loan program available to large mass transit agencies to cover the incremental cost of natural gas buses.
- [House Bill 304](#) (Marshall) - Requires PennDOT to conduct a feasibility study regarding the purchase of natural gas-powered buses for large mass transit agencies in Pennsylvania.
- [House Bill 305](#) (Denlinger) - Creates a natural gas corridor tax credit which incentivizes the construction of natural gas fueling stations along an eligible corridor.
- [House Bill 306](#) (Pickett) – Establishes the Keystone Fuels Incentive Fund to provide grants to municipalities, schools and the private sector for the purchase of natural gas vehicles.
- [House Bill 307](#) (Evankovich) Repeals CARB section 2030 in order to eliminate the costly duplicity of both EPA and CARB certifications for natural gas vehicles.
- [House Bill 308](#) (Saylor) - Establishes the Keystone Vehicle Program to fund grants for the incremental cost to purchase new natural gas motor vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating of at least 33,000 pounds.
- [House Bill 309](#) (Grove) - Establishes a three-year program, the Natural Gas Vehicle Tax Credit, to provide incentives for Pennsylvania businesses to purchase heavy-duty natural gas vehicles.

PENNVEST, DEP Announce Second Nutrient Credit Trading Auction for 2013

Harrisburg – The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority and the Department of Environmental Protection announced today they will host an auction June 12, 2013, for the sale and purchase of nutrient credits in the Susquehanna and Potomac watersheds.

The auction will be a “forward” auction, where certified credits will be sold at auction; delivered later; and applied to 2013 and future compliance years. The auction will allow wastewater treatment plants in these two watersheds the opportunity to purchase credits as a means of meeting their nitrogen and phosphorus discharge limits for the compliance years.

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) is hosting the auctions to encourage and facilitate the trading of nutrient credits in the Susquehanna and Potomac watersheds. DEP’s nutrient credit trading program provides a cost-effective means for facilities that are subject to nitrogen and phosphorus limits to meet those limits by working with other facilities, non-point sources or both.

PENNVEST has chosen Markit Inc. to provide the platform for enrollment and eligibility, auctions and registry services. For more information, visit Markit Inc. at <http://www.markit.com/en/products/environmental/auctions/auction-schedule.page>.

PENNVEST anticipates charging buyers and sellers 2.5 cents per credit to offset administrative costs.

For more information, visit www.pennvest.state.pa.us and click "nutrient credit trading" on the left side of the page; or call Robert Boos at 717-783-4493 (PENNVEST) or Veronica Kasi at 717-772-4053 (DEP).

04-25-2013 **Pa. helping businesses convert to natural gas**

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania has already spent at least \$3.65 million to help businesses convert trucks and buses to natural gas fuel. The Act 13 natural gas impact fee law passed in 2012 includes another \$20 million to do the same thing. Now, the state House has approved another \$55 million in tax credits to... - *Johnstown Tribune-Democrat*

04-25-2013 **Study: Cutting pollution in the Susquehanna faster could save dying bass**

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is calling for Pennsylvania to speed up its plan to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus pollution in the Susquehanna River. If the state accelerates these cuts -- which have to be completed by 2025 -- the foundation argues it will help preserve the smallmouth bass... - *Harrisburg Patriot-News*

04-23-2013 **Clarion County Commissioners announce gypsy moth spraying**

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry plans to conduct a gypsy moth suppression program in certain forested areas of Clarion County. DCNR representatives recently sent an advisory notice to county school districts and the Clarion County Commissioners stating the project will... - *Clarion News*

04-22-2013 **Pa. wind energy installation double, but produce just 1% of electricity**

Wind energy installations almost doubled in Pennsylvania last year, but the industry still provides only about 1 percent of the state's electricity, far behind Iowa, Texas and others... - *AP*

04-22-2013 **Pa. wind energy soars in 2012, but total is small**

PITTSBURGH — Wind energy installations almost doubled in Pennsylvania last year, but the industry still provides only about 1 percent of the state's electricity, far behind Iowa, Texas and others... - *AP*

04-22-2013 **House approves gas tax credit bills**

HARRISBURG - A House vote last week approving bills providing millions of dollars of state tax credits to develop natural gas markets followed a debate over whether it would promote sound economic policies for Pennsylvania. The House approved three bills to authorize \$25 million in tax credits for... - *Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice*

04-22-2013 **TROUBLED WATERS**

The Susquehanna River has some problems, and concerned people including environmentalists and anglers would love to have it listed as impaired. That designation would make it eligible for federal research money under the Clean Water Act. A Susquehanna Summit held recently in Lewisburg brought together a number... - *Williamsport Sun-Gazette*

WEEK IN REVIEW

04-26-2013 **Millionaire Tom Knox enters 2015 race for mayor in Philadelphia**

TOM KNOX, the successful Philadelphia businessman who finished second in the 2007 Democratic primary election for mayor, made it official yesterday: He's running again in 2015. That raises an interesting question: What happens between Knox and his friend, City Councilman Bill Green, long rumored as a 2015 candidate for... - *Philadelphia Inquirer*

04-26-2013 **Penn State applications down 9 percent this year**

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Population declines and concerns over how to pay for a college education contributed to a roughly 9 percent decline in applications to Penn State this year, university officials said... - *AP*

- 04-25-2013 **Police question ticket proposal by state to add large surcharge**
Top police officials in Western Pennsylvania said they think officers might balk at writing some traffic tickets if state lawmakers approve a plan to add a \$100 surcharge to boost transportation funding. The cost of a ticket for one of the least serious driving infractions would... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 04-25-2013 **Despite cuts, state legislative surplus at \$140M**
Lawmakers' surplus \$140M HARRISBURG - Despite widespread state spending cuts, the General Assembly ended fiscal 2011-12 with an uncommitted surplus of \$140 million, according to an audit report approved Wednesday by a state commission. The report, approved by the Legislative Audit Advisory Commission, also... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 04-24-2013 **Report says Pennsylvania would profit by expanding Medicaid access**
HARRISBURG -- As Gov. Tom Corbett deliberates expanding Medicaid access, the state Independent Fiscal Office on Tuesday released an analysis finding Pennsylvania would gain federal money and reduce state expenditures by doing so. Mr. Corbett has declined so far to expand Medicaid access under the federal... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 04-24-2013 **Funding sought to help financially distressed cities**
HARRISBURG - Democratic senators called for spending \$50 million to help implement an initiative to assist financially distressed cities as part of a final state budget. This funding would implement a number of bills the caucus has introduced to help struggling cities like Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton, said Sen.... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)
- 04-23-2013 **U.S. Senate set to consider bill requiring Internet sales tax**
Just when it seemed tax season was over, the taxman cometh. This week, the U.S. Senate is slated to consider the Marketplace Fairness Act, a bill introduced by Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., that would give states the ability to collect sales tax on Internet purchases -- no matter where... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 04-23-2013 **Hearings set on bill to privatize liquor stores**
HARRISBURG - Let the liquor hearings begin. The first of what will likely be three state Senate hearings on a controversial bill to privatize Pennsylvania's government-run wine and liquor stores has been scheduled for next Tuesday in the Capitol - and it is bound to be telling.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 04-22-2013 **Pennsylvania may soon embrace online voter registration**
HARRISBURG -- You can already shop, take care of your banking or chat with your friends online. Is registering to vote next? A bill that passed the state Senate last week proposes just that. "I think it is a common-sense change that encourages people to participate... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 04-22-2013 **Pa. residents face Monday deadline for May primary**
HARRISBURG, Pa. — Pennsylvanians have one day left to register to vote in time to cast ballots in next month's primary election... - [AP](#)