

**Malady & Wooten, LLP**

Legislative Report

May 31, 2013

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**Pennsylvania Golf Course Owners Association**

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

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**Session Schedule:**

**2013 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE**

June 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

**2013 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE**

June 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

## **PA HOUSE REPUBLICANS OUTLINE PRIORITIES WITH BUDGET PROPOSAL**

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**HARRISBURG** – Today, Pennsylvania House Appropriations Chairman Bill Adolph (R-Delaware County) introduced House Bill 1437, the House Republican budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2013-14. The proposal spends \$28.3 billion, which is a \$578 million or 2.1 percent increase over the current fiscal year.

“The House budget proposal outlines priorities related to education, health and human services, environmental protection, public safety, job creation and government transparency,” Adolph said. “We are recommending a \$100 million increase for basic education; supporting the governor’s priority to put 300 new state troopers on the streets; restoring funding for programs that deal with diseases like diabetes, ALS and epilepsy; providing funding for county conservation districts; and increasing funding for the Office of Open Records.”

According to Adolph, the most recent preliminary revenue estimate prepared by the Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) on May 1 was used as the starting point to craft the House budget proposal. The IFO report forecast state revenue collections will be less than anticipated in February.

“Given the revenue challenges forecast by the IFO on May 1, the House had to essentially start from scratch when drafting the House proposal. The House had to look at what was possible with the revenue reality that developed since February,” said Adolph.

The budget contained in [House Bill 1437](#) was based on current law and does not factor in any policy proposals currently being considered by the legislature.

“The House budget assumes current law as we stand here today. The House has a strict calendar that needs to be followed to pass a budget on time. We do not have the luxury of waiting until June 30 to introduce a budget after we know what policy decisions are made by the Legislature,” said Adolph. “There is a lot that still needs to be negotiated, and I am sure the outcome of those negotiations will be reflected in a final budget that is passed by June 30.”

House Bill 1437 is scheduled to be considered by the House Appropriations Committee on Monday, June 3. More details on the House Republican budget proposal can be found at [www.PaBudget.com](http://www.PaBudget.com).

**\*CLICK [HERE](#) TO VIEW BUDGET LINE ITEMS\***

## **PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**

#### **Notices**

[Commission meeting](#)

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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### **House Finance (INFORMATIONAL)**

**MONDAY - 6/3/13**

**10:30 a. ., Roo 60, East Wing**

Informational meeting on property tax reform

**Senate Appropriations**  
**MONDAY - 6/4/13**

**Off the Floor, Rules Committee Conference Room**

To consider:

**SB 738 Yaw, Gene**

Act providing for distribution system extension and expansion plans to increase natural gas usage in this Commonwealth.

**SB 739 Yaw, Gene**

Amends the Alternative Energy Investment Act further providing for Commonwealth Financing Authority.

**Senate Local Government**

**WEDNESDAY - 6/5/13**

**9:30 a. m., Room 461 Main Capitol**

To consider:

**HB 488 Kauffman, Rob**

Amends Second Class Township Code, in corporate powers, further providing for appropriations for hospitals and tourist promotion agencies.

**House Local Government**

**WEDNESDAY - 6/5/13**

**10:00 a. m., Room 39, East Wing**

To consider:

**HB 1230 Cross, Chris**

Amends the Real Estate Tax Sale Law, in sale of property, providing for additional costs for rehabilitation and maintenance.

**House Tourism and Recreational Development**

**WEDNESDAY - 6/5/13**

**10:00 a. m., Room 60, East Wing**

To consider:

**HB 1215 Steiner, Jeffrey**

Act establishing the PA Tourism Commission; providing for powers & duties of the PA Tourism Commission; establishing the Tourism Promotion Trust Fund; & repealing the Travel and Tourism Act.

**HB 1216 Steiner, Jeffrey**

Amends the Tax Reform Code providing for the tourism marketing and promotion tax credit.

**House Democratic Policy Committee (INFORMATIONAL)**

**THURSDAY - 6/6/13**

**10:00 a. m., Room 418 Main Capitol (Rescheduled from 6/3/21/13)**

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

**BILL REPORT**

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

## STATE NEWS

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### NO MOVEMENT ON PENSION REFORM

Despite a push from Gov. Tom Corbett, pension overhaul appears to be the least likely of Mr. Corbett's major legislative proposals to be completed by the June 30 budget deadline. Pension overhaul plans were not included in the House Republican budget proposals unveiled Wednesday in Harrisburg. "As things stand today, it would be accurate to say the budget, transportation funding and liquor sales reform are farther advanced than pension reform," said Erik Arneson, spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi, referring to the governor's other major stated priorities.

### FEDS WILL BUILD PA'S HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE

A new online health insurance marketplace, called an exchange, is scheduled to open for business Oct. 1. In Harrisburg-area counties, it could enable more than 75,000 people, including many with middle-class incomes, to obtain government-subsidized health insurance. Yet there's major worry about whether people will flock to the federally-built exchange. There's further worry about whether help will be available to those who need it to navigate the application process.

### VOTER ID CHALLENGE TO PROCEED IN COURT

A state judge removed five plaintiffs from the legal challenge of Pennsylvania's voter identification law but allowed the overall lawsuit to go on. Commonwealth Court Judge Robert Simpson agreed with Corbett administration lawyers the five aggrieved voters — including lead plaintiff Vivian Applewhite of Philadelphia — should no longer be allowed to challenge the law since they have obtained acceptable IDs since filing their challenge of the law a year ago. He spared two other challengers.

### IN THE NEWS

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### DEP Announces Opening of Natural Gas Vehicle Grants for Medium to Light-Weight Vehicles

**Harrisburg** – The Department of Environmental Protection today announced that its Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (AFIG) Natural Gas Vehicle program is now open. The program will provide an estimated \$10 million in grants to help companies and organizations purchase or convert medium to light-weight natural gas vehicles.

"During last year's natural gas vehicle seminars, we heard from many municipal, commercial and non-profit groups that wanted to convert their lighter-weight vehicles to natural gas," DEP Acting Secretary Chris Abruzzo said. "This AFIG grant program will serve that need, helping to purchase or convert patrol cars, passenger vehicles and light-duty trucks."

Those eligible to apply include non-profit agencies, for-profit companies, commonwealth or municipal authorities, and local transportation organizations.

Grant funds are available for the conversion or purchase of natural gas vehicles weighing less than 14,000 pounds, as well as the conversion or purchase of electric, propane or other alternative fuel vehicles of any size.

Applicants interested in purchasing or converting only one or two alternative fuel vehicles are encouraged to partner with other eligible applicants to aggregate vehicles into a single application, which will satisfy the grant's five vehicle minimum.

Grant applications will also be accepted for innovation in alternative fuel transportation, including non-road vehicles, such as natural gas-powered trains or marine vessels. Innovation includes research,

training, development and demonstration of new applications or next phase technology related to the development and use of alternative transportation fuels and alternative fuel vehicles.

Applications are due July 26, 2013 by 4 p.m. Grants will be awarded in the fall.

To complete the online grant application or learn more about the program, visit [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) and click on the Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program button.

- 05-31-2013 **DEP grants offer \$10M for natural gas vehicles in Pennsylvania**  
The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection recently announced that its Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Natural Gas Vehicle program is now open. The program will provide an estimated \$10 million in grants to help companies and organizations purchase or convert medium-to... - *York Daily*
- 05-30-2013 **Water quality database created, but not available to public**  
PITTSBURGH -- A shale-drilling industry group has created a database of water quality before any drilling occurs for Pennsylvania's thousands of water wells, but the public does not have access -- yet. Compiled over the past two years by the Marcellus Shale Coalition, the... - *Beaver County Times*
- 05-29-2013 **SEPTA gets ready for golf's U.S. Open**  
With increased train and trolley service and stepped-up security, SEPTA is preparing for thousands of extra passengers headed to next month's U.S. Open golf tournament at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore. In terms of crowds and inconvenience, think Flower Show, not World Series... - *Philadelphia Inquirer*

## WEEK IN REVIEW

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- 05-31-2013 **Patrons, supporters sue NCAA for 'anti-Penn State community'**  
BELLEFONTE — Former Penn State football players, five current trustees, professors and a coach have joined with the Paterno family in an attempt to take the NCAA to court and overturn the unprecedented sanctions against the university through a civil lawsuit the group filed Thursday.... - *State College Centre Daily Times*
- 05-31-2013 **Pennsylvania Senate hearing takes no new ground on Gov. Tom Corbett's pension reform plan**  
HARRISBURG — Politics, law, history and personal opinions dominated a state Senate hearing Wednesday on Gov. Tom Corbett's pension reform plans. That often contradictory mix of comments and testimony is likely to keep the governor's three-point pension plan out of next year's budget while the... - *Allentown Morning Call*
- 05-30-2013 **Pennsylvania House Republicans float \$28.3 billion budget**  
HARRISBURG — House Republicans would spend more on public schools than Gov. Tom Corbett recommended while steering clear of hot-button issues like pension reform and a transportation funding increase as part of the 2013-14 budget. The \$28.3 billion budget bill House majority leaders presented Wednesday... - *Allentown Morning Call*
- 05-30-2013 **Study: State roads, bridges in poor shape**  
More than a third of Pennsylvania roads give motorists an extra-rough ride, and 42 percent of the state's bridges show significant deterioration or fail to meet current design standards. Increasing congestion on the state's major urban roads causes drivers to waste more time and gasoline. And substandard roadway features —... - *Allentown Morning Call*
- 05-29-2013 **State budget talks to heat up in Harrisburg**  
House Republicans are to propose budget that would spend slightly less than what Gov. Tom Corbett had proposed. HARRISBURG — House Republicans on Wednesday will introduce a 2013-14 budget that is \$100 million less than Gov. Tom Corbett had proposed in February.... - *Allentown Morning Call*

- 05-29-2013 **More than 19 percent of PA bridges are "functionally obsolete": Wednesday Morning Coffee**  
Good Wednesday Morning, Fellow Seekers. The next time you're driving over a Pennsylvania bridge, take a deep breath, offer a prayer to Baal, Zeus, Allah, Buddha, Yahweh or whoever your favorite deity happens to be, and hope for the best. That's because 24.4 percent of the state's 22,669 bridges, or 5,540 of 'em,... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 05-28-2013 **Corbett Asks For Public's Help To Pass Agenda**  
PHILADELPHIA (CBS) – Governor Corbett is appealing to the public to put pressure on lawmakers to enact key items of his agenda before they recess for summer at the end of June. The governor appeared before the Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce last week and asked members for their help in spurring action on... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 05-28-2013 **Census: 6 major Pa. cities grow in population**  
PITTSBURGH - It's hardly a boom, but the U.S. Census Bureau says the population of six major Pennsylvania cities increased modestly between 2010 and 2012... - [AP](#)