

Malady & Wooten, LLP

Legislative Report

June 21, 2013

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Pennsylvania Golf Course Owners Association

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Session Schedule:

2013 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

June 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

2013 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

June 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

REGULATION COMMENTS

7-475 - Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (IRRC No.2954)

SEN. FERLO
REP. DEASY

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

House Local Government

WEDNESDAY - 6/26/13

10:00 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

To consider:

HB 1523 Toepel, Marcy

Amends the Act authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the local government units thereof to preserve, acquire or hold land for open space uses further providing for local taxing options.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Senate Community, Economic, and Recreational Development Committee

6/19/13, 3:00 p.m., Senate Rules Committee Conference Room

SB 1013 Scarnati, Joseph - (PN 1202) Amends Title 4 (Amusements) by requiring funds deposited from the Pennsylvania Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund into an account established within the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for applications to the Commonwealth Financing Authority. - The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

A02322 by Ward, was described as a technical amendment. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Minority Chairman Wayne Fontana (D-Allegheny) expressed concern about amending Title 4 because "it could get into some other things." Sen. Joseph Scarnati (R-Jefferson), prime sponsor of the bill, said "this clearly is a remedy to an agreement done last year between our caucuses and it's a straight forward way to approach it." Chairman Fontana stated "I don't think anyone is objecting to the remedy, it's the process." Sen. Scarnati emphasized "this is a clean way of doing it and I don't have any intent that I can speak to."

Sen. John Blake (D-Lackawanna) echoed the comments of Chairman Fontana. "My fear is that there could be issues unrelated to this that could be amended in," he stated. Sen. Scarnati stated "it would be my goal to get this out of committee and then talk about the process."

BILL REPORT

ATTACHED TO THE REPORT

STATE NEWS

IFO RELEASES OFFICIAL REVENUE ESTIMATE

The state's Independent Fiscal Office released its official revenue projection for 2013-14, predicting the state's tax collections will grow by 1.2 percent over this year. That projects the state's general fund revenues will bring in more than \$29 billion, barring any changes in law. That is \$147 million higher than

the office's preliminary revenue growth estimate of \$28.9 billion issued last month because revenues came in higher than anticipated.

NOMINEES STEVENS, HOLDEN FACE SENATE CONFIRMATION

Superior Court President Judge Correale F. Stevens and former U.S. Rep. Tim Holden face what could be a quick Senate confirmation process with their nominations to key posts by Gov. Tom Corbett. Stevens, a Luzerne County Republican, was nominated to fill a pivotal vacancy on the state Supreme Court on a temporary basis. Holden, a Schuylkill County Democrat, was nominated to fill a seat on the three-member state Liquor Control Board. He left Congress last year after being defeated for re-nomination in his northeast congressional district.

GOVERNOR SIGNS AMENDMENT TO CRIME VICTIMS ACT

Gov. Tom Corbett signed HB 492, legislation sponsored by Rep. Mike Vereb (R-Montgomery) that would allow victims to testify in person before the state Parole Board when it is deciding whether to release an offender from prison. The measure originated from the family of Montgomery County resident Ellen Gregory Robb, who was murdered by her husband, Rafael Robb. The new law will allow victims or their representatives to offer testimony either in person or electronically before a decision is made by the Parole Board to release an inmate.

IN THE NEWS

DEP Releases Draft Public Participation Policy for Public Comment

Harrisburg –The Department of Environmental Protection has submitted a draft of its public participation policy for the Permit Review Process for publication in the June 22 Pennsylvania Bulletin. The policy is open for public comment until July 22.

The draft policy proposes guidelines for public participation during DEP's permit review process. The policy includes procedures for public hearings and receiving and responding to public comments.

"This new policy will emphasize the importance and benefits of engaging the public, regulated community and other stakeholders in a meaningful and upfront manner," Acting DEP Secretary Chris Abruzzo said.

The policy will apply to all permits and authorizations that are published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, the commonwealth's official informational gazette published by the Pennsylvania Legislative Reference Bureau.

For more information about the public participation policy, or to review the draft policy, visit www.dep.state.pa.us, keyword: Proposals.

- 06-19-2013 **[Pa. Senate bill would change approach to reducing Chesapeake Bay pollution](#)**
A bold and controversial initiative, with a strong Lancaster County connection, has been launched in the Legislature that would dramatically shift how Pennsylvania strives to meet its deadline to reduce nutrients and sediment from agriculture that pollute the Chesapeake Bay.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 06-19-2013 **[Pa. Legislature gets down to business, but not on property tax reform](#)**
The Pennsylvania Legislature has an odd habit for an allegedly full-time lawmaking group. They propose and posture for much of the legislative session that begins in January, waiting until the final three weeks before the end of the fiscal year June 30 to get things done.... - [Pottstown Mercury](#)
- 06-18-2013 **[The Susquehanna River - too big to ail?: Editorial](#)**
At 12:01 Saturday morning, anglers on the Susquehanna were once again allowed to fish for the river's once-famous smallmouth bass. These days, the fishery is catch-and-release only, which is probably just as well, because the odds are good that the fish will be odd.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

- 06-17-2013 **Westmoreland municipal authority signs \$100K deal with IUP for water quality inspections**
Testing of drinking water at Beaver Run Reservoir will continue under an agreement reached last week between the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The authority signed a \$100,000 deal with the college to have a third party... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 06-17-2013 **Stormwater bill a "step in the right direction," could empower local authorities**
A bill making its way through the state legislature could give local governments another tool to help deal with and manage their stormwater runoff. HB821, passed out of committee to the full State House last week and sponsored by State Rep. Kate Harper, R-61st District, could let... - [Lansdale Reporter](#)

WEEK IN REVIEW

- 06-21-2013 **Internal poll prompts national pundits to doubt Pa. Gov. Corbett reelection**
National speculation over Gov. Tom Corbett's reelection vulnerability has ratcheted up this week after an internal poll showing the governor at startling levels of unpopularity, and two prominent political pundits speculating that the incumbent may not run in 2014.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 06-21-2013 **Pa. GOP senators eye vote on Medicaid expansion**
HARRISBURG, Pa. — Legislation to expand Medicaid eligibility in the state under the 2010 federal health care law will come up for a floor vote in the state Senate next week with conditions that will make it more amenable to the chamber's Republican majority, the Senate's top senator... - [AP](#)
- 06-20-2013 **Commonwealth Court panel hears arguments on NCAA's \$60 million Penn State fine**
HARRISBURG -- A Commonwealth Court panel will decide if a lawsuit against the NCAA that seeks to keep Penn State's \$60 million post-Sandusky fine within Pennsylvania should go forward. Attorneys for both the NCAA and state Sen. Jake Corman, who represents the... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 06-20-2013 **Corbett signs bill to abolish Philly traffic court**
HARRISBURG, Pa. — Gov. Tom Corbett signed a bill Wednesday that will begin the process of dismantling the scandal-ridden Philadelphia Traffic Court... - [AP](#)
- 06-19-2013 **Pa. senators eye 401K-style public pension plan**
HARRISBURG, Pa. - Gov. Tom Corbett's plan to slash \$12 billion from future public employee pension benefits appears dead in the Republican-controlled state Senate... - [AP](#)
- 06-19-2013 **Highlights of Senate GOP liquor privatization plan**
The liquor privatization plan outlined by top Senate Republicans on Tuesday would:... - [AP](#)
- 06-18-2013 **Pa. high court rejects changing mandatory retirement for judges**
The state Supreme Court Monday found that judges challenging Pennsylvania's mandatory retirement age had no legitimate claim and instead said that the proper way to change it is through constitutional amendment. The lawsuit, filed by four judges in November 2012 against Gov. Tom Corbett... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 06-18-2013 **State revenue picture grows brighter, according to Independent Fiscal Office forecast**
The state's Independent Fiscal Office released its official revenue projection for 2013-14, predicting the state's tax collections will grow by 1.2 percent over this year. That projects the state's general fund revenues will bring in more than \$29 billion, barring any changes in law. That is \$147 million higher than... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 06-17-2013 **Corbett hits homestretch on budget, rest of agenda**
HARRISBURG - It may be going too far to say Gov. Tom Corbett's political future rests on what happens in Harrisburg over the next two weeks, but there's no disputing he has a lot at stake... - [AP](#)

06-17-2013

Pennsylvania Mulls Eliminating Registration Stickers

HARRISBURG, Pa. (CBS) – The secretary of PennDOT says he’s confident there won’t be any problems if vehicle registration stickers are eliminated in Pennsylvania. As state lawmakers grapple with legislation to increase funding for transportation, one thing under discussion involves possible elimination of... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)