

Malady & Wooten, LLP

Legislative Report

July 12, 2013

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Pennsylvania Golf Course Owners Association

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Session Schedule:

2013 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

September 23, 24, 25, 30
October 1, 2, 15, 16, 17 (NV), 21, 22, 23
November 12, 13, 18, 19, 20
December 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18 (NV)

2013 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

September 23, 24, 25, 30
October 1, 2, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23
November 12, 13, 18, 19, 20
December 3, 4, 9, 10, 11

PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION Notices

[Public review and comment; public hearing on the 2013 update of comprehensive plan](#)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Notices

[Applications, actions and special notices](#)

[Availability of technical guidance](#)

[Modification to Chapter 105 water obstruction and encroachment general permits and 401 water quality certification for consistency with revised Chapter 105 regulations](#)

[Pennsylvania Small Business Advantage Grant availability](#)

[Applications, actions and special notices](#)

[Bid opportunity](#)

[Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board meeting update](#)

[Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission; public hearing on revisions to pollution control standards regarding date of elimination of mixing zones](#)

[Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board subcommittee meetings](#)

OP-ED: NO TAX SHOULD HAVE THE POWER TO LEAVE YOU HOMELESS

By: Senator David G. Argall (R-29)
Senator Mike Folmer (R-48)
Senator Judy Schwank (D-11)
Senator John Yudichak (D-14)

Despite renewed special interest attacks at the capitol in Harrisburg, the fight for eliminating the unfair school property tax begun by 79 grassroots taxpayer groups across the state is making some real progress.

Across the 11 counties we represent, the number one question we hear at our town hall meetings is: When will the legislature eliminate school property taxes? Last year, we introduced [a similar proposal](#) drafted by the Pennsylvania Coalition of Taxpayer Associations. The Senate Finance Committee held a public hearing on this proposal and we asked for a nonpartisan analysis of the bill to provide detailed funding projections. The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) identified several problems in the original proposal. Special interest groups have used the report as a weapon against our efforts but we view it as a roadmap to achieve true property tax reform and we have moved quickly to amend the bill.

Last year's proposal garnered 13 co-sponsors, or 26 percent of the total state Senate. This year's proposal, [Senate Bill 76](#), corrects the defects in the original bill, as detailed in the [80-page analysis provided by the IFO](#). Even more importantly, as a result of the grassroots efforts of the Pennsylvania Coalition of Taxpayer Associations this year, 22 Senators have now co-sponsored the bill – 12 Republicans and 10 Democrats – an increase of 9 Senators from last year. We continue to forge new coalitions and

pick up support from all corners of the state. Groups like the Western Pennsylvania Coalition of Taxpayers, the Wilkes-Barre City Taxpayers Association, and the South Eastern Tax Reform Coalition are leading the charge to eliminate this tax.

The Senate and House Finance Committees have asked the IFO to complete an updated analysis of Senate Bill 76 in the next few months. The issue of funding public schools is a \$13 billion problem and we welcome their nonpartisan, professional analysis to ensure we provide a dollar-for-dollar match for basic education.

In the last few months, because of growing grassroots efforts across the state, support for the bill has grown from 13 to 22 State Senators. The number we need to achieve in the Senate is 26 votes for passage, and then it heads over to the House of Representatives, where we need 102 votes. Representatives Jim Cox and Mark Gillen have discussed this proposal with the Governor, and he is on the record with them stating he would sign the bill when it reaches his desk.

We look forward to continuing our bipartisan fight to advance this issue. In our local newspapers, we frequently read about the thousands of sheriff's sales that occur each year across the state. We hear this fundamental principle every day, from Marietta all the way to West Pittston: No tax should have the power to leave you homeless.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

House Tourism and Recreational Development (INFORMATIONAL)

TUESDAY - 7/30/13

3:00 p.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Informational meeting to hear presentation by the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau

House Tourism and Recreational Development (PUBLIC HEARING)

WEDNESDAY - 7/31/13

10:00 a.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Public hearing on local hotel room tax

BILL REPORT

ATTACHED TO THE REPORT

STATE NEWS

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FALLOUT CONTINUES

Fallout continues from the stalled effort to generate billions of dollars of new state revenue for road and bridge projects and mass transit. Lamenting the loss of a construction season, Gov. Tom Corbett sought to blame House Democratic lawmakers for the lack of a transportation funding bill. The House should have passed a transportation bill on a bipartisan vote like the Senate, said Mr. Corbett at an event in Hershey. House Minority Leader Frank Dermody, D-33, Allegheny County, was wrong to tell his caucus members not to vote for it, he said. "I truly believe the people of Pennsylvania are the losers in the transportation bill not passing the House," said Mr. Corbett.

PLENTY OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE IN TURNPIKE CASE

Pay to play is difficult to prove. That was evident in the preliminary hearing for Pennsylvania Turnpike defendants, some of whom are accused of raising campaign money or taking gifts in return for state contracts. It is called quid pro quo; I give you this in return for that. Not one of the 19 prosecution

witnesses who testified at a five-day hearing for six of the defendants said there was any agreement, discussion, even a hint of a trade-off.

IN THE NEWS

- 07-11-2013 **Despite what you may have heard, the fight to abolish property taxes is alive and well: David G. Argall**
Despite renewed special interest attacks at the capitol in Harrisburg, the fight for eliminating the unfair school property tax begun by 79 grassroots taxpayer groups across the state is making some real progress. Across the 11 counties we represent, the number one question we hear at our... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 07-10-2013 **Chesapeake Bay watch shows Pennsylvania running behind on cleanup**
All of the states (and the District of Columbia) involved in the Chesapeake Bay Foundation - of which Pennsylvania is one - "are making pro gress meeting pollution reduction goals, but no jurisdic tion is on track to implement all the pollution reduction practices they committed to achieve... - [LEHIGH](#)
- 07-10-2013 **Philadelphia Creates Online Course To Churn Out Resident Tourism Ambassadors**
PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — Philadelphia tourism officials are rolling out a new way to get involved in promoting our fair region, one interaction at a time. How would you like to be a Certified Hospitality Professional? It's free, online, and doesn't take long, says Jack Ferguson, president and... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 07-08-2013 **Chesapeake Bay restoration sized up: mixed report**
Washington, D.C., and states within the Chesapeake Bay watershed are making progress to reduce pollution flowing into the hobbled estuary but none is on track to meet cleanup commitments set this year, an analysis by environmental groups concludes.... - [AP](#)

WEEK IN REVIEW

- 07-12-2013 **Labor unions keep strong hold on PA politics**
HARRISBURG – On a sunny afternoon in early July, Fredrick Anton was finishing his lunch at a popular Harrisburg café. As Anton, the CEO of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association and a prominent voice in conservative circles of Pennsylvania politics, headed for the door he... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 07-12-2013 **Democrats hail Kane's refusal to defend law barring gay marriage; GOP says she's neglecting her job**
State Rep. Brian Sims, the first openly gay candidate elected to the General Assembly, praised Attorney General Kathleen Kane for her refusal to defend the Pennsylvania law barring gay marriage. Sims, a Philadelphia Democrat, issued the typical statement of support in a... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 07-11-2013 **Pa. House to return to finalize budget**
HARRISBURG - The state House will make a rare return from its summer break Monday to complete a small but important bit of budget business. The Republican-controlled chamber is scheduled to convene at 1 p.m. to vote on the fiscal code, a must-have piece of the budget that has been in limbo... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 07-11-2013 **Voter-ID law to be debated in court**
Pennsylvania's much-debated and long-sidelined voter-identification law is getting its day in court. The legislation, requiring people to show a valid form of identification to vote, will head to Commonwealth Court on Monday, where the justices will explore its constitutional legitimacy.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 07-10-2013 **State launches website for job-seekers, employers**
The website, www.JobGateway.pa.gov, went live in July 2012 for people claiming unemployment

compensation to register for their work-search requirement, according to the governor's office. The website is now open to all job-seekers and to employers, who can post job openings.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

- 07-10-2013 **Corbett will not appeal dismissal of lawsuit challenging NCAA over sanctions against Penn State**
Gov. Tom Corbett will not appeal the dismissal of his lawsuit challenging the NCAA's sanctions against Penn State over its mishandling of child sexual abuse allegations against former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky. Corbett's general counsel said in a statement that after extensive review... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 07-09-2013 **Tuition at Pa. universities could rise**
Nearly 115,000 students attending Pennsylvania's 14 state-owned universities would see their yearly tuition rise by 3 percent effective this fall if the system's board of governors, meeting today, approves a recommendation from its finance committee. The \$194 increase unveiled by the committee Monday in Harrisburg would... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 07-09-2013 **Pennsylvania lawmakers eye Monday return to finish budget work**
HARRISBURG — The state House could be back in session next week to try to pass a key part of the 2013-14 state budget that has been left undone after a flap with the Senate over payday loans. The Republican leadership of the 203-member House is mulling a return to... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 07-08-2013 **Madonna and Young: Budget process shows deep divide in Pa. Legislature**
Most attention in the bruising battle to adopt the recently enacted Pennsylvania budget focused on whether the state budget passed on time. It did. But a story far more important than budget passage itself was largely missed in covering the late-night, last-minute theatrics now de rigueur... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 07-08-2013 **Budget season ends with governor at political crossroads**
Some see Gov. Tom Corbett as the man who beat back tax increases, imposed difficult but necessary decisions to handle a multibillion-dollar revenue shortfall and tried to keep the federal health insurance law at bay.... - [AP](#)