

**Malady & Wooten, LLP**

Legislative Report

July 19, 2013

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**Pennsylvania Golf Course Owners Association**

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

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**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**

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### **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Statements of Policy**

[Water quality toxics management strategy—statement of policy](#)

### **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD Rules and Regulations**

[Triennial review of water quality standards](#)

### **SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION Notices**

[Commission meeting](#)

## **COSPONSOR MEMOS**

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Rep. Heffley

- [Homestead Limitation legislation - Heffley](#)

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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### **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**

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

## **STATE NEWS**

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### **RATINGS AGENCY DOWNGRADES PA'S \$10.9 BILLION IN DEBT**

Credit agency Fitch Ratings is downgrading Pennsylvania's \$10.9 billion in outstanding general obligation debt because it says policymakers haven't adequately addressed rising costs that are outpacing tax collections. The downgrade comes three years after Fitch Ratings put Pennsylvania on a negative outlook. The downgrade takes Pennsylvania from AA-plus to AA.

### **PA JUNE TABLE GAME REVENUE UP 4.2 PERCENT**

Pennsylvania's 11 casinos generated \$59.5 million in table game revenue in June, up 4.2 percent from a year ago. For the fiscal year ending June 30, total table game revenue at the state's gambling houses was \$713.1 million, an increase of 7.4 percent from the previous fiscal year's total of \$663.9 million.

### **KANE OUSTS JUDGE FROM OVERSEEING GRAND JURY**

In a bitter and secret legal fight, state Attorney General Kathleen Kane has succeeded in ousting the judge who has long overseen corruption investigations in Pennsylvania, *The Inquirer* has learned. After a conflict that had been roiling since she took office in January, Kane took the unusual step of asking the state Supreme Court to remove Judge Barry F. Feudale as the supervising grand jury judge in Harrisburg.

## **IN THE NEWS**

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- 07-19-2013     **Township to take out \$4.65M bond**  
The Lower Makefield supervisors will use a bond issue to borrow \$3.6 million they need to finish paying for land that was condemned for a township golf course. They also will take out just over \$1 million more to help pay for recreational facilities and upgrades to the township building off Edgewood... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)
- 07-16-2013     **State lawmakers debate letting York County raise hotel tax**  
What York County officials expected to be a simple vote in the state House of Representatives has turned into a major debate over the state laws governing hotel taxes. Before a county can vote to raise the tax, which is added onto hotel bills, state lawmakers must pass what's known as enabling legislation.... - [York Dispatch](#)

## **WEEK IN REVIEW**

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- 7-19-2013     **Pa. Lottery sets new sales record**  
The Pennsylvania Lottery reported on Thursday that it achieved records in sales and profits even as Republican Gov. Tom Corbett fought to hand its management over to a private British firm.... - [AP](#)
- 07-19-2013     **State unemployment rate holds at 7.5 percent in June**  
Pennsylvania's unemployment rate stayed at 7.5 percent in June, the same rate the state experienced in May. Despite the steady unemployment rate, it was a fairly good month for the Keystone state. The number of people working in June rose by 19,000, without seasonal adjustment. What that means is that, even when the numbers... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 07-18-2013     **Pitt, Penn State enter race for highest tuition**  
In the battle for first place, there's one competition neither University of Pittsburgh nor Penn State University is eager to win: Who has the highest tuition. They were the two most expensive public universities in the country, according to the most recent data from 2011-12 released by the U.S.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 07-18-2013     **Corbett shakes up his administration**  
HARRISBURG — Republican Gov. Tom Corbett accepted the resignations of two of his top administrators Wednesday following a disastrous budget season in which he failed to get any of his spending and policy priorities approved by the Legislature, which is controlled by his own party.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 07-17-2013     **Judge sends 6 defendants in turnpike case to trial**  
A judge ruled Tuesday prosecutors had presented enough evidence to send to county court a bid-rigging and influence-peddling case against a former state senator and five others regarding Pennsylvania Turnpike business..... - [AP](#)
- 07-17-2013     **New Corbett staff shake-up: Chief of staff out**  
HARRISBURG - After a bruising budget season in which the administration was unable to score any

major policy wins, Steve Aichele, Gov. Corbett's chief of staff, is stepping down, according to two people in the governor's inner circle. Aichele will leave his \$154,000-a-year post by summer's end, the... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

- 07-16-2013 **Pennsylvania Defends Law on ID for Voters**  
Pennsylvania's voter identification law, one of the strictest in the nation, was back before a court on Monday in a case that opponents hope will end once and for all requirements that were suspended by a judge a few weeks before last year's presidential election. Lawyers representing a... - [New York Times](#)
- 07-16-2013 **Pa. House Approves Fiscal Code, Finishes Work On State Budget**  
HARRISBURG, Pa., (CBS) – Lawmakers in Harrisburg have finally finished their work on the state budget. And that puts one more piece of Philadelphia's school funding puzzle is in place. In a brief afternoon session, the state house wrapped up the budget by approving what's called the fiscal code. Wrapped up in that code is a... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 07-15-2013 **Pennsylvania rolling out new teacher, principal evaluation system**  
School may be out for summer, but across Pennsylvania districts are gearing up for a new teacher evaluation system that takes student performance into account. This fall begins a three-year roll out of the system, which was passed into law in 2012. Principals and specialists will be subject to the evaluations... - [Easton Express-Times](#)
- 07-15-2013 **House returns for redo of budget-related bill**  
HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania state representatives are back in the Capitol, about two weeks after heading back to their districts for their annual summer break from Harrisburg... - [AP](#)