

Malady & Wooten, LLP

Legislative Report

July 26, 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 hearing](#)

NEW REGULATIONS

2-159 - Preferential Assessment of Farmland and Forest Land under the Clean and Green Act

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

CORBETT SUPPORTERS PLOT 2014 PATH AT RESORT

Tom Corbett loyalists are assembling this weekend to strategize on how the under-fire incumbent governor can retain his seat in 2014, according to a Corbett political ally. Somewhere between 100-200 of the governor's political inner circle are set to huddle-up over the weekend at the Omni Bedford Springs Resort, about 100 miles southwest of Harrisburg. "It's a Corbett event, not necessarily a party event," said the Corbett ally who spoke on condition of anonymity.

TWO CLOSED STATE PRISONS GO UP FOR SALE

Two older state correctional institutions — SCI Cresson in Cresson, Cambria County, and SCI Greensburg in Hempfield, which both officially closed June 30 — are now among a group of 37 surplus state properties listed for sale. Also for sale: a dozen armories, a state hospital, a youth development center, and numerous residential units, according to the Pennsylvania Department of General Services

SEARCH FOR STATE SYSTEM UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR WINDING DOWN

A decision on who will serve as the next chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education is near. System spokesman Kenn Marshall declined repeatedly to identify the names of the finalists for the highest-paid position in state government. The system's webpage devoted to the chancellor's search is devoid of names as well. Gov. Tom Corbett met with the finalists on Tuesday as did the system's executive staff, Marshall said. All those sessions occurred behind closed doors.

IN THE NEWS

PENNVEST, DEP Announce Third 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 Sept. 11, 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 afford 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 on “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)

- 07-26-2013 **Support elimination of the school property tax**
Editor, the Record: At the July 15 meeting of the Bangor School District, our board passed a resolution to send a letter to our state Rep. Joe Emrick, (R-137), to support HB76, co-sponsored by Rep. Mario Scavello, R-176, and a number of our local state legislators.... - *Pocono Record*
- 07-26-2013 **Roses to Pa. taxpayer coalition for drive to win tax reform**
ROSES to the Pennsylvania Coalition of Taxpayer Associations ([http:](http://) - *Pottstown Mercury*)
- 07-25-2013 **Increase rebates to seniors to help pay for property taxes**
In nearly every edition of the Sound Off someone is commenting about the elimination of property taxes to fund the school system. My opinion is that property taxes to fund school systems will never be eliminated. The reasoning is that we, here in the southeastern part of Pennsylvania, suffer... - *Pottstown Mercury*
- 07-23-2013 **Scavello: Axing school land property possible as HB 76 and SB 76 inch onward**
A bill to eliminate school property taxes in Pennsylvania is inching toward a majority in both houses, a state legislator and a tax reform activist said at a public forum Monday night. The companion Pennsylvania House and Senate bills would phase out local school property taxes and replace them with a combination of higher state... - *Pocono Record*
- 07-23-2013 **LETTER: Pa. property tax initiative would save billions**
At the July 15 meeting of the Bangor Area School District, our board passed a resolution to send a letter to our state representative, Joe Emrick, to support HB76, co-sponsored by Rep. Mario Scavillo and a number of state representatives and state senators. I encourage all who read this to call their legislators and encourage them... - *Easton Express-Times*
- 07-22-2013 **Develop regionalized approach for stormwater**
Pennsylvania has more than 85,000 miles of streams and rivers, none of which observe political

subdivisions. Yet stormwater management, like many other aspects of ineffective local governance across the commonwealth, is broken up among 2,500 units of local government.... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

07-22-2013 **HUSKEY: The sound of political silence in Pennsylvania**
It's one thing to get the silent treatment from our elected officials. It's quite another to have them passing the buck, or just flat out telling us we don't know what we're talking about. I'm getting the silent treatment from state Rep. Mike Turzai. I sent... - [Norristown Times Herald](#)

WEEK IN REVIEW

07-26-2013 **At trial, dueling estimates on voters who lack ID**
HARRISBURG - Conflicting estimates on the number of people who lack proper identification to vote was the topic of testimony on the ninth day of the trial over Pennsylvania's voter identification law. A statistician hired by the state disputed estimates produced by a plaintiffs' expert, saying it... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

07-26-2013 **Lawmakers seek help for power plants**
Shortly after FirstEnergy Corp. announced its intention to close its Hatfield's Ferry Power Station in Monongahela Township, Greene County, and Mitchell Power Station in Union Township, Washington County, and before plant workers and supporters rallied Wednesday to protest the closure,... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)

07-25-2013 **Hunters take PA Game Commission to court over Sunday hunting ban**
HARRISBURG — You can drink at a bar or play professional sports on Sundays in Pennsylvania, but you still can't fire a gun at a white-tailed deer. A remnant of the state's "blue laws" meant to restrict commerce in religious observation of the Sabbath, the Sunday... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

07-25-2013 **State To Get Its Turn In Pa. Voter ID Trial**
HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — It's the state's turn to make its case that Pennsylvania's voter identification law conforms to the state constitution... - [AP](#)

07-24-2013 **Dems believe Corbett vulnerable; experts not yet convinced**
HARRISBURG — Political analysts say it's too soon to write off Republican Gov. Tom Corbett, though some believe he's the nation's most vulnerable incumbent governor, and Democrats on Tuesday began a campaign that accuses him of breaking promises. "Writing off Tom Corbett is premature. It's completely understandable... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

07-24-2013 **NJ, Pa. turnpikes collected most toll money in North America in 2012**
If drivers in the Philadelphia region consider their commutes expensive, perhaps the silver lining is that the New Jersey and Pennsylvania turnpikes raised the most revenue of any toll roads in North America in 2012, according to a new analysis. Or maybe not. The New Jersey Turnpike raised... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

07-23-2013 **Portfolio: Ratings agency downgrades Pa.s 10.9B in debt**
HARRISBURG (AP) - 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... - [AP](#)

07-23-2013 **Confirmed Supreme Court justice nominee Correale Stevens to be sworn in July 30**
Superior Court President Judge Correale Stevens will be sworn in as a state Supreme Court justice next Tuesday at the Luzerne County Courthouse. Chief Justice Ron Castille will administer the oath of office to Stevens, which will bring the court to full staff for the first time since May 2012.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

07-22-2013 **Pa. Right to Know Law gets new scrutiny**

HARRISBURG -- State prisoners are among the most frequent users of Pennsylvania's Right to Know Law, filing more than 1,500 informational requests last year. But a pair of bills in the state House could curb or outright end inmates' use of the open records law, which aims to improve government transparency... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

07-22-2013

[New chief of staff aims to sell Gov. Corbett's agenda](#)

HARRISBURG — A Mt. Lebanon woman with long-standing ties to the Republican Party will head Gov. Tom Corbett's staff as he tries to reignite a stalled legislative agenda and drive up sagging poll numbers. Leslie Gromis Baker, 53, a former aide to ex-Gov. Tom Ridge, has amassed... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)