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May 21, 2020

Welcome to the PSATS Morning News.

Missed yesterday's PSATS Morning News? No problem! A [PSATS Morning News Library](#) is available online for your viewing pleasure!

We're excited about this new concept and want to hear what you think. Email comments and suggestions to morningnews@psats.org.

Special Announcement

[NEW IN JUNE – Conference Workshops go Virtual](#)

PSATS is excited to announce that the excellent line up of workshops, scheduled originally for the PSATS 2020 Conference, are now available online! Starting in June, members and non-members can access 60+ workshops for a small fee. [Click here](#) to register and view the list of workshops.



Township Video News



If the pandemic has you thinking about starting a community Facebook page, we have advice on where to go for help.

Latest News

Promote the Census on Election Day

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, June 2. If your township building is a polling location, why not take advantage of residents coming there to vote to promote the 2020 Census? PSATS has created a [flyer](#) that you can copy to distribute or hang to encourage residents to complete their census. Remember, critical population-driven dollars to your community are at stake.

All CDL Employers Must Register with the FMCSA Clearinghouse

Does your township employ CDL drivers? If so, both the township and those drivers must register with the FMCSA Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse ("Clearinghouse").

[Click Here](#) and go to #2 for instructions on how employers and drivers register with the Clearinghouse.

If you have questions on this matter, contact the PSATS CDL Program at cdl@psats.org.



[OOR Updates Right-to-Know Law Advisory](#)

Yesterday, the Office of Open Records updated its Right-to-Know Law advisory for requests received while the governor's emergency declaration is in place. The primary update is that agencies in yellow-status counties should now process RTKL requests and participate in RTKL appeals as they would normally. OOR recognizes that some exceptions may be necessary and will address those on a case-by-case basis. [Click here](#) for the advisory.

[CDC Releases Updated Guidance](#)

The Centers for Disease Control has released updated guidance for COVID-19 that impacts townships including public pools, water playgrounds, schools and workplaces. [Read full story.](#)

[Independent Fiscal Office Releases Monthly Economic Update](#)

The Pennsylvania Independent Fiscal Office released its May 2020 Monthly Economic Update. This issue contains a negative outlook for funding public pensions, with summaries of recent detailed analyses of market conditions by the Center for State & Local Government Excellence and Milliman. Also included are the results of a weekly survey of businesses by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and a summary of a housing forecast by Zillow showing that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the housing market may extend through 2021. [Click here](#) to read the publication.

[PSP Reports COVID-19 Enforcement Numbers, Crime Statistics](#)

The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) is reporting statewide enforcement numbers for actions taken May 11-17 to enforce the commonwealth's COVID-19 orders. [Read full story.](#)

[State to Distribute \\$51 million in CARES Funding to Childcare Providers](#)

The commonwealth will distribute the first wave of \$51 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to all eligible licensed childcare providers, which is designed to help them prepare to reopen as counties move to the yellow phase. A second distribution of \$55 million will be made following a study assessing the economic impact of the pandemic on Pennsylvania's childcare providers. To view distributions by facility category and totals by county, [click here](#).

[Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board Releases Casino Reopening Protocols](#)

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board has released reopening protocols that casinos must follow when they are authorized to reopen. [Read full story.](#)

Legislation & Policy



The House was in session yesterday and is now in recess on a 12-hour call of the chair. The House is scheduled to be in session May 26 & 27. The Senate remains on a 12-hour call of the President pro tempore.

House Passes Regional Response Health Collaborative Legislation

On May 20th, the House passed HB 2510 which would require the state Department of Human Services to: divide the state into six regions; solicit proposals from health collaboratives to provide operations, management and administration in each region to protect residents in facilities from COVID-19; and contract with at least one health collaborative in each region. HB 2510 would also allocate \$500,000,000 in federal funds received from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to the Department to implement this program.

House Passes Harassment of Law Enforcement Legislation

On May 20th, the House passed HB 2016 which would provide for the offense of harassment of a law enforcement officer. This legislation would define harassment of a law enforcement officer as intentionally or knowingly causing or attempting to cause a law enforcement officer to come into contact with blood, seminal fluid, saliva, urine or feces by throwing, tossing, spitting or expelling such fluid or material.

House Passes Legislation Protecting Campground Owners

On May 20th, the House unanimously passed SB 863 which would add recreational campgrounds and campground owners to the existing rights and protections for hotels and hotelkeepers. SB 863 would establish the right to refuse or deny accommodations, facilities or privileges of a lodging establishment if an individual is unable or unwilling to pay and the right to deny or refuse accommodations to disorderly people.

Learn

[Is Your Township Prepared for More De Facto Takings Claims - June 4, 2020](#)

NOTE: This webinar will also now cover some of the recent COVID-19-related challenges alleging that shutdown orders are de facto takings. This webinar will discuss the potential for increased litigation over takings claims against townships as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision in *Knick v. Township of Scott*. In that case, a Pennsylvania township adopted an ordinance that a resident claimed was a de facto taking of her property without just compensation.



Additionally, the Pennsylvania appellate courts have issued a spate of recent decisions concerning de facto condemnation claims. In this webinar, Kandice Hull of McNeese Wallace & Nurick will review what these decisions may mean for Pennsylvania municipalities and ways in which municipalities can better protect themselves from potential takings claims. Qualifies for 1 PMGA Planning/Zoning Point. Eligible for 1 CLE credit. (additional cost). [Click here](#) to register.

[Flagger Training - Virtual Class - May 22, 2020](#)

This instructor-led, virtual class, flagger training will be conducted for individuals who have flagging responsibilities on ANY ROAD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Others who would benefit from this course include: utility companies working on low volume roads, law enforcement personnel, municipal managers and elected officials (to understand the importance, and for budgeting purposes). This course has been designed to meet the PennDOT Publication 408 flagger training requirements mandated for all flaggers in Pennsylvania. [Click here](#) to register.



For full list of webinars and classes please visit <https://learn.psats.org>.



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