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November 19, 2020

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## Township Video News



**TVN's Question of the Week | Are Salaried Employees Entitled to Overtime? (Nov. 19, 2020; 1:36)**

Both the state and federal governments have overtime rules for full-time, salaried employees. Find out which one townships must comply with, and which one they don't. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:36)

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## Latest News

### **Revised State Mask Order Applies to Townships**

Townships should be aware that Pennsylvania's revised mask order, which took effect November 17, applies to areas both inside and outside of local

government facilities. There is an exception for “working alone,” which includes someone inside an office or inside a cubicle “with walls high enough to block the breathing zone of all people walking by, and the worker’s activity will not require anyone to come inside of the worker’s workspace.”

The order is a requirement, not a recommendation, and is an enforceable disease control measure authorized by the Disease Prevention and Control Law. To read yesterday’s article about the order, [click here](#). To read the Department of Health’s Frequently Asked Questions on the order, [click here](#).

### **PennDOT Seeking Local Input on Road Robots**

The state Department of Transportation is currently developing rules for personal delivery devices, or autonomous robots, that are designed to deliver packages to consumers in Pennsylvania. Act 106 of 2020 authorizes the use of these devices in sidewalks and pedestrian areas and along the berms of roads posted at 25 mile per hour or less. Townships could prohibit these devices on local roads and pedestrian areas if they would constitute a hazard.

PennDOT has broad authority to regulate these devices and is working to develop rules before Act 106 takes effect on January 29, 2021. Entities that wish to operate these devices must first apply to PennDOT and if approved, must notify any municipality in which they plan to operate 30 days in advance. In the first phase, operators must manually operate the devices and be within 30 feet of them. After successful completion of the first phase, the devices may operate autonomously but must be monitored by an operator who can take control of the device if needed.

PennDOT is interested in the constructive input of township officials of items of concerns and elements that should be considered as part of the authorization process. Please provide input to [penndotav@pa.gov](mailto:penndotav@pa.gov) by December 15. Please copy Holly Fishel, PSATS Policy and Research Director at [hfishel@psats.org](mailto:hfishel@psats.org).

[Click here](#) to read Act 106 and learn more about the rules for these devices. [Click here](#) to learn more about what these devices look like.

### **More Comments for PennDOT – Tolls, Taxes and Other Future Funding Options**

The state Department of Transportation is exploring sustainable transportation options and has released its PennDOT Pathways Program, which outlines ideas for filling the \$8.1 billion annual highway and bridge transportation funding gap. To view the interactive PennDOT Pathways website and funding options, [click here](#). The Department is requesting public feedback on the proposal **until December 17, 2020**.

Through the PennDOT Pathways program, the department is launching an extensive initiative to examine possible near- and long-term funding solutions and how they could

work in Pennsylvania. As part of the program, PennDOT recently launched an alternative funding Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study as part of the PennDOT Pathways program to explore options for funding the maintenance and improvement of Pennsylvania's highways and budget.

To comment, email [PennDOTPathways@pa.gov](mailto:PennDOTPathways@pa.gov), call 717-325-6129, or mail comments to PA Department of Transportation, Keystone Building, 400 North St, Fifth Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Please copy PSATS Government Relations Director Joe Gerdes on submitted comments. To view how the transportation funding gap became a problem, [click here](#). PSATS will review the program and provide comments in accordance with existing policies and resolutions.

### **Allegheny County Issues Stay-at-Home Advisory**

Allegheny County Health Department issued a stay-at-home advisory and urged Allegheny residents to not have guests at their homes unless they are essential workers or home health aides. The Department is advising residents to cancel traditional Thanksgiving celebrations that involve members of other households and to avoid traveling. [Click here](#) for more.

### **FDA Approves First COVID-19 Test for Home Self-Testing**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued an emergency use authorization for the first COVID-19 diagnostic self-testing at home kit that provides rapid results. The Lucira COVID-19 All-In-One Test Kit is a single use, self-collected COVID-19 test that is currently authorized for prescription use only and health care providers will track, monitor, and report all test results. [Click here](#) for more.

### **No Crowds for Groundhog Day**

The Groundhog Club has announced that due to COVID-19, no crowds will be allowed to attend the ceremonies on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney on Groundhog Day 2021. Instead, online celebrations are planned and Punxsutawney Phil's prediction will be livestreamed. Hopefully, in 2021 Phil will predict an early spring AND the end of the pandemic!

### **State Agencies Continue to Issue Covid Violation Notices**

**Pennsylvania State Police** - Officers issued 85 warnings and 26 violations for failing to follow COVID-19 requirements after visiting 568 licensed liquor establishments between Monday, November 9, through Sunday, November 15. That brings the total violation count to 318 over the last 138 days (*2.3 per day statewide*). To view a summary of the number of checks and warnings issued by enforcement officers since July 1, [click here](#) and scroll down.

**Pa. Department of Agriculture** - Between November 9 to 15 The Bureau of Food

Safety performed 489 total inspections, 21 of which were complaint-driven and 12 of which were COVID-19-specific complaints. The bureau distributed 87 COVID-19 complaint-driven education letters and referred 19 COVID-19-related complaints to local and county health departments. No formal warning letters or citations were issued this week. A county-by-county breakdown can be found by [clicking here](#).

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## Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate are scheduled to be in session today, November 19. Watch session live [here](#).

### **House Passes Broadband Funding Legislation**

On Wednesday, the House unanimously passed SB 835 which would create a broadband funding program to provide grants for high-speed broadband service infrastructure deployment in unserved areas of Pennsylvania. SB 835 would require that the grants be issued to entities that have demonstrated the ability to construct and administer high-speed broadband services and stipulates that the grants can only be used in unserved areas.

SB 835 has passed the Senate and the House and is before the Senate on concurrence of House amendments.

### **CDL Legislation Passes**

On Wednesday, the House concurred on Senate amendments and passed HB 2296 which would require a commercial driver to notify their employer if cited, charged or arrested for violating a federal or state law or a local ordinance relating to vehicle traffic. HB 2296 would also provide an exemption from CDL requirements for municipal employees during a snow or ice emergency if the properly licensed employee is not available or if it is determined that additional assistance is needed.

HB 2296 has passed the House and the Senate and will be presented to the Governor.

### **Senate Passes Liquid Fuels Exemption Legislation**

On Wednesday, the Senate unanimously passed HB 2233 which would authorize political subdivisions and volunteer fire departments to enter into an agreement for the

commingling of tax-free motor fuels in bulk storage tanks.

HB 2233 has passed the House and the Senate and will be presented to the Governor.

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## Learn

### [Flagger Training - 12/3/20 - Erie County](#)

This instructor-led 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). [Click here](#) to register.

### [CMV/CDL Records Management - Virtual Training - 12/17/20](#)

This virtual training workshop will review CMV/CDL employee and vehicle paperwork, including pre-employment inquiries regarding a CDL applicant's records in the FMCSA Clearinghouse; requests for CMV driver's license information from PennDOT; annually reviewing each CDL drivers records in the Clearinghouse; CMV daily vehicle inspection, maintenance, and repair reports; the employer's required policy on CDL drug and alcohol testing; and a general overview of all the CDL regulations. This class is eligible for 3 PMGA Public Works points. [Click here](#) to register.

### [Flagger Training - Virtual Class - 12/17/20](#)

Note: this is a virtual training class. This instructor-led 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).



[Click here](#) to register.

**[Quickbooks - Year-End Employee Functions  
12/17/2020](#)**

**[Part of the PSATS Summer/Fall 2020  
QuickBooks Series](#)**

Learn how to print W-2s and 1099s and file all year-end taxes and reports with the Internal Revenue Service and state agencies. [Click here](#) to register.



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

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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](mailto:morningnews@psats.org).



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors  
4855 Woodland Drive  
Enola, PA 17025

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