



October 22, 2020

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### Township Video News



Thinking about selling used equipment to another municipality? We explain what the Township Code says you don't have to do. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. (1:02)

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### Latest News

#### **[Department of Agriculture Releases COVID-19 Restaurant Enforcement Numbers](#)**

The state Department of Agriculture has released COVID-19 restaurant enforcement actions taken during the period of October 12 to 18. [Read full story.](#)

#### **[PSP Continues to Cite Liquor Violations](#)**

Pennsylvania State Police liquor control enforcement officers visited 556 licensed liquor establishments from Tuesday, October 13, through Sunday, October 18, to ensure that

businesses are abiding by COVID-19 mitigation requirements that include social distancing, masking, and other health and safety requirements of the Liquor Code. [Read full story.](#)

### **[PENNVEST Awards Loans, Grants](#)**

Gov. Tom Wolf announced \$181 million in loans and grants for 16 water, wastewater, and non-point source projects across 12 counties through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST). [Read full story.](#)

### **[Oxycontin Settles with Justice Department for \\$8 billion in Opioid Crisis](#)**

The U.S. Justice Department has announced that it has reached an \$8 billion settlement with the maker of Oxycontin, Purdue Pharma, for its role in the nation's opioid crisis. [Read full story.](#)

### **[More Help for Firefighters...Robots!](#)**

The nation's first robotic firefighting vehicle was debuted at the Los Angeles Fire Department today, which was put to work on its first day on the job. [Read full story.](#)

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## Legislative & Policy



The House is in recess until November 10. The Senate remains at the call of the President Pro Tempore.

### **Comprehensive Fire & EMS Reform Passes**

On October 21, the House concurred on Senate amendments and passed HB 1673 which would rename the Volunteer Fire Company, Ambulance Company and Rescue Squad Assistance to Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan Program and expand the program to include municipal fire companies and emergency medical services companies. HB 1673 would authorize a referendum to implement the expanded use of the funds to municipal fire departments or companies that provide services through paid personnel and would give the office of the state fire commissioner the authority to establish rules, in consultation with the fire advisory committee, for the eligible uses of the funds and require an annual report. This legislation would also rename the Fire Safety Advisory Committee

as the State Fire Advisory Board and direct them to review and make recommendations for the fire relief funding formula and fire relief services.

HB 1673 would clarify that fire relief associations include both volunteer and combo companies and that funds may be used for:

- necessary training;
- activities and materials to help with the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters;
- establishment of length of service awards;
- facilities to store vehicles and equipment and for training and meetings;
- vehicles and equipment for emergency response,
- defrayment of the cost of obtaining or renewing a CDL for volunteer firefighters that operate fire or emergency vehicles registered to fire companies or municipalities and
- stipends to volunteer firefighters not to exceed \$1,500 per year.

Counties and school districts would be authorized to provide property tax credits to volunteer first responders.

Finally, this legislation would eliminate the 20 % cap on real estate tax credits and authorize intermunicipal cooperation of tax credit programs.

**This legislation would fulfill multiple PSATS resolutions.**

**HB 1673 has passed the House and the Senate and will be presented to the Governor.**

#### **Broadband Services; Rural Electric Cooperatives Legislation Passes**

The Senate passed and the House concurred on Senate amendments to HB 2438 which would allow rural electric cooperatives to use their existing infrastructure to deploy fiber lines for broadband services. Would apply only to existing infrastructure that can meet applicable safety standards and maintain structural integrity, not to new poles or structures within an existing easement.

**HB 2348 has passed the House and the Senate and will be presented to the Governor.**

#### **Senate Passes CDL Legislation**

On Wednesday October 21, the Senate 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 is before the House on concurrence of Senate Amendments.**

#### **Workers' Compensation Legislation**

On October 21, the House passed and the Senate concurred on House amendments to SB 94. This legislation would clarify that fire police, officers or directors of volunteer fire departments and volunteer ambulance corps, and volunteer fire department and volunteer ambulance corps volunteers that provide necessary operational support are eligible for workers' compensation coverage if injured in the performance of their duties. Operational support is defined and must be conducted on a regular basis and is subject to approval by the municipality purchasing the coverage. The term does not include a social member of a volunteer fire department.

**This legislation would fulfill a PSATS resolution.**

**SB 94 has passed the Senate and the House and will be presented to the Governor.**

#### **COVID-19 Notification Legislation**

The House passed and the Senate concurred on House amendments to SB 1110. This legislation would require the state secretary of health or local health authority to release identifiable health information to 9-1-1 centers, law enforcement officers, fire department personnel, and emergency medical services personnel in each county under a proclamation of disaster emergency by the governor that is based on a communicable disease. SB 110 would also require public safety agencies and personnel to follow all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and confidentiality standards.

**SB 110 has passed the Senate and the House and will be presented to the Governor.**

#### **Move Over Legislation Passes**

On Wednesday October 21, the House unanimously passed and the Senate concurred on House amendments to SB 1281. This legislation would rename Pennsylvania's "Steer Clear Law" the "Move Over Law" to clarify how motorists should react when approaching or passing an emergency response area. SB 1281 would also increase fines and penalties for drivers who fail to move over or slow down when approaching an emergency response area.

**SB 1281 has passed the Senate and the House and will be presented to the Governor.**

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## Learn

### [2020 Engineers Virtual Fall Seminar - 10/23/20](#)

This full-day, on-line virtual seminar is designed to meet the educational interests and busy schedules of consulting engineers by providing a focused overview of important issues of interest to them and their local government clients, all in an easy-to-use virtual classroom setting. Eligible for 6 PDHs and/or 6 PMGA Public Works points. [Click here](#) to register.

### [Quickbooks - Using QuickBooks For Meeting And Year-End Reports 10/29/2020](#)

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

In this session, learn how to customize and filter reports, export reports into Excel and format for Right-to-Know Law compliance. This session is worth 1.5 PMGA Administration points. [Click here](#) to register.

### [Quickbooks - Getting Ready For The Township Audit 11/19/2020](#)

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

In this session, we will discuss what to look for, how to ensure that your financial records are correct, and how to close down the book for the year. Each session is worth 1.5 PMGA Administration points. [Click here](#) to register.

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

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is available online for your viewing pleasure!

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