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June 23, 2021

Latest News

PSATS Executive Director to Appear on PCN Thursday Evening and Friday Morning

PSATS Executive Director Dave Sanko will appear on PCN tomorrow evening, June 24, and Friday morning, June 25, talking about a number of issues impacting townships, including legislation to allow townships to place legal advertising on websites and elsewhere, changes to the Right-to-Know Law that townships have been hoping for, the American Recovery Plan funds coming their way, unfunded mandates, solar siting in townships, and townships' response to COVID matters. The interview will air Thursday at 8 p.m. and Friday at 9 a.m.

IFO Releases Revised Revenue Estimates

The Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) has released updated revenue estimates for the commonwealth's 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years that replace earlier projections. The estimates include unrestricted General Fund, Motor License Fund, and federal funds.

The IFO projects Motor License Fund revenues to be permanently reduced by the pandemic due to telework policies. The oil company franchise tax (gas tax) is adjusted annually based on the average wholesale price of gasoline and diesel fuel in the prior calendar year. Due to low fuel rates in 2020, the levy will remain at the statutory minimum of \$2.99 per gallon for the new fiscal year. [Click here](#) for more.

Pennsylvania Remains at 13th for Vaccine Doses Administered Per Capita

According to the Centers for Disease Control, Pennsylvania remains at 13th for total COVID doses administered per capita. Nationally, more than 150 million people

have been fully vaccinated, or 55.9% of the adult population and 71.1% of those age 65 or older.

13.6 million vaccine doses have now been administered in Pennsylvania. According to the CDC, more than 6.2 million Pennsylvanians are now fully vaccinated, and an additional 1.7 million Pennsylvanians have received the first dose of a two-dose vaccine series. The CDC's data shows that 59% of Pennsylvanians age 18 and older are now fully vaccinated. [Click here](#) for state numbers and [here](#) for national numbers.

On This Day in History....

On June 23, 1683, Pennsylvania founder and first Governor William Penn signed a friendship treaty with the Lenni-Lenape Indians. It is the only treaty not sworn to and never broken!

Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate will be in session today, June 23. Watch session live [here](#).

Senate and House Pass Identical 5G Bills

Yesterday, the Senate passed SB 769 and the House passed HB 1621. Both bills, which are identical, would provide for the regulation of small wireless facilities in municipal rights-of-way. They would also authorize municipalities to charge an annual fee for the use of the right-of-way, not exceeding \$270 per small wireless facility or \$270 per new utility pole with a small wireless facility and would set the maximum permitted height of the pole and small cell facility at 50-feet. They would require small cells to comply with restrictions in place in underground utility districts and would allow municipalities to develop reasonable design guidelines to minimize aesthetic impact. Municipalities would have 60 days to review applications for collocation on preexisting structures and 90 days for the installation of a new structure with attached small wireless facilities. SB 769 is now awaiting committee assignment in the House and HB 1621 is now awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

Township officials should keep in mind that as currently written, SB 769 and HB 1621 would only apply to small cell wireless facilities and poles within the right-of-way; zoning and other local ordinances are preserved. Additionally, this legislation provides municipalities with the maximum allowable authority and control within the confines of the

FCC order.

Senate Passes Radar Bill

Yesterday, the Senate passed SB 419 which would permit local police officers in Pennsylvania to utilize radar or LIDAR for speed enforcement. It would require municipal police to meet and adhere to the same standards as the Pennsylvania State Police. SB 419 would also require a municipality's governing body to pass an ordinance and place signs in the municipality stipulating that the police may use radar or LIDAR, would require the issuance of written warnings for the first 90 days, and would place a cap on the amount of money a municipality may retain from speeding tickets written using either radar or LIDAR. Surplus revenue would fund future state police cadet classes. SB 419 is now awaiting committee assignment in the House.

Senate Passes Municipalities Planning Code Bill

Yesterday, the Senate unanimously passed SB 208 which would amend the Municipalities Planning Code to clarify that a municipality may not require a developer to post a bond of more than 110% of the costs of the improvements. SB 208 would also clarify that a municipality may retain 110% of the remaining costs of improvements prior to completion. SB 208 is now awaiting committee assignment in the House.

Senate Passes Lemonade Stand Legislation

Yesterday, the Senate unanimously passed HB 664 which would prohibit a municipality from requiring a license for a business that a minor operates occasionally and makes a profit of less than \$5,000 per year. HB 664 has passed the House and the Senate and will be presented to the Governor.

House Passes Election Reform Legislation

Yesterday, the House passed HB 1300 which would allow early in-person voting beginning in 2025, the correcting of non-fatal defects on mail-in ballots and would give counties the option of using secure mail-in ballot drop boxes. HB 1300 would also expand Pennsylvania's voted identification law, improve election uniformity among the 67 counties, enhance certification processes for all machines used in elections, require signature verification using ballot scanning equipment for mail-in and absentee ballots, improve lists of registered voters and more. HB 1300 is now before the Senate State Government Committee.

Senate Transportation Committee Approves Electric Truck Weight Bill

Yesterday, the Senate Transportation Committee approved SB 153 which would increase the maximum allowable weight for commercial vehicles powered by electric batteries from 80,000 pounds to 82,000 pounds. SB 153 is now before the Senate.

House State Government Committee Approves Meeting Agenda Bill

Yesterday, the House State Government Committee approved SB 554 which would amend the Sunshine Act to require agencies, including townships, to post a meeting agenda containing all items that will be voted on at least 24 hours before a meeting. It would require the agenda to be posted on an agency's website, if it has one, or at its building and meeting place. SB 554 would allow an agency to vote to add unadvertised items to the agenda if agreed to by a majority of the governing board. SB 554 is now before the House.

Learn

PSATS educational events will be listed as follows: Mondays – All webinars; Tuesdays – Administrative; Wednesdays – Planning/Zoning; Thursdays – Public Works; Fridays – Public Safety.

2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar

In the PAAZO Fall Seminar, learn from experts on a wide variety of topics pertinent to your duties as a municipal Zoning official. Specific agenda items will be updated when finalized.

[2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar - 10/19/21 - Central](#)

[2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar -10/21/21 - West](#)

[2021 PAAZO Fall Seminar -11/9/21 - East](#)



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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