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June 9, 2021

Latest News

NEW Treasury Updates ARP FAQs

Yesterday, the U.S. Treasury Department updated its Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document on the American Rescue Plan funds. Newly added questions are clearly marked and include clarifications about calculating revenue loss; costs incurred by households and businesses prior to March 3, 2021; eligible water, sewer, or broadband projects; use of lost revenues for general government purposes; and use of funds for consultants.

Expect regular updates as we move forward. [Click here](#) to view the FAQ document.

Reminder for PSATS Unemployment Compensation Group Trust Members

The PSATS Unemployment Compensation Group Trust (UC Trust) is preparing for the transition to Pennsylvania's new UC Benefits website, (BENEFITS.UC.PA.GOV), which went live yesterday, June 8.

To ensure a smooth transition, the UC Trust is asking members designate Interstate Tax Service Inc. (ITS), which has worked with the UC Trust for many years, as their township's third-party administrator on the new website. This will permit ITS to review determinations made by UC referees and, depending on the outcome of those determinations, file appeals and protests on your behalf if you wish to do so. These services performed by ITS are a vital part of your membership in the UC Trust.

To designate ITS as your township's third-party administrator, please follow the directions in yesterday's email to your township UC Processor.

Pennsylvania Remains at 13th for Vaccine Doses Administered Per Capita

According to the Centers for Disease Control, Pennsylvania remains at 13th for total doses administered per capita. Nationally, more than 139 million people have been fully vaccinated, 53% of the adult population and 75.6% of those age 65 or older.

The commonwealth has now administered more than 10.9 million vaccine doses. More than 4.9 million Pennsylvanians are now fully vaccinated, and an additional 1.5 million Pennsylvanians have received the first dose of a two-dose vaccine series. According to the CDC, 55.9% of Pennsylvanians age 18 and older are fully vaccinated. [Click here](#) for state numbers and [here](#) for national numbers.

On This Day in History....

On June 8, 1973, with a spectacular victory at the Belmont Stakes, Secretariat becomes the first horse since Citation in 1948 to win America's coveted Triple Crown: the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness and the Belmont Stakes. In one of the finest performances in racing history, Secretariat, ridden by Ron Turcotte, completed the 1.5-mile race in 2 minutes and 24 seconds, a dirt-track record for that distance.

Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate are scheduled to be in session today, June 9. Watch session live [here](#).

House Swears in New Chief Clerk

Yesterday, Brooke Wheeler assumed the position of Chief Clerk of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives after she was unanimously elected to the position by members of the House. Since the formation of the Colonial Assembly in 1682, roughly 80 people have served as chief clerk, including Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Paine. Wheeler is the first woman to hold the position. As chief clerk, Wheeler is responsible for the daily operations of the House, including convening the House each term to elect the speaker and for the printing of all bills and House journals.

House Passes Disaster Declaration Termination

Yesterday, the House adopted HR 106, which would terminate Governor Wolf's March 6, 2020 COVID-19 emergency disaster declaration. HR 106 now goes to the Senate for their consideration.

House Passes Provisional Hiring Legislation

Yesterday, the House unanimously passed HB 764 which would amend the Child Protective Services Law to allow employers to hire employees on a provisional basis on par with the 45-day provisional hiring window that is currently authorized for child care providers. HB 764 is now awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

House Passes Electric Truck Legislation

The House unanimously passed HB 722 which would increase the maximum allowable weight for commercial vehicles powered by electric batteries from the 80,000 pounds to 82,000 pounds. HB 722 is now before the Senate Transportation Committee.

House Passes Firearm Ordinance Legislation

The House passed HB 979 which would clarify that local government are preempted from adopting ordinances regulating firearms. Additionally, local governments with firearms ordinances would be financially responsible for attorney fees and costs, as well as any lost income, for a person who successfully challenges such an ordinance. HB 979 is awaiting committee assignment in the Senate.

Senate Local Government Committee Approves Township Code Bill

Yesterday, the Senate Local Government Committee approved **SB 673** which would amend the second class township code to prohibit the surcharge of an elected or appointed official by a township auditor when the official acted in good faith based on a written, nonconfidential opinion of the township's solicitor or an opinion of the township's solicitor publicly stated at an open meeting of the township and recorded in the meeting minutes.

SB 673 would also amend the second class township code to allow, in addition to the appointment of an individual, the appointment of a partnership, limited partnership, association or professional corporation as a township's manager. SB 673 is now before the Senate.

Senate Transportation Committee News

The Senate Transportation Committee unanimously approved SB 242 which would expedite the timeframe for reducing the diversion of money from the state's Motor License Fund to fund the State Police. SB 242 is now before the Senate.

The committee also approved HB 765 which would amend the Vehicle Code to prohibit the state Department of Transportation from requiring municipal indemnification when a third party with a special event permit has already provided indemnification to the department. HB 765 has passed the House and is now before the Senate.

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](#)



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