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January 26, 2022

Latest News

LCB Accepting Applications to Reduce Underage and Dangerous Drinking

The state Liquor Control Board is accepting applications for grants to fund programs that discourage and reduce underage and dangerous drinking and promote responsible alcohol consumption. Municipal police departments, community organizations, school districts, and more may apply for these grants until March 18. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Wolf Raises Minimum Wage for Commonwealth Employees

Gov. Tom Wolf signed an amended executive order yesterday to raise the minimum wage for commonwealth employees under the governor's jurisdiction to \$15 an hour effective January 31, 2022. This was an acceleration of the prior executive order which would have made the \$15 minimum wage for commonwealth employees effective in 2024. [Click here](#) for more.

Get the Recognition You Deserve

Deadlines are approaching for several PSATS Award Programs. Don't miss this chance to recognize deserving individuals or your own township for outstanding accomplishments. Upcoming awards programs and their deadlines include:

- President's Leadership Awards for an outstanding supervisor, manager, or secretary who has exhibited extraordinary leadership to improve their community; nominations are due January 31. [Click here](#) for more information.

- PSATS Youth Awards for youth organizations that complete community service projects in townships of the second class; nominations are due March 1 to county associations. [Click here](#) for more information.
- Road and Bridge Safety Improvement Awards for road or bridge projects completed in 2021; nominations are due to PHIA March 4. [Click here](#) for more information.
- Excellence in Intergovernmental Cooperation Award for townships that work with neighboring municipalities, state, or federal agencies to complete projects; nominations are due March 11. [Click here](#) for more information.

Today in History....

In a letter dated January 26, 1784, Benjamin Franklin writes to his daughter Sarah (Sally) Bache expressing his dismay that the eagle is chosen as an American symbol. Were he to choose, the turkey would be a more appropriate bird.

Legislative News



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

The **Senate passed [HB 979](#)** yesterday, which would further clarify the existing prohibition on municipal regulation of firearms and ammunition. The bill would allow persons and organizations adversely affected by a municipal ordinance adopted in violation of existing law to seek damages attributable to the violation in an appropriate court, including the awarding of reasonable expenses by the court if the judgement is against the municipality. HB 979 will now go to Gov. Wolf, who has announced that he will veto the bill.

The following bills were reported from the **Senate Local Government Committee**:

[HB 221](#) would amend the Local Tax Enabling Act (*Act 511 of 1965*) to authorize local governments to use up to 25% of revenue from the **open space tax** for maintenance and development of open space regardless of the method of acquisition or purchase.

[HB 1877](#) would establish the **Municipal Boundary Change Act** to consolidate and standardize municipal code provisions that deal with boundary change but not

mergers or consolidations. The bill would allow municipalities to adjust a municipal boundary or settle a dispute over an unclear boundary by agreement.

[SB 589](#) would create a new **home rule process** for distressed municipalities.

The following bills of interest to townships were reported from the **House Labor and Industry Committee** yesterday:

[HB 844](#) would prohibit public employee Social Security numbers, home addresses, home telephone numbers, personal mobile telephone numbers, and personal email addresses from being subject to collective bargaining.

[HB 845](#) would require public employers to post notice of a final proposed collective bargaining agreement with any public employee union on the public employer's website at least 14 days prior to acceptance and 30 days after acceptance. If the public employer did not have a website, the agreement would have to be advertised once in a newspaper of general circulation at least two weeks prior to acceptance. The notice would be required to include a statement of the terms and costs of the agreement. In addition, notice of a final arbitration award must be posted within two business days of the award and for 30 days after the award. The proposed collective bargaining agreement would be public information, as well as the final arbitration award and all documents submitted to the board of arbitration, which would be considered public information after issuance of the award.

[HB 1104](#) would amend the Uniform Construction Code to require commercial permit holders to keep a copy of the UCC permit on the worksite until the completion of work, preferably on display, along with the name of the general contractor and subcontractors.

[HB 1790](#) would amend the Uniform Construction Code to require code officials to provide specific code references if an application is not in compliance. The bill would require code officials to perform all required inspections and include a written description of any items not in compliance, including references to the applicable codes.

The bill would also require the state Department of Labor and Industry to investigate complaints about code administrators and take corrective action for just cause, including remedial education and decertification. Permit applications would be required to include a notice to this affect.

[HB 2042](#) would require public employers to notify nonmembers of a collective bargaining unit annually and prior to hire that they have no obligation to make payments to the union.

[HB 2048](#) would prohibit public employers from deducting political contributions from employee payroll, except as required by a grandfathered contract. The bill would not apply to police or firefighter unions under the Police and Firemen Collective Bargaining Act.

The House Transportation Committee reported the following bills from committee:

[SB 153](#) would increase the maximum allowable weight for commercial vehicles powered by electric batteries from 80,000 to 82,000 pounds.

[HB 2216](#) would consolidate the law creating the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank into Title 74 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes.

Learn

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

Duties of a Zoning Hearing Board

Topics to be covered include procedures for deciding variances and special exceptions, handling hearing-related questions, Ethics Act requirements and much more.

[2/22/22 - Chester County](#)

[3/3/22 - Butler County](#)

[3/8/22 - Cumberland County](#)



Duties of a Zoning Hearing Board - 3/15/22 - Virtual Class

Topics to be covered include procedures for deciding variances and special exceptions, handling hearing-related questions, Ethics Act requirements and much more.



2022 PAAZO Spring Educational Forum - 4/24/22

This educational forum explores issues that zoning officers and planning and zoning officials face on a regular basis, and discusses effective strategies to address them.



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