

A NEWSLETTER  
CONTAINING  
THE LATEST  
INFORMATION  
ON LEGISLATION  
AND NEWS OF  
INTEREST TO  
TOWNSHIPS

## SAM.gov Renewal Due for Many Townships

Many townships are due to renew their [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) registration in June or July, which is required for the American Rescue Plan funding as well as any other federal funding you may receive, such as disaster aid. Renewal must be done each year through the [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) website, which is always free. PSATS recommends not waiting until the last minute as SAM.gov accounts are being verified at renewal, which may require additional documentation or action if the township's name is different on another federal account.

To update your township's registration, follow the steps below:

1. Navigate to [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) and sign in using your login.gov credentials.
2. Click the link for "Workspace" in the subheader menu.
3. Click on the "Entities" widget.
4. Select the green number above "Active" to display a list of your active registrations.
5. Locate the entity record you want to update and click the three dots near the expiration date. Select "Update."
6. You will be asked "What would you like to update?" Select update/renew your entire entity registration. Then click "Next."

From this point on, you will navigate through multiple sections to validate your township's information and update sections as needed. When renewing, plan to have the following information on hand: Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN); Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE); and Incorporation Date (*available at psats.org, go to bottom of page and choose "Links to Key Resources."*)

If you have any questions, concerns, or issues while renewing your SAM registration, including issues with your login.gov credentials, please contact the Federal Service Desk at 866-606-8220 or fsd.gov.

## Capitol Roundup

**Legal Advertising Reform Bill Passed Over in Committee** — Despite efforts by PSATS and other local government associations to convince legislators of the need for legal advertising reform, the House Local Government Committee recently passed over [HB 955](#) after scheduling it for consideration in May. HB 955 would give municipalities the option of placing public notices on their own website or a shopper and would expand the types of newspapers that could be used for legal advertisements, in addition to a newspaper of general circulation. PSATS will continue to work to move this priority forward, which would fulfill PSATS resolutions.

PSATS is collecting documented examples of how much it currently costs your township for a legal advertisement and how far in advance advertisements must be submitted before publication. We are also looking for examples of townships that don't currently have a

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HB 2253 would authorize municipalities to hold emergency meetings in another location or fully remotely if a disaster emergency is declared by the governor or the local government and it is unsafe, hazardous, or impossible to hold a meeting at the normal location.

newspaper of general circulation available in your township. Please send your input to Holly Fishel, PSATS Policy & Research Director, at [hfishel@psats.org](mailto:hfishel@psats.org). Thank you to the dozens of townships that have already responded!

**House Passes Virtual Emergency Meeting Bill** — The House approved [HB 2253](#), which would authorize municipalities to hold emergency meetings in another location, including another municipality, or to hold a fully remote meeting if a disaster emergency is declared by the governor or the local government and it is unsafe, hazardous to human health, or impossible to conduct a public meeting at the location where the municipality's meetings are normally held.

**Police Pension Credit Bill Reported From Committee** — The Senate Law and Justice Committee reported out [SB 669](#), which would require municipalities to permit full-time police officers who have satisfied vesting requirements to purchase pension credit for prior part-time or full-time police service that the officers provided to another police department. PSATS opposes this legislation based on a standing resolution as an unfunded mandate.

**Reapportionment Constitutional Amendment Considered** — The Senate State Government Committee recently approved [SB 1209](#), which would amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to prohibit the Legislative Reapportionment Commission from adjusting group quarters population data determined by the Federal decennial census for any group quarters. PSATS objected to the Commission's 2021 adjustment to the Census data for prisoners. **Note:** Amendments to the Pennsylvania Constitution must pass the General Assembly in two consecutive sessions and then be approved via ballot referendum.

**PennDOT Bridge Tolling Plan on Hold** — Commonwealth Court Judge Ellen Ceisler granted a preliminary injunction halting the state Department of Transportation's plans to toll and rebuild nine major bridges under the Major Bridge P3 Initiative across the state until further court action occurs.

The injunction is due to a challenge by local governments against the tolling of I-83 South Bridge Project in Dauphin County. The Court agreed that the decision by the Pennsylvania Public-Private Transportation Partnership Board did not identify the bridges to be tolled or consult with the affected parties prior to the board approval of the plan in November 2020, which are requirements under the P3 law. The local governments argued that the P3 law requires that they, as affected municipalities, be consulted prior to the decision by the Board.

## Bills Addressing PSATS Resolutions Move Forward

The following bills of interest to townships recently saw action in the General Assembly. All the bills listed below would address or fulfill PSATS resolutions:

[SB 1058](#) would amend the Second Class Township Code to authorize the board of supervisors to adopt a resolution to **increase the compensation for elected auditors** from \$10 per hour to up to \$17 per hour for performing the annual audit and other duties of office.

[HB 2268](#) would allow a **17-year-old to train for an interior firefighting module with live burns** if they have permission to engage from a fire chief and a parent or guardian. The minor would be required to be under the supervision of a credentialed Pennsylvania State Fire Academy Instructor.

[HB 2404](#) would allow municipalities to apply for **continuous maintenance permits for streams** within their jurisdiction for at least 10 years.

HB 2434  
would increase  
Medicaid  
reimbursement  
rates for  
ambulance  
transportation.

[HB 2405](#) would create county programs to remove obstructions and address flood-related hazards within streams through **emergency maintenance permits** in consultation with their county conservation district.

[HB 2406](#) would create a **small stream maintenance project permit** for the mitigation of flood-related hazards of less than 250 linear feet or an area of less than one acre in size, reviewed and issued by county conservation districts.

[HB 2407](#) would **clarify that the Pa. Fish and Boat Commission has no authority for permitting or enforcement** related to stream clearing or maintenance activities.

[HB 2408](#) would **eliminate the requirement for a permit when conducting maintenance activities on a culvert.**

[HB 2409](#) would **eliminate the requirement for a permit to remove flood-related hazards** from streams that are deemed to be an emergency by a state or county.

[HB 2410](#) would **clarify that permits are not required for stream maintenance activities conducted 50 feet** or less upstream or downstream from a bridge or culvert.

[HB 2411](#) would require the state Department of Environmental Protection to **provide an annual report on flooding and stream maintenance and restoration** in Pennsylvania.

[HB 2434](#) would **increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for ambulance transportation**, including a loaded mileage fee, and would provide a 10% add on for areas designated as super-rural by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.

To view these bills, go to [legis.state.pa.us](http://legis.state.pa.us) and enter the bill number in the upper-right hand corner.

## Give Your Township Access to Salary Survey Results!

Be sure your designated township staff (*PSATS Salary Survey Plus processor*) enters your township's wage and benefit data by **June 30** to ensure the earliest access to all PSATS Salary Survey Plus reports for 2022! With inflation and challenges to find and keep quality employees, townships should participate to find out how other townships most like theirs are compensating employees and what benefits are provided.

Once enough data is collected, 2022 results will be released and township supervisors, managers, secretaries, and other township-authorized employees from participating townships will be able to access comparisons to 2018-2021 results, question-by-question comparisons, and reports by region, population, budget size, union status, benefits, and more! Participants can run real-time reports and comparisons with townships most like theirs. To protect anonymity, results are only provided for questions that receive responses from at least five townships.

To access Salary Survey Plus, log onto [psats.org](http://psats.org) and look under "My PSATS" for "Salary Survey Plus." If you have any issues accessing the survey or need to change the township official designated to enter data (*the PSATS Salary Survey Plus processor*), email [memberservices@psats.org](mailto:memberservices@psats.org).

Questions about the survey? Need help with a report? Email [salarysurveyplus@psats.org](mailto:salarysurveyplus@psats.org) or call (717) 763-0930, ext. 126, for Katie Lizza or ext. 138 for Holly Fishel.

## Don't Miss PSATS Training Opportunities!

Don't miss these in-person and virtual training options! Go to [learn.psats.org](http://learn.psats.org) for details.

**Payroll with QuickBooks:** Join us for an in-depth, in-person training on how to use QuickBooks Payroll, including proper Chart of Accounts set up. Scheduled for June 21 in Lehigh County and June 23 in Northumberland County.

**Duties of a Zoning Hearing Board:** This in-person class is scheduled for **June 22** in Lehigh County. Attendees will learn to navigate their duties and hear practical tips to make ZHB members better prepared to take on their duties.

**Performing MS4 Outfall Inspections:** On **June 23**, attendees to this virtual class will learn a workable, effective framework for establishing a hierarchy for outfall inspections.

**Engaging the Public: Agendas, Minutes, Public Comment, & RTKL Requests:** This virtual class will be held June 28 and will provide effective ways to address common, but challenging issues that township administrators face when working with and responding to the public and media.

**Join in PSATS June Webinar Series:** PSATS will hold June webinars, which will cover COSTARS, creative public engagement, municipal newsletters, state and local broadband programs, bidding strategies, and MS4 stormwater ordinance updates.

**Regional Forums Are Coming Soon!** Check out the enclosure for dates and locations.

## This and That...

Be sure to check this section each month, where you will find important reminders and information.

- **PSATS Seeking Hosts** – Ever wonder why PSATS training or meetings are not closer to your township? Help us out in identifying township facilities (*and other local venues*) that can host meetings, classes or events in your area!  
Have a meeting room that is suitable for at least 20-25 people with tables, chairs and space for AV equipment? Have a public works building that could hold a flagger class? Have a park facility that could be used and has plenty of parking? PSATS is always on the lookout for free or low-cost locations to help keep our costs (*and your dues*) down! Send info including your township contact info and a short description of the facility (*and a photo or two if you have them!*) to Kathy Kronicz at [kkronicz@psats.org](mailto:kkronicz@psats.org).
- **PennDOT Accepting Applications for ARLE Grants** — The state Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the 2021 Automated Red Light Enforcement Funding Program (ARLE). Townships may apply, and **applications are due June 30**. Grants may be used for a range of safety and mobility projects and will prioritize safety enhancements. To learn, go to [www.dot.state.pa.us/signals](http://www.dot.state.pa.us/signals).
- **PHMC Grant Opportunity for Archival Records** — The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission is accepting applications for the Historical & Archival Records Care grant program **until August 1**. Townships may request funds for surveying, inventorying, preserving, arranging, describing and making available historical local government records, as well as reformatting or for supplies and equipment. To learn, go to [phmc.pa.gov](http://phmc.pa.gov) and look under “News.”
- **Federal Flood Mitigation Funding Available** — Pennsylvania will receive \$5 million through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to support mitigation against future damage from natural disaster. Properties covered by a National Flood Insurance program policy that have sustained repetitive flooding losses are eligible. The local government is the sub-applicant and will work with interested property owners to submit an application, which **is due October 3**.  
To learn more, go to [fema.gov](http://fema.gov) and choose “Grants,” then “Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants,” then “Flood Mitigation Assistance Program,” and finally “Swift Current Initiative.”