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June 8, 2022

Latest News

IFO Report Examines Impact of Inflation on PA

The Independent Fiscal Office provided the report “Inflation’s Impact on the Pennsylvania Economy, Budget, and Pensions” as part of a legislative testimony. While energy prices are a clear driver of inflation at 33% over the prior year, durable goods (*including vehicles, appliances, and furniture*) were up 14%, and grocery prices are now up 13%. Meanwhile, the real value of average hourly earnings for Pennsylvania payroll workers contracted by 3.8% in April 2022 relative to the prior year.

The report also examines the impact of increased revenues on the state’s General Fund, while forecasting that the current increases cannot be maintained in the 2022-23 fiscal year. [Click here](#) for more.

Today in History....

On June 8, 1966, the rival National Football League (NFL) and American Football League (AFL) announced that they will merge. The first “Super Bowl” between the two leagues took place at the end of the 1966 season, though it took until the 1970 season for the leagues to unite their operations and integrate their regular-season schedules.

Legislation & Policy



The House and Senate will be in session today, June 8. Watch the session live [here](#).

The House will consider legislation to give municipalities more control over consumer fireworks. [Click here](#) for a copy of the PSATS letter.

PSATS participated in a press conference yesterday to support a package of bills to simplify the permit process for stream cleaning. The bills are expected to be considered by the House later today and would address a PSATS resolution. [Click here](#) for a copy of PSATS letter.

Following is a summary of yesterday's legislative action of interest to townships:

The Senate unanimously approved [SB 1058](#), which 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 necessary duties of office. SB 1058 would fulfill a PSATS resolution.

The Senate passed [SB 597](#), which **would require water and wastewater systems with at least 751 service connections to develop an asset management plan**, submit it to the state Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval, and update the plan every three years. The bill would require water systems with at least 751 service connections to have critical valve inspections, fire hydrant inspections, water meter testing, and annual notification to customers of its compliance with these rules. The bill would require compliance with these provisions before the system could receive any state funding, including loans. These mandates will increase the cost of public water to consumers.

The House approved [HB 1155](#), which would **exempt municipal recreation programs for preschool-aged children from state childcare regulations** if operating under a municipal ordinance or resolution adopting health and safety standards consistent with the minimum standard provided in the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Protocol for Public Preschool Recreation Programs.

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

[SB 1052](#) 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.

[HB 1947](#) would **prohibit municipalities from restricting access to any energy source** for utility service. The bill does not affect municipal land use authority under

the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code or a municipality's ability to take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from municipal facilities and operations

The Senate Community, Economic, and Recreational Development Committee reported out [HB 1694](#), which would amend the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act to **provide protection from liability for volunteers and volunteer organizations that care for, preserve, or maintain land for recreational purposes.**

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 - 6/22/22 - Lehigh County](#)

Topics to be covered include procedures for deciding variances and special exceptions, handling hearing-related questions, Ethics Act requirements and much more. Attendees will also learn specific, practical tips that will leave them better prepared for their next meeting or hearing.



2022 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.

[9/13/22 - Cumberland County](#)

[10/13/22 - Montgomery County](#)

[11/17/22 - Butler County](#)

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

David M. Sanko, Executive Director
4855 Woodland Drive
Enola, PA 17025



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