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October 27, 2022

Township Video News



TVN's Question of the Week | When is the 2023 Organization Meeting?

The board of supervisors' 2023 Organization Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 3, 2023. The board of auditors will meet the following day, Wednesday, January 4, 2023. Also, click here to catch up on previous Questions of the Week. Also, [click here](#) to catch up on previous Questions of the Week.

Latest News

Reminder: PennDOT Accepting Multimodal Grant Applications until November 14

The state Department of Transportation is now accepting applications for a new round of Multimodal Transportation Fund grants. Applications are due November 14. Townships and councils of governments may apply for these grants.

Projects that will be considered should coordinate local land use with transportation assets to enhance existing communities; improve streetscape, lighting, sidewalk facilities, and pedestrian safety; improve connectivity or use of existing transportation systems; or advance transit-oriented-development. [Click here](#) for grant guidelines and instructions.

Today in History....

On October 27, 1994, The U.S. Justice Department announced that the U.S. prison population topped one million for the first time in American history. The figure—1,012,851 men and women were in state and federal prisons—did not even include local prisons, where an estimated 500,000 prisoners were held, usually for short periods. Today, less than 30 years later that number has doubled to 2.1 million.

Legislation & Policy



The 2021-2022 legislative session has come to a close as no further days are scheduled to consider legislation. Both House and Senate will return briefly after the election to vote on leadership for the 2023-2024 legislative session. While the session technically ends November 30, the General Assembly has not considered legislation after the general election in more than a decade and this year does not appear any different.

In the final days and hours many bills fell short. A package of bills that would have made it easier to obtain permits to perform needed maintenance in streams to prevent flooding did not make it past the Senate, despite moving forward last week. While Right-to-Know Law reform was an active subject of debate, the weak reforms that moved last week also fortunately stalled. PSATS will pursue member priorities

in the new session seeking better solutions with the new General Assembly.

The following bills now are also on their way to the governor. Gov. Tom Wolf will have 10 days from the date the bills officially land on his desk to sign, veto, or allow to become law without his signature.

[HB 397](#) would increase the time limit on additional funding for merged fire and EMS companies from the Fire Company and EMS Grant program from 10 to 20 years. The cap on fire grants would be increased from \$15,000 to \$20,000 per fire company and from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per EMS company.

In addition, the bill would create new programs funded by the fireworks tax in Act 74 of 2022. This includes a loan forgiveness and tuition assistance program for active volunteer firefighters and volunteer EMS providers of up to \$1,000 per year for full-time students and \$500 per year for part-time students; scholarships for EMS personnel and reimbursement for EMS agency recruitment and retention costs; fireworks public safety education; reimbursement to bomb squads for storage and destruction of illegal fireworks; and capital grants for municipal and combination fire departments and emergency services training centers.

HB 397 would require the Office of the State Fire Commissioner to make online access to training through an education certification management system, including registration, transcripts, and certificates. The bill would extend the deadline for the State Fire Advisory Board's report to change the Fire Relief Funding Formula and Fire Relief Services from November 30, 2022, to December 31, 2023. The bill would allow volunteer fire tax credits to be established by resolution in addition to ordinance. HB 397 would address several PSATS resolutions.

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

[SB 696](#) would require the state and local governments to notify affected individuals within seven business days following determination of a breach of personal information, such as driver's license number, financial account numbers or credit or debit card numbers, medical and health insurance information, and username and password. The bill would require local governments to notify the district attorney of the breach within three business days.

[SB 1152](#) would require law enforcement officers to report overdose incidents to an overdose information network no later than 72 hours after the overdose. Municipal officials and police chiefs could receive data from the network on overdose spikes in their community.

[HB 103](#) would create a felony offense for assaulting a law enforcement officer if the person intentionally or knowingly caused or attempted to cause the law enforcement officer to come into contact with body fluids or feces.

[HB 284](#) would amend Title 37 (*Historical and Museums*) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to modernize artifact disposition, acquisition, and retention for the commonwealth and municipalities. The bill would permit the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to retrieve an archival record from a private entity upon request of a local government.

[HB 1988](#) would authorize the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training

Commission (MPOETC) to certify Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education campus police officers that have completed MPOETC training. In addition, the bill would provide for certification of school police officers.

[HB 2398](#) would regulate the operation of highly automated vehicles (HAVs) with and without a driver and authorize testing conditions for these vehicles, including platooning. The bill would direct the state Department of Transportation to oversee and regulate the operation of HAVs.

[HB 2648](#) would move the Public Works Employment Verification Law into the Administrative Code of 1929; repeal the Coordination of Commonwealth Community Service Programs law and replace it with a new PennServe Advisory Board; and would require the State Inspector General to provide a report on its ability to investigate instances of actual or attempted fraud associated with the commonwealth's unemployment compensation program and resources needed to do so.

Learn

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

Flagger Training

This instructor-led Flagger Training will be conducted for individuals who have flagging responsibilities on ANY ROAD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

[11/1/22 - Union County](#)

[11/2/22 - Clinton County](#)

[11/8/22 - Bradford County](#)

[11/9/22 - Cumberland County](#)

[11/15/22 - Centre County](#)



PSATS 2022 Virtual Stormwater Conference

Do you have municipal clients whose stormwater management program needs some help? Do they have problems complying with their current MS4 permit? Do they want to know more about the next MS4 permit? Are they interested in learning the latest best practices for stormwater management? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then you (and they!) will want to attend either the “2022 PSATS Virtual Stormwater Conference Technical Track” or the “2022 PSATS Virtual Stormwater Conference Policy Track” as appropriate.

[Virtual Technical Track on Nov. 9](#)

[Virtual Policy Track on Nov. 10](#)



CDL - Probable Cause Training For CDL Supervisory Personnel

Participants will learn what to do if they suspect or verify that a CDL employee is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol while on duty.

[11/18/22 - Berks County](#)



CMV/CDL Records Management

This workshop will review CMV/CDL employee and vehicle paperwork.

[11/18/22 - Berks County](#)



[2023 Engineers Spring Seminar - 4/24 & 4/25, 2023](#)

The 2023 “Spring Township Engineers Seminar” is a series of two half-day events on Monday and Tuesday mornings during the PSATS Annual Conference in Hershey. Each morning's agenda will include important issues of interest to municipal engineers and their local government clients taught by knowledgeable and respected subject matter experts. We encourage your attendance at both of these interactive and informative sessions, each of which provides 3 PDHs per day.



Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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