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October 19, 2022

Latest News

Call In to PCN Show Tonight

PSATS' Executive Director Dave Sanko will be featured in a live PCN TV call-in show tonight at 7 pm discussing local government issues and the 2022 election, along with John Brenner, Executive Director of the Pa. Municipal League, and Lisa Schaefer, Executive Director of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

Members can tune in and call PCN's toll-free number at (877) 726-5001 to ask Dave, John, and Lisa questions about local government and elections. The live call-in show is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wednesday, October 19, 2022. Visit pcntv.com for more information.

Today in History...

On October 19, 1796, an essay appeared in the *Gazette of the United States* in which a writer, mysteriously named "Phocion," attacked presidential candidate Thomas Jefferson. Phocion turned out to be former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton. The essay typified the nasty, personal nature of political attacks in late 18th-century America.

Legislation & Policy



There are now only four scheduled working session days remaining in the 2021-2022 legislative session. The Senate had a busy day on Tuesday and will be in voting session again today, October 19. Watch today's session live [here](#).

Fire, EMS Legislation Moves Forward

[HB 1178](#) was amended and reported from the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee yesterday. The bill would increase the time limit on additional funding for merged fire 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.

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; fireworks public safety education; and capital grants for fire departments and EMS training centers.

HB 1178 would require the Office of the State Fire Commissioner to make online training available through a web portal, including 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 1178 would address several PSATS resolutions.

Committee Approves Stream Cleaning Legislation

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee met yesterday and reported out the following bills, all of which would make it easier to obtain permits to clean streams and would address PSATS resolutions. [Click here](#) for copy of letter PSATS sent advocating the passage of these bills.

[HB 2404](#) would direct the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop continuous maintenance permits and allow applicants to apply for these permits for stream cleaning. The permits would last for at least 10 years and would require annual reports on projects performed under the permit.

[HB 2405](#) would authorize county conservation districts to enter into an agreement with DEP to oversee stream reconstruction activities in response to or anticipation of significant flood events. Proposed county stream reconstruction programs would be reviewed and approved by DEP. The bill would require DEP to develop a stream reconstruction emergency permit for issuance by county conservation districts.

[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. The bill would require DEP to delegate permit review responsibility to county conservation districts.

[HB 2407](#) would clarify that the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has no authority for permitting or enforcement related to stream clearing or maintenance activities but may provide advice concerning the construction or installation of new bridges or culverts.

The following bills saw legislative action yesterday:

[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. In addition, local governments could prohibit the use of designated streets by HAVs but may not discriminate against an HAV. The bill was amended and reported out of the Senate Transportation Committee.

[HB 722](#) would **increase the weight limits for commercial vehicles from 80,000 to 82,000 pounds to account for the extra weight of electric battery power**. The bill was reported out of the Senate Transportation Committee.

[HB 2484](#) would **amend the State Ethics Law to require write-in candidates to file a statement of financial interests within 30 days of having been nominated or elected** unless the person declines the nomination or office. For township office, the statement would be filed with the board of supervisors. The 30-day period begins on the date the board of elections certifies the candidate as the winner of a nomination or election. Failing to file a statement of financial interests would prohibit a write-in candidate from appearing on the November ballot. The bill was reported out of the Senate State Government Committee.

[SB 1265](#) would **require the Office of the State Fire Commissioner to make online training available through a web portal, including transcripts and certificates**. The Senate passed the bill yesterday.

Learn

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

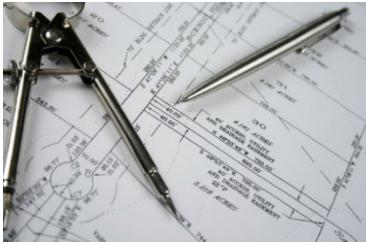


2022 PAAZO Fall Seminar

In the PAAZO Fall Seminar, learn from experts on a wide variety of topics pertinent to your duties as a municipal Zoning official.

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

[11/3/22 - VIRTUAL](#)



[**PSATS Zoning Academy - 11/30-12/1 - Butler County**](#)

This class will greatly benefit newer zoning officials, those looking to become zoning officials and municipal officials and employees seeking a better understanding of zoning's impact on municipal operations.

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors

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