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November 4, 2022

Latest News

Governor Wolf Clears Desk

Gov. Tom Wolf cleared his desk yesterday of all pending legislation signing 66 of 67 bills passed by the legislature. See the legislative section below for a list of all of the acts that affect townships. Acts 104 and 155 address PSATS resolutions on fire and EMS services.

2023 Consumptive Use Mitigation Grants Available Through SRBC

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) has announced up to \$6 million in funding for the [Consumptive Use Mitigation Grant Program](#). Townships and municipal authorities are eligible to apply, and applications will be accepted until January 31, 2023, via [SRBC's online application](#).

The 2023 grant program is aimed at projects that will improve the watershed's drought resilience, including: water storage and release projects; projects that modify operations or implement new practices that improve flow resilience; demand modification projects; and environmental/water quality improvement projects that support the resiliency of water resources. Proposed projects generally must be located within the Susquehanna River Basin. Adjacent projects may be eligible provided the mitigation will benefit watersheds and streams within this basin. A minimum of 10% cash match is required and a 25% cash match for requests exceeding \$500,000.

The SRBC will host two informational webinars on November 15 and December 8 to provide an overview of the program and answer questions. For more information,

visit the [SRBC's website](#). Questions and registration for webinars can be directed to cugrant@srbc.net.

Today in History...

On November 4, 1979, student followers of the Ayatollah Khomeini sent shock waves across America when they stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran. The radical Islamic fundamentalists took 90 hostages. Days later, Iran's provincial leader resigned, and the Ayatollah Khomeini, the leader of Iran's fundamentalist revolutionaries, took full control of the country — and the fate of the hostages. They were held for 444 days and released on January 20, 1981, the Inauguration Day of President Ronald Reagan.

Legislation & Policy



Gov. Tom Wolf cleared his desk yesterday and signed all of the acts below that affect townships. Acts 104 and 155 address PSATS resolutions on fire and EMS services.

[Act 99 of 2022](#) (*HB 103*) creates 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. Act 99 takes effect January 3, 2023.

[Act 102 of 2022](#) (*HB 284*) amends Title 37 (*Historical and Museums*) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to modernize artifact disposition, acquisition, and retention for the commonwealth and municipalities. The act permits the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to retrieve an archival record from a private entity upon request of a local government. Act 102 takes effect January 3, 2023.

[Act 104 of 2022](#) (*HB 397*) increases 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 is increased from \$15,000 to \$20,000 per fire company and from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per EMS company.

In addition, Act 104 creates 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.

Act 104 also requires 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 act extends 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 act allows volunteer fire tax credits to be established by resolution in addition to ordinance.

Act 104 addresses several PSATS resolutions. Sections 7813(b)(3) and 7823(b)(3) take effect on January 3, 2023, and the remainder of the act took effect November 3, 2022.

[Act 121 of 2022](#) (*HB 1988*) authorizes 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 act provides for certification of school police officers. Act 121 took effect November 3, 2022.

[Act 123 of 2022](#) (*HB 2079*) amends the Uniform Construction Code to state that an otherwise prohibited refrigerant may be used if the refrigerant is permitted for the applicable use conditions by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the equipment containing the refrigerant is listed and installed in accordance with the applicable use conditions. Act 123 takes effect January 3, 2023.

[Act 126 of 2022](#) (*HB 2210*) amends Act 135 of 2008 to include land banks as a "party in interest" that may petition the court to become a conservator, with the ability to bring residential, commercial, and industrial buildings into municipal code compliance when the owners of these properties do not comply with these codes. Act 126 takes effect January 3, 2023.

[Act 130 of 2022](#) (*HB 2398*) regulates the operation of highly automated vehicles (HAVs) with and without a driver and authorizes testing conditions for these vehicles, including platooning. The act directs the state Department of Transportation to oversee and regulate the operation of HAVs. Various effective dates.

[Act 136 of 2022](#) (*HB 2528*) makes changes to the Oil and Gas Well Plugging Grant program to bring it into compliance with requirements for federal funding. The maximum grant amounts are increased from \$10,000 to \$40,000 for wells 3,000 feet deep or less and from \$20,000 to \$70,000 for wells greater than 3,000 feet in depth. Act 136 takes effect January 3, 2023.

[Act 141 of 2022](#) (*HB 2648*) moves the Public Works Employment Verification Law into the Administrative Code of 1929; repeals the Coordination of Commonwealth Community Service Programs law and replaces it with a new PennServe Advisory Board; and requires 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. Act 141 takes effect January 3, 2023.

[Act 145 of 2022](#) (SB 153) increases the maximum allowable weight for commercial vehicles powered by electric batteries from 80,000 to 82,000 pounds. Act 145 takes effect January 3, 2023.

[Act 149 of 2022](#) (SB 439) makes permanent the optional \$15 county fee for each deed and mortgage recorded, which is used to demolish blighted property. Act 149 takes effect January 3, 2023.

[Act 151 of 2022](#) (SB 696) requires 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 act requires local governments to notify the district attorney of the breach within three business days. Act 151 takes effect May 1, 2023.

[Act 155 of 2022](#) (SB 1027) allows 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 must be under the supervision of a credentialed Pennsylvania State Fire Academy Instructor. **Act 155 addresses a PSATS resolution.** Act 155 takes effect January 3, 2023.

[Act 158 of 2022](#) (SB 1152) requires 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 may receive data from the network on overdose spikes in their community. Act 158 takes effect January 3, 2023.

Learn

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

[Emergency Management Fall Exercise Forum - Virtual Class - 12/8/22](#)

This full-day, virtual class is designed for everyone responsible for your municipality's emergency management program, including elected officials, municipal managers, road crew/public works personnel, and, most importantly, local emergency management coordinators (EMCs).



In The Line Of Fire: Best Practices In Police Department Management

A primary goal of the training is to arm the attendees with practical guidance on how to conduct a meaningful assessment of their departments to ensure compliance with federal and state law.

[1/24/23 - Chester County](#)

[2/16/23 - Lehigh County](#)



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