

Monday, June 10, 2024 at 16:10:27 Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: Adhoob 040-RTK-24- response
Date: Monday, June 10, 2024 at 2:56:07 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Shaffer, Heather on behalf of Open Records Officer
To: AO Records
CC: Smith, Sara
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.png, image004.png, image005.png, image006.png, PA-TREAS-24-0466.pdf, Adhoob 040-RTK-24- Document1.pdf, Adhoob 040-RTK-24- Document2.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER

Marwah Adhoob and Loree Stark
records@americanoversight.org

Dear Ms. Adhoob and Ms. Stark,

This email acknowledges receipt by the Pennsylvania Treasury Department (“Department”) of your request for records, received in this office on April 30, 2024, under the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law (“RTKL”) (65 P.S. §§ 67.101 *et seq.*, as amended). On May 2, 2024, the Department sent you an email explaining that your request was under legal review and you would receive an answer in thirty (30) days, and extending the deadline to June 10, 2024. A copy of your request is attached.

You requested the following records for the period of February 1, 2024, through the date the search is conducted:

1. *All email communications including emails, complete email chains, email attachments... between (a) Pennsylvania State Treasurer Stacy Garity or anyone communicating on her behalf, such as an assistant or secretary, and (b) any of the external entities or individuals listed below or anyone communicating on their behalf (including, but not limited to, at the listed email addresses and/or domains).*

External Entities

- a. American Majority (americanmajority.org)
- b. Americans for Prosperity (afphq.org)
- c. Audit the Vote PA (auditthevote.com)
- d. Cleta Mitchell (cleta@cletamitchell.com, cmitchell@foley.com)
- e. Conservative Partnership Institute (cpi.org, conservativepartnership.org)
- f. Dinesh D’Souza
- g. Election Integrity Network (electionintegrity.network, whoscounting.us)
- h. Election Research Institute (election-institute.com)
- i. Freedom Works (freedomworks.org)
- j. Haystack Investigations (haystackinvestigations.com)
- k. Heather Honey (heather@verityvote.us, hhoney@haystackinvestigations.com, h2osint@protonmail.com)
- l. Heritage Foundation (heritage.org, heritageaction.com)
- m. Independent Women’s Forum (iwf.org)
- n. Karen DiSalvo (kd@election-institute.com, kstapp@pct.edu)
- o. Leadership Institute (leadershipinstitute.org)
- p. Linda Kerns (linda@lindakernslaw.com)
- q. Mohrman, Kaardal & Erickson, P.A. (mklaw.com)
- r. PA Fair Elections (pafairelections.com)
- s. Patriots 4 Action (patriots4action.com)

- t. Patriots of PA (patriotsofpa@gmail.com)
- u. Pennsylvania Family Institute (pafamily.org)
- v. Pennsylvania Integrity Network (paintegrity.org)
- w. Senator Doug Mastriano (dmastriano@pasen.gov)
- x. Senator Joe Pittman (jpittman@pasen.gov)
- y. Toni Shuppe
- z. UnAuthorized (unauthorized.us)
- aa. Verity Vote (verityvote.us)
- bb. Virginia Institute of Public Policy (virginia institute.org)
- cc. Vivek Ramaswamy

This request is granted, with a very limited denial related to redactions (which are explained in more detail below). All responsive records are enclosed. Please note the following: (1) No responsive records exist for any of the “External Entities” other than Senator Doug Mastriano and Senator Joe Pittman. One of the enclosed records is an email dated May 7, 2024, from Treasurer Garrity to Senator Pittman regarding legally advertising for unclaimed property. A nearly identical email was sent to Senator Mastriano; the only difference would have been the counties listed. We were not able to locate a copy of the email to Senator Mastriano, but thought you may want to be aware of its existence.

Further, Treasury’s Bureau of Communications puts together regular emails which include links to a general roundup of publicly available news items of interest to Treasurer Garrity and various Treasury staff, some of which included articles mentioning one or more of the search terms you provided. In an attempt to streamline this response, those publicly available articles have not been provided.

Section 67.102 of the Law defines “public record” as follows:

A record, including a financial record, of a Commonwealth or local agency that:

- (1) is not subject to disclosure under section 708;
- (2) is not exempt from being disclosed under any other Federal or State law or regulation or judicial order or decree; or
- (3) is not protected by a privilege.

This request is denied to the extent that certain records have been redacted in part as portions of the records contain information that is not subject to disclosure under the exceptions to access set forth in Section 67.708 of the RTKL. As most of these records contain only specific portions that are not subject to disclosure, these records are redacted pursuant to Section 67.706 of the RTKL.

The following information has been redacted as it is exempt from disclosure under Section 67.708 of the RTKL for the following reasons:

- Certain email addresses and personal identifying information have been redacted as such information are exempt from disclosure. 65 P.S. § 67.708(b)(6)(i)(A) and *Department of Public Welfare v. Clofine*, 2014 Pa. Commw. Unpub. LEXIS 108.
2. *Records reflecting any materials in the possession of Pennsylvania State Treasurer Stacy Garrity related to the 2024 Pennsylvania Leadership Conference.*

After conducting a thorough examination of files in the possession, custody and control of Treasury for records responsive to the request, there are no responsive records to item 2.

Right to Appeal

When a request is denied, whether in whole or in part, or deemed denied, you may file an appeal with the Department. This appeal must be in writing and must be filed with the Department within fifteen (15) business days of the date of the Department’s denial or deemed denial. The appeal must state the grounds upon which you assert that the record is public, and should address any grounds stated by the

Department for denying the request or any grounds stated in the Department's extension notice that contains an expected response date in excess of 30 days following the five days allowed for in Section 67.901 of the RTKL. The appeal shall be sent to:

Prothonotary
Pennsylvania Treasury Department
127 Finance Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018
(717) 787-2740 - phone
rtkappeals@patreasury.gov

The Department will assign each appeal to an appeals officer, who shall be responsible for issuing a final determination in accordance with the provisions of the RTKL.

If you have questions, please contact me at OpenRecordsOfficer@patreasury.gov.

Sincerely,
Erik Arneson
Open Records Officer



Heather Shaffer

Legal Secretary

127 Finance Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
717.787.2740
hshaffer@patreasury.gov



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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of PA Treasury. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Open Records Officer:

Please find attached a request for records under Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law.

Sincerely,

Marwah Adhoob | She/Her
Paralegal | American Oversight

records@americanoversight.org
www.americanoversight.org | @weareoversight

RTKL: PA-TREAS-24-0466

Langan, Jennifer

From: Treasurer Garrity
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2024 11:41 AM
To: Treasurer Garrity
Subject: Unclaimed Property Advertising Notice

Greetings!

State law requires the Pennsylvania Treasury Department to place advertisements in newspapers across the state each year to notify residents that we have received unclaimed property which they may be entitled to.

This week, Treasury's annual unclaimed property ads are scheduled to appear in the Cameron County Echo for Cameron County, the Clearfield Progress for Clearfield County, the Lock Haven Express for Clinton County, the Saint Marys Daily Press for Elk County, the Punxsutawney Spirit for Jefferson County, the Williamsport Sun-Gazette for Lycoming County, the Bradford ERA for McKean County, the Potter Leader-Enterprise for Potter County, the Wellsboro Gazette/Westfield Free Press for Tioga County, the Oil City Derrick/ Franklin News for Venango, Clarion, and Forest counties, and the Warren Times Observer for Warren County.

As required by state law, the ads will include the names and zip codes of the owners of unclaimed property in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the owners were last known to have lived. The names will appear in the newspaper one time. The law requires Treasury to advertise unclaimed property valued in excess of \$250.

In addition to reviewing these newspaper ads, we encourage everyone to search Treasury's Unclaimed Property database at patreasury.gov/unclaimed-property.

Your offices are fantastic partners in letting constituents know about this important program, and I appreciate all of your efforts. Last year, we worked together to make payments totaling over \$10 million on 2,487 claims. We prioritize claims sent by legislative offices, so please contact BUPEClaims@patreasury.gov for all unclaimed property inquiries from your office.

In Fiscal Year 2022-23, Treasury set a record by returning almost \$274 million of unclaimed property. One in 10 Pennsylvanians has unclaimed property, and the average claim is about \$1,600. Especially while grocery prices remain high and gas prices are climbing again, that money can make a huge difference for Pennsylvania families.

Please continue encouraging your constituents to claim what's theirs by reading the unclaimed property ads in their local papers and searching Treasury's website. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Stacy Garrity
State Treasurer

Operation Desert Storm

2/7/24 @ 10 a.m. (~3 min)

Thank you, Senator, for that introduction, and thank you so much for inviting me to help honor our many brothers and sisters who fought alongside us during Operation Desert Storm – one of the most successful military campaigns in U.S. history.

I want to thank each and every Veteran and service member here today – and the hundreds of thousands of Veterans across the country who helped fight for the liberation of Kuwait.

And just as importantly, I want to thank my family, and the family of every Veteran who fought in Desert Storm – and in every conflict before and after. Military families sacrifice an incredible amount to make it possible for our troops to serve.

It was my greatest honor to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve for 30 years.

Standing here now, I can say that if it wasn't for the mandatory retirement date, I would still be serving, because it was and is the honor of my lifetime.

But it's also true that a military career wasn't part of my plan when I joined the ROTC program while attending Bloomsburg University. I figured I would do 6 years, and then get out.

In January 1991, while most Americans were waking up to head to the office and talk around the water cooler about Whitney Houston's now iconic performance of our national anthem at the previous night's Super Bowl – or the tremendous game itself, where the Bills lost to the Giants on a wide-right missed field goal – I was deploying to Kuwait.

I was young, and I was nervous.

But I was a Lieutenant and Military Police, and I was in charge as soon as I stepped on the plane.

We were prepared for chemical weapons. I can't even count the times a MOPP 4 was called and we headed to the underground bunkers.

There were tens of thousands of detainees in our charge. It was our job to keep the peace, day in and day out. Nothing about this was easy.

More than 35,000 of my fellow Army Reserve soldiers were deployed – the most called up since the Korean War.

My time in Kuwait kept me on a path to a military career. My third and final deployment was in 2008-2009, during Operation Enduring Freedom.

I was the acting Battalion Commander at Camp Bucca in Southern Iraq with 1,200 soldiers in my command, and

more than 7,000 detainees in our custody. We were the first internment facility to have 0 escape attempts and 0 abuse allegations.

I will always be proud of the work that my brothers, my sisters and I did during every deployment.

Less than one percent of Americans put on the uniform, but those of us who do protect the entire free world.

As General Norman Schwarzkopf said – “It doesn’t take a hero to order men into battle. It takes a hero to be one of those men who goes into battle.”

But the real heroes are those who did not return, and we all know too many real heroes.

When I look at all of you here today, I'm reminded of John 15:13, where it says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Thank you all for your service to our country, and for what you continue to do on behalf of our great Commonwealth.

God bless you, God bless Pennsylvania, and God bless the United States.

Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony

4/8/24 @ 10:30 a.m. (~3 min)

Thank you, Senator.

It's an honor to be here with you, paying tribute to the millions of brave men and women who served in Vietnam – and remembering the more than 58,000 who made the ultimate sacrifice.

To the Veterans here with us this morning, welcome home. And thank you – thank you for your service, your bravery, and your courage.

We all know that our Veterans returning home from Vietnam did not receive the reception they deserved. These heroes deserved immense gratitude for their selfless service.

Instead, they endured a second battle here at home to reacclimate to everyday life. Many Americans who opposed the war wrongly blamed our troops.

Less than one percent of Americans put on the uniform, but those of us who do protect the entire free world.

Our troops did the job they were called to do in Vietnam. They served their country without fault. They and their families deserve nothing but respect and gratitude for their sacrifices.

And yet even today, it can be a struggle.

Here's one example: It took decades for Congress to pass the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act – which, thankfully, did become law in 2019.

Thanks to that law, Veterans who served in the offshore waters of Vietnam are now included among those who are presumed to be exposed to Agent Orange and other

chemicals. That's important because it ensures proper access to healthcare.

Here's another example: In Luzerne County last summer, I met members of the Vietnam Veterans support group that had been gathering at the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center.

The VA shut down the support group under early COVID restrictions – and it had never let the support group start meeting again, despite multiple requests.

It was outrageous and indefensible. So I worked with those Veterans, Congressman Dan Meuser and Congressman Matt Cartwright, and together we took on the leadership of the VA Medical Center.

And – as you can probably guess – we won.

That support group, which has been tremendously important to so many of its members, is meeting again.

Nothing we do now can make up for how Vietnam Veterans were treated when they returned home. But we can always show our gratitude by standing with them.

To every Veteran who served in Vietnam – those of you here today and others across the nation – thank you for your service to our country.

And welcome home.

God bless you, God bless Pennsylvania, and God bless the United States.

Langan, Jennifer

From: Senator Doug Mastriano <dmastriano@pasen.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 2:50 PM
To: Treasurer Garrity
Subject: Senator Mastriano E-Newsletter 2/2/24

You don't often get email from dmastriano@pasen.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

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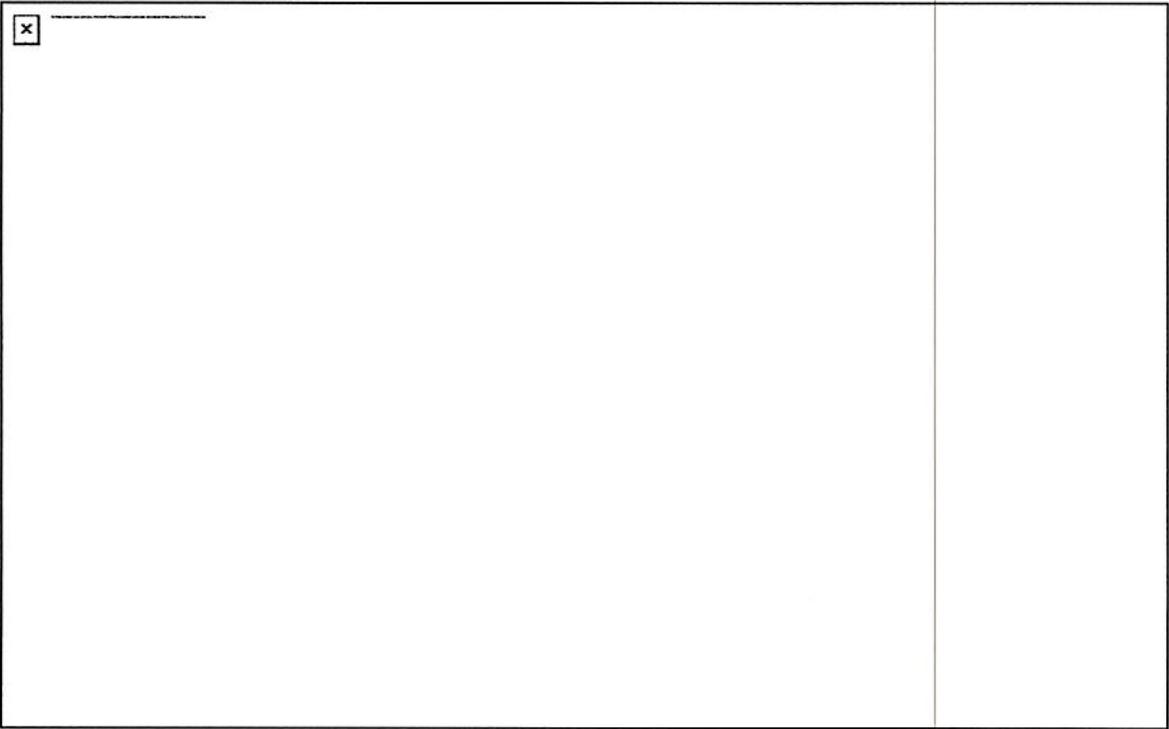


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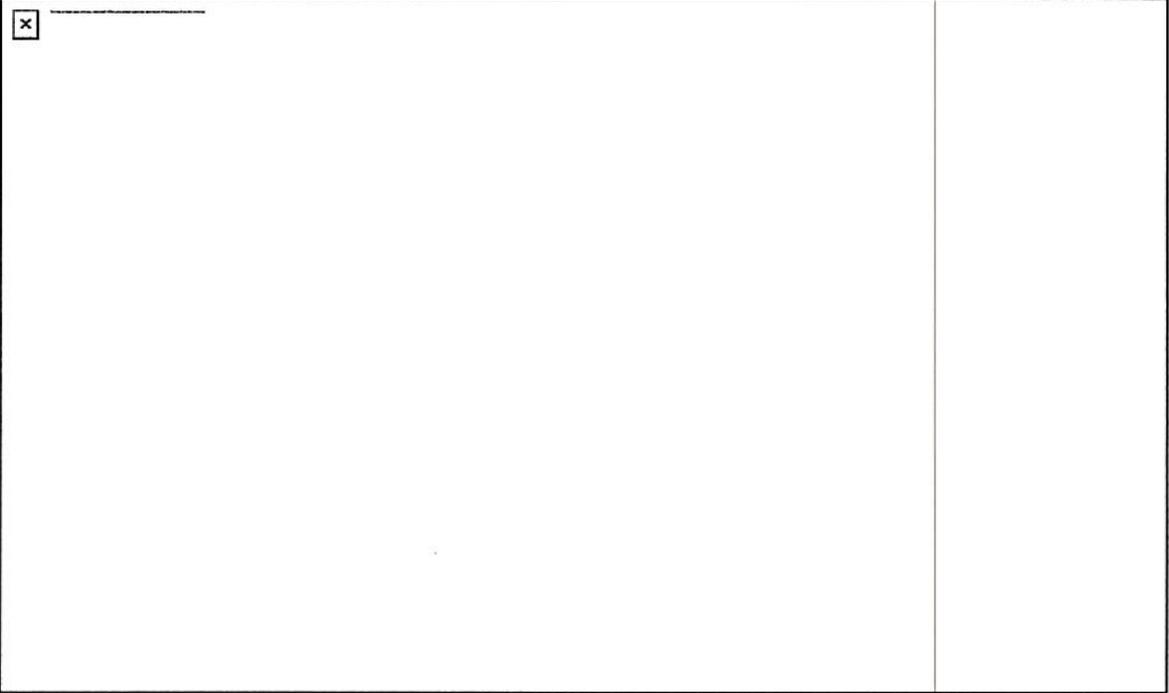
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**Veteran Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee 2023
Year in Review**



Mastriano, Chair of Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, Calls for PA National Guard Deployment to Texas Border with Mexico



Sen. Doug Mastriano (R-33) – chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee – today called for Gov. Josh Shapiro to deploy Pennsylvania National Guard troops to Texas to support Operation Lone Star.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott initiated Operation Lone Star in March 2021 in response to the unprecedented rise in illegal immigration. Operation Lone Star personnel work to detect and repel illegal crossings, arrest human smugglers and cartel gang members, and stop the flow of deadly drugs like fentanyl.

“Reckless federal government policies have created a crisis at our nation’s southern border,” Mastriano said. “Every state is now a border state. Pennsylvania has a compelling interest to help secure the southern border of the United States. Fentanyl has flooded communities throughout our commonwealth, school districts are increasingly burdened, and strained social safety net funds are being diverted.”

According to a 2023 report, at least 251,000 illegal immigrants reside in Pennsylvania with an annual burden of more than \$1.6 billion on taxpayers.

“Illegal immigration costs Pennsylvania taxpayers more than this year’s state budget allocated for the departments of Agriculture, Community and Economic Development, Conservation and Natural Resources, Drug and Alcohol Programs, Environmental Services, Health, Military and Veterans Affairs, Transportation, Labor and Industry, and State, and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency combined,” Mastriano said. “The cost of illegal immigration is more than double the size of the increase in spending for the Department of Education in this year’s state budget.”

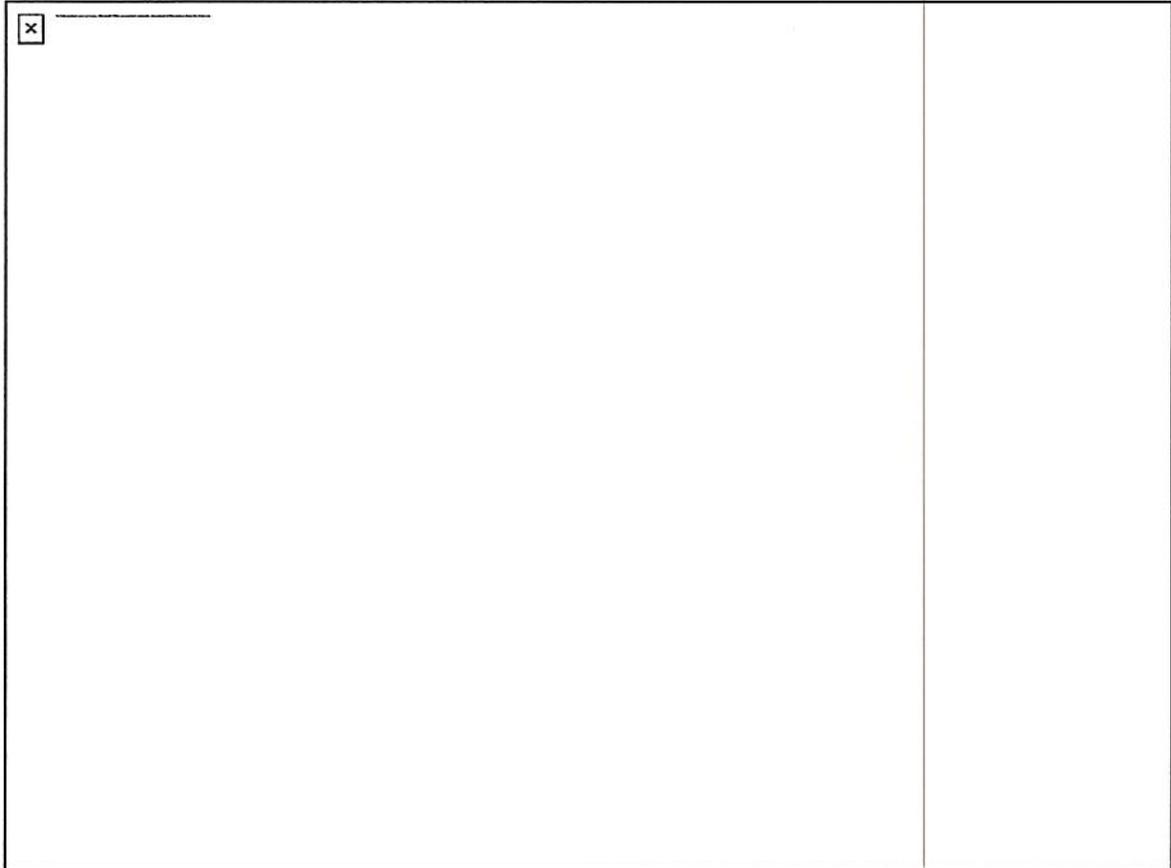
In May 2023, Abbott sent letters to governors requesting support for Operation Lone Star. So far, 14 states – Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Idaho, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming – have responded and deployed personnel and resources to secure the border.

“Securing our border is a bipartisan priority,” Mastriano said. “I am calling on the governor to deploy National Guard troops and resources to assist with Operation Lone Star. The inaction of the federal government to secure Pennsylvanians from the influx of deadly drugs into our communities has made this necessary.

“More than 276 years ago, Benjamin Franklin founded what is now our National Guard to provide a common defense of Pennsylvania in times of crisis. The lawlessness on the U.S. southern border, and its impacts upon the people of Pennsylvania, constitutes a crisis that calls for this response.”

The Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee oversees the planning and activities of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Democrats' Education Funding Recommendations Would Lead to Tax Hikes on Pennsylvanians



Throwing more money at a problem before addressing the cause of that problem is never a wise investment.

It's no secret that Pennsylvania's education system is failing many of our students.

According to 2023 U.S. News education rankings, Pennsylvania ranks 36th in overall quality of education. Meanwhile, we have the 8th most expensive system in the nation and our average cost per student is \$22,000. Lack of funding is not the problem, but how that money is spent must be scrutinized to ensure that our kids get the quality education they deserve.

Take the School District of Philadelphia for an example. Recent data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress shows that Philadelphia ranks near the bottom nationally for both math and reading when compared to similar urban districts.

From 2019-2022, the district saw its steepest decline in math and reading scores since 1990 despite spending an annual budget of more than \$4 billion.

Families failed by their local education system have increasingly turned to alternatives such as homeschool and charter schools.

What's the remedy?

According to Democrats on the Basic Education Funding Commission, the solution is a reckless infusion of additional taxpayer dollars to a failing system.

The commission's partisan majority report, backed by Democrats and members of Gov. Josh Shapiro's administration, calls for more than \$7 billion in additional spending.

What's not included in their recommendations? There are no accountability measures or metrics for student success. They include no additional scholarship funding for families who seek alternative options to help their kids escape failing schools. There are zero improvements to curriculum transparency so parents can know what their children are learning.

The General Assembly has already increased state taxpayer spending for education by historic amounts in recent years. Since 2020, taxpayer spending on education has increased by more than \$3 billion. Sadly, that has not been accompanied by an improvement in quality.

How much of that new taxpayer money will go to help students and teachers?
Unfortunately, not as much as you think.

While Pennsylvania's public-school population has declined, the growth of school administration staff has accelerated by almost 40% since 2000. Most new funds will ultimately be diverted to pay for bloated salaries and pension payments for those unnecessary additional administrators.

The financial burden of a \$7 billion infusion of taxpayer funds will be placed squarely on the backs of hard-working Pennsylvanians.

The nonpartisan Independent Fiscal Office already predicts that by 2025, Pennsylvania will face a \$3 billion state budget shortfall based on current budget projections.

The massive spending binge recommended by Pennsylvania Democrats means our state would need more revenue to offset the increase.

Pennsylvania already has one of the worst property tax burdens in the nation to pay for education budgets.

More than 10,000 homes are seized annually in Pennsylvania and auctioned off for failure to pay the tax. It is particularly troubling that most of the home seizures are from our elderly residents. Retirees live on limited-fixed incomes and additional irresponsible state spending could leave them faced with the stark choice of paying for food, medicine or their property tax. This is simply unacceptable.

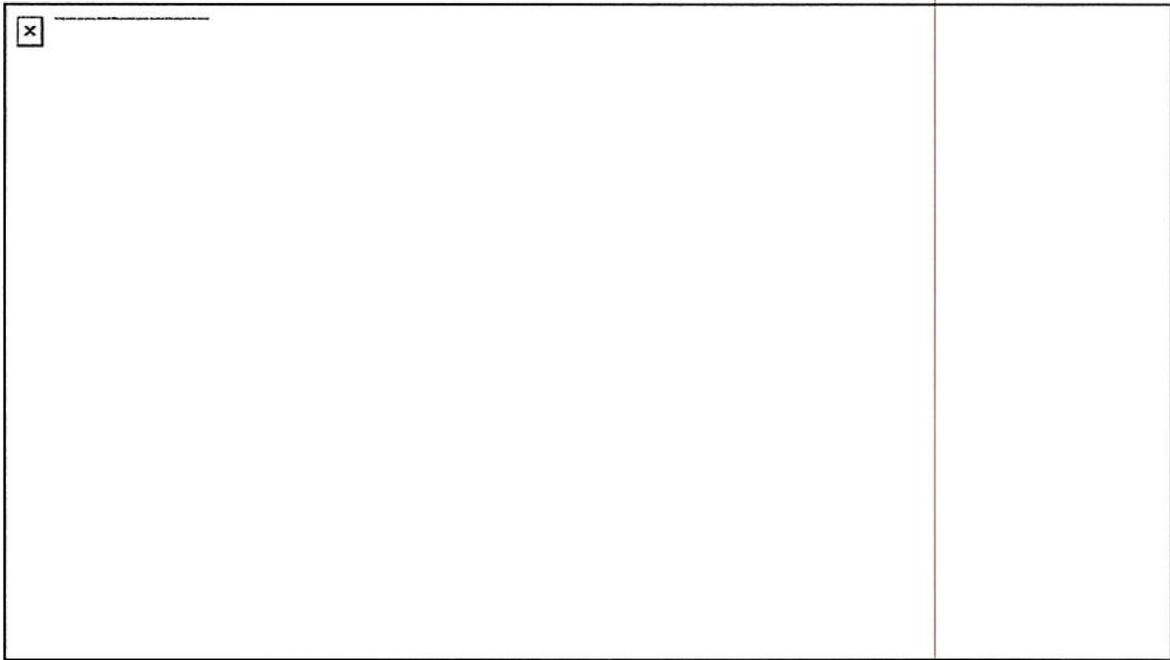
Property taxes would increase in all 67 counties to pay for the kind of spending increase recommended by Pennsylvania Democrats.

An increase in the state sales tax and income tax also would likely be on the table in future sessions of the General Assembly to offset budget shortfalls.

As we head into the 2024 budget season, we must protect Pennsylvanians and make fundamental changes to improve how we spend taxpayer funds for education. The money should follow the child and parents should have the right to choose how and where to educate their own children.

Blind spending of additional taxpayer dollars will not fix the fundamental problems of our education system.

Protecting PA's Local Governments from Cyberattacks

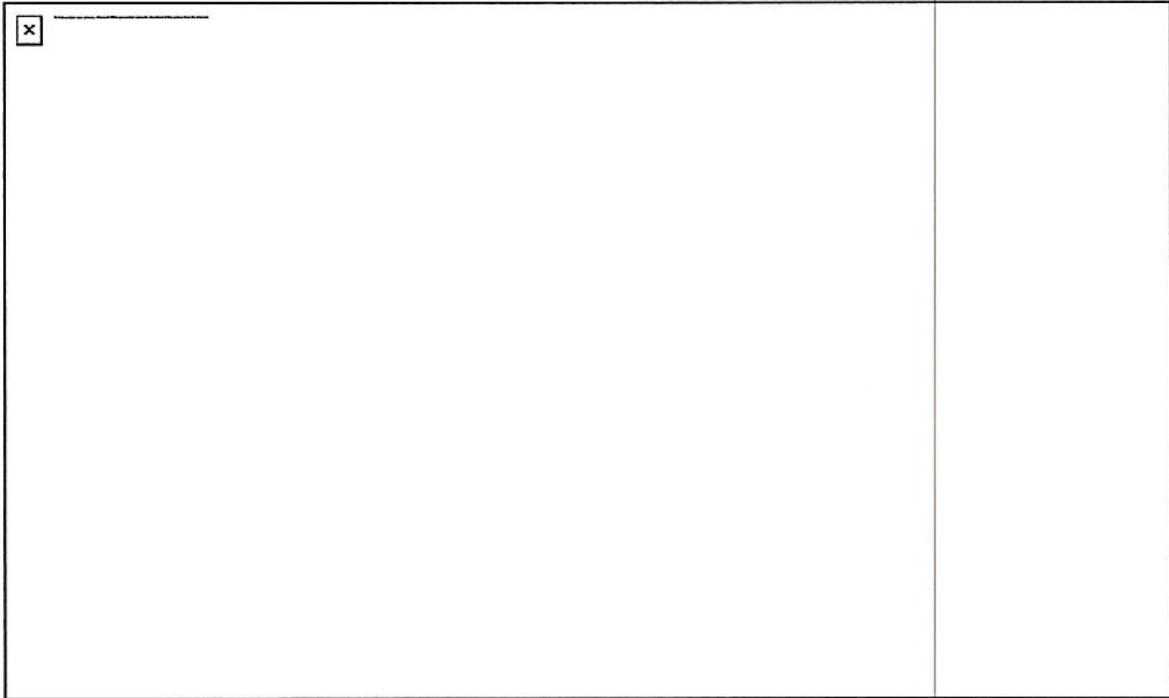


The Senate Communications and Technology Committee and the Senate Local Government Committee this week examined cybersecurity threats faced by local governments and municipal authorities.

Recent cyberattacks targeting the Bucks County emergency dispatch system and the Aliquippa Water Authority highlight the vulnerability of Pennsylvania’s more than 2,500 local governments and authorities.

While exposure of residents’ personal information is a serious concern, these attacks can also interfere with ways people satisfy basic needs, such as the delivery of clean drinking water to their homes and being able to call for help in the case of an emergency. Learn more from the cybersecurity experts and local government officials who took part in the hearing.

2023 Accomplishments: Supporting PA Seniors

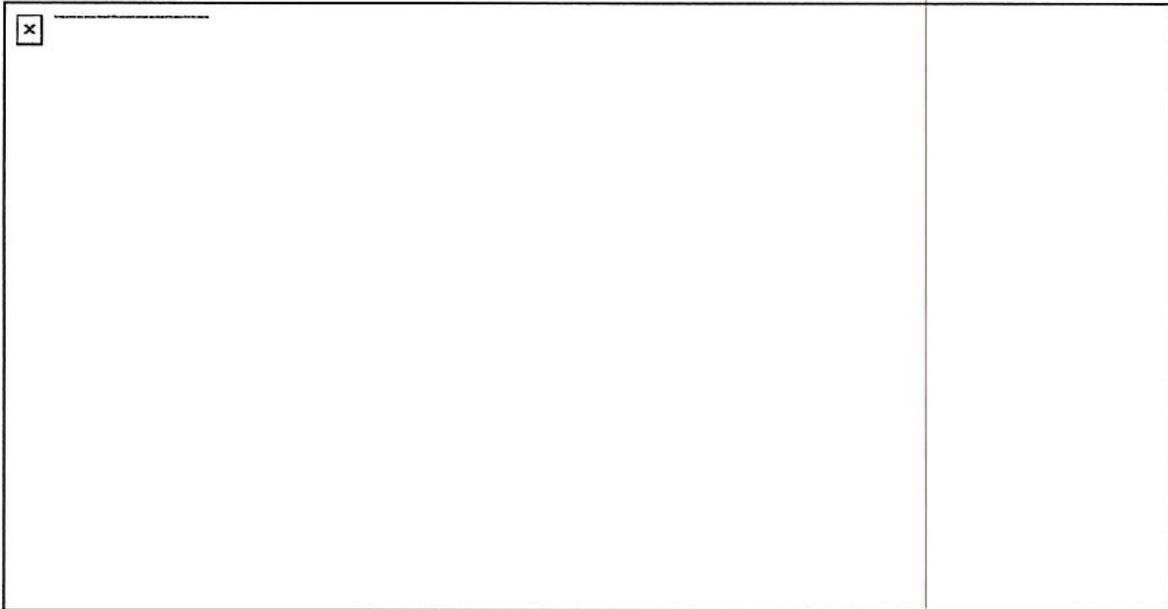


As part of Senate Republicans' commitment to healthy and safe communities, we are focused on supporting Pennsylvania seniors. This means making sure they have access to the health care they need and preventing their exploitation.

One new law adjusts Medicaid reimbursement rates for nursing homes so the facilities can continue to meet the needs of vulnerable patients. Another law ensures seniors do not lose access to Pennsylvania's prescription drug programs due to an increase in their Social Security payments.

A third piece of legislation recently signed into law aims to prevent elder abuse by strengthening guardianship laws. It protects vulnerable adults within the guardianship system from fraud, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Improving Pennsylvanians' Experiences by Increasing Broadband Access

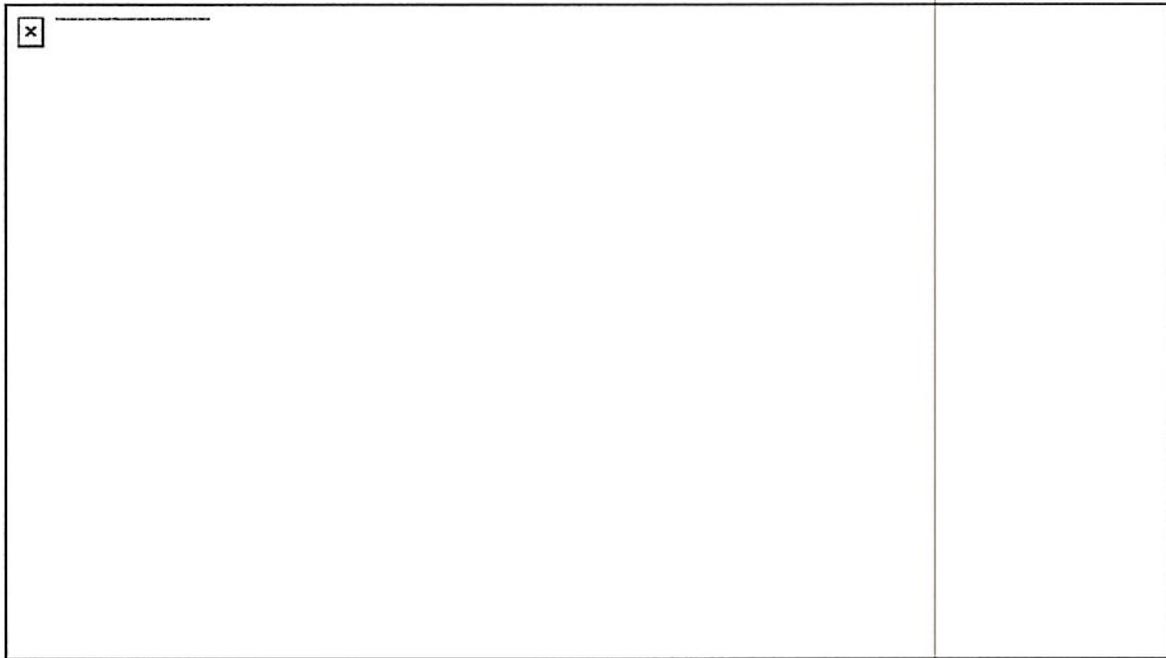


Federal grants are available to improve the experiences Pennsylvanians have at medical care facilities, schools and libraries. The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority's Capital Projects Fund allows for investment in high-quality broadband infrastructure as well as other connectivity infrastructure, devices and equipment.

The \$45 million of competitive grants can be used for community projects to construct, acquire or improve facilities that will enable work, education and health monitoring.

Grants will be awarded in amounts ranging from \$250,000 to \$2 million. [Apply online](#) through April 20. While the grant funding was awarded through a federal program, it supports Senate Republicans' priority of infrastructure advancement.

PA VETConnect Helps Veterans Access Programs and Services

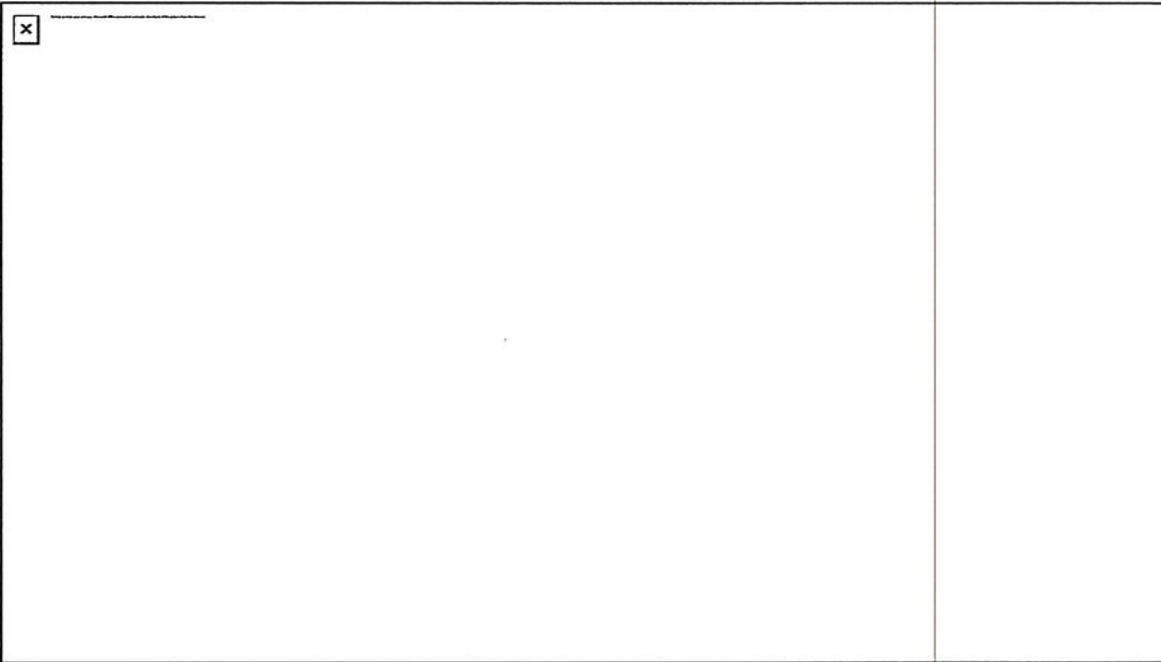


Because of legislation supported by Senate Republicans, PA VETConnect makes it easier for Pennsylvania’s 700,000 veterans to access the programs and services available to help them.

Administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, PA VETConnect benefits service members, veterans and their families. The database of resources enables local veteran advocates to point veterans to information, resources, programs and services in their area and across the commonwealth.

Resource areas include benefits, employment, financial assistance, post-traumatic stress, mental wellness and substance use.

Grants Available to Support Student Safety, Behavioral Health Needs



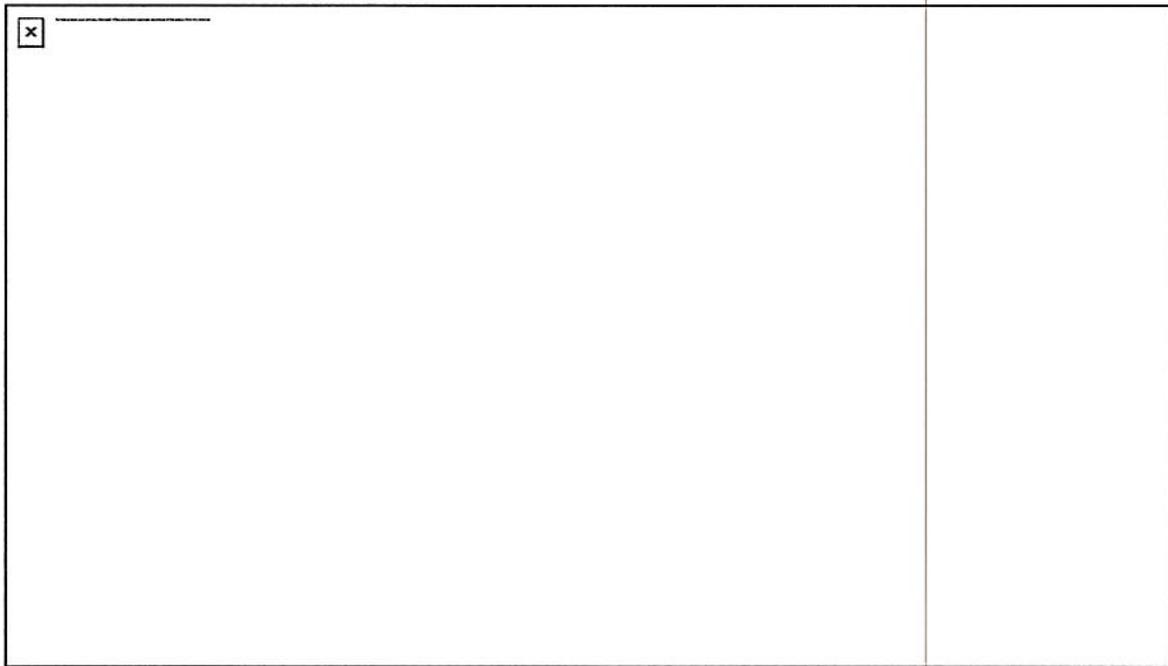
Grants are available through a few different state programs to support the physical security and behavioral health needs of students in the commonwealth. All grant applications must be received by Feb. 29.

School Mental Health Grants make \$90 million available for school districts, intermediate units, area career and technical schools, charter schools, regional charter schools and cyber charter schools.

Approximately \$32 million is available through Competitive School Safety Grants for school resource officers, security-related technology and violence prevention programs that address safety and security. As part of Senate Republican efforts to ensure safe schools and communities, a budget measure passed in December included provisions to consolidate and streamline school safety and security programs and operations under the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

The School District Meritorious Grant Program is specifically for school districts and approximately \$18.6 million is available. Individual awards to address physical safety and security range from \$30,000 to \$45,000.

Preventing Cancer by Increasing Access to Screenings



The federal government estimated that nearly two million Americans would be diagnosed with cancer and that more than 600,000 would die from their disease in 2023. Research shows that more than 40% of those cases can be attributed to preventable causes such as smoking, physical inactivity, excessive exposure to the sun and excess body weight.

Making healthier choices can dramatically reduce your risk of cancer, according to the American Association for Cancer Research. Learn how you can put yourself on a better path and test your cancer prevention knowledge [here](#).

Senate Republicans passed legislation that is now law to [help Pennsylvanians get the preventative cancer testing they need](#). Specifically, it eliminates out-of-pocket costs for genetic testing of hereditary cancer syndromes and supplemental breast screenings for women at high risk of developing breast cancer.

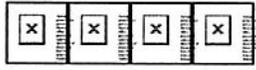


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Langan, Jennifer

From: Arneson, Erik
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 5:34 PM
To: Garrity, Stacy L.; Allen, Hugh; Wilson, Joshua; Fidler, Joshua; Miller, Hannah
Cc: Weber-Broody, Erika
Subject: FW: Senator Mastriano E-Newsletter 2/9/24

Treasurer,

A nice mention (and video) from the recent Desert Storm event in this newsletter from Sen. Mastriano.

Cheers,
Erik

From: Senator Doug Mastriano <dmastriano@pasen.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 4:45 PM
To: PA Treasury News <PATreasuryNews@patreasury.gov>
Subject: Senator Mastriano E-Newsletter 2/9/24

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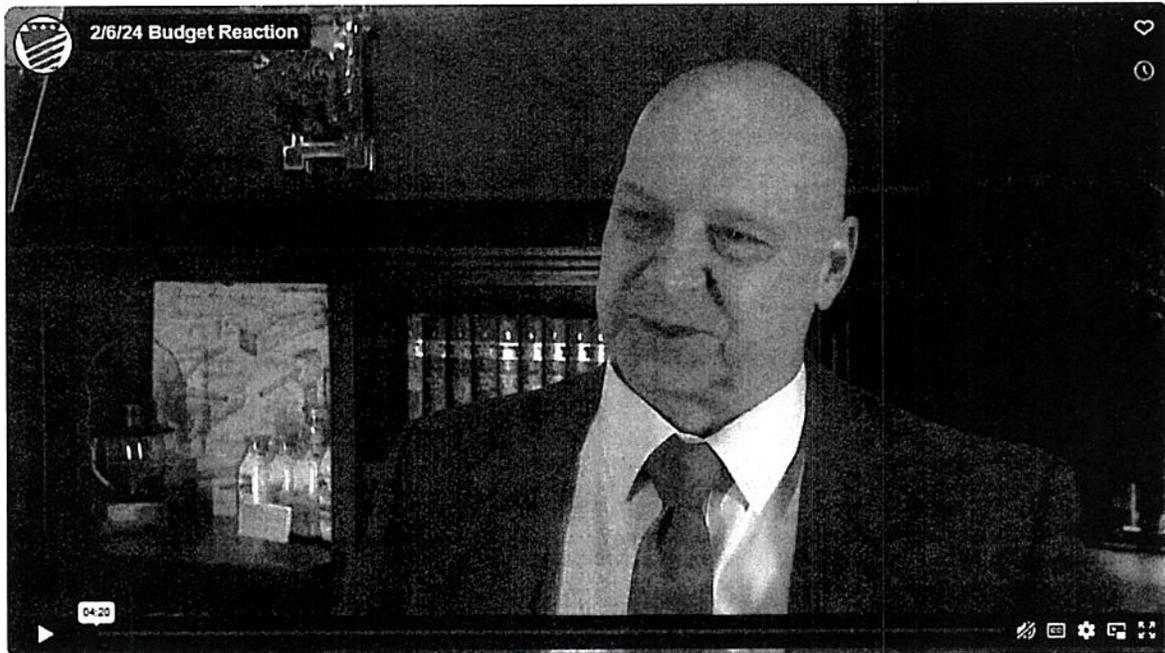
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- **Protecting Against Hypothermia and Frostbite**

Mastriano Says Governor’s Budget Spends Beyond Taxpayers’ Means



Tuesday, February 6th, Mastriano offered the following statement after Gov. Josh Shapiro delivered his annual budget address to a joint session of the state House and Senate:

“The governor’s budget proposal calls for deficit spending that could lead to future tax increases or cuts in programs for senior citizens, military veterans and children.

“Gov. Josh Shapiro’s budget would throw more money into underperforming public schools instead of empowering parents through enhanced school choice programs that enable students to succeed. Throwing money into failing programs doesn’t create solutions; it creates more expensive problems.

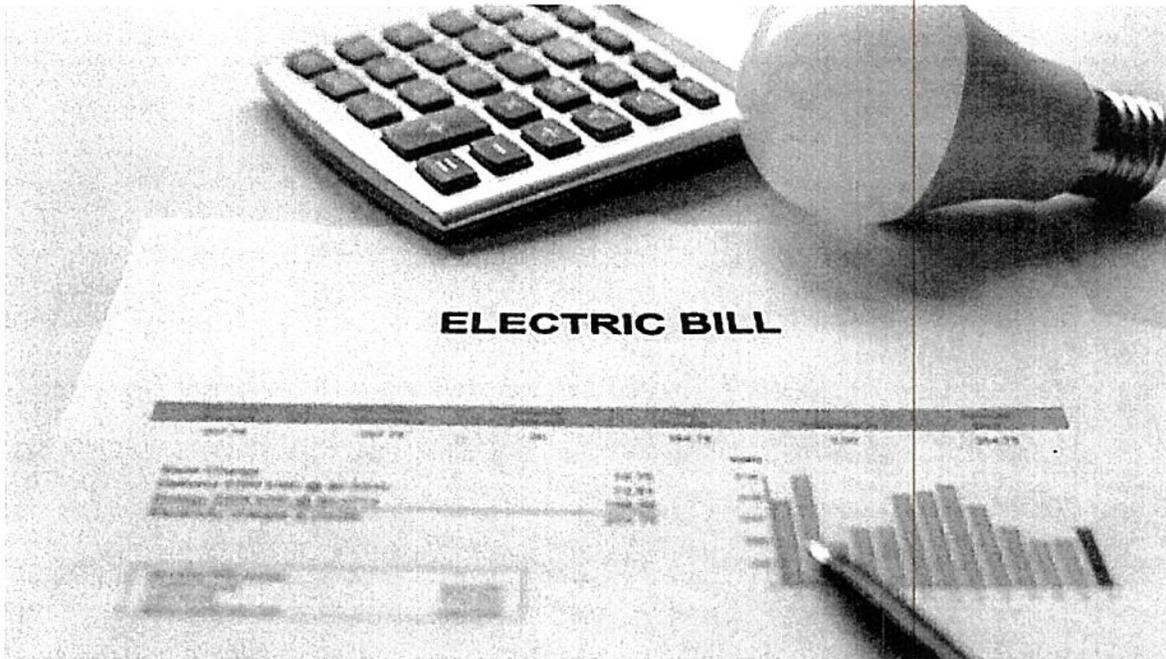
“The governor wants to use more tax dollars from central Pennsylvanians to subsidize bus and train rides for Philadelphians through increased state funding for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, or SEPTA. I don’t believe taxpayers across

Pennsylvania should have to send more of their money to subsidize the crime-ridden



It was an honor having guest speakers Chaplain (Colonel) James White, PA Treasurer Stacy Garrity, Senator Pennycuik, Brigadier General Laura McHugh, and Senator Dush at Wednesday's Desert Storm Commemoration.

Public Comment Regarding PPL Settlement Open Now

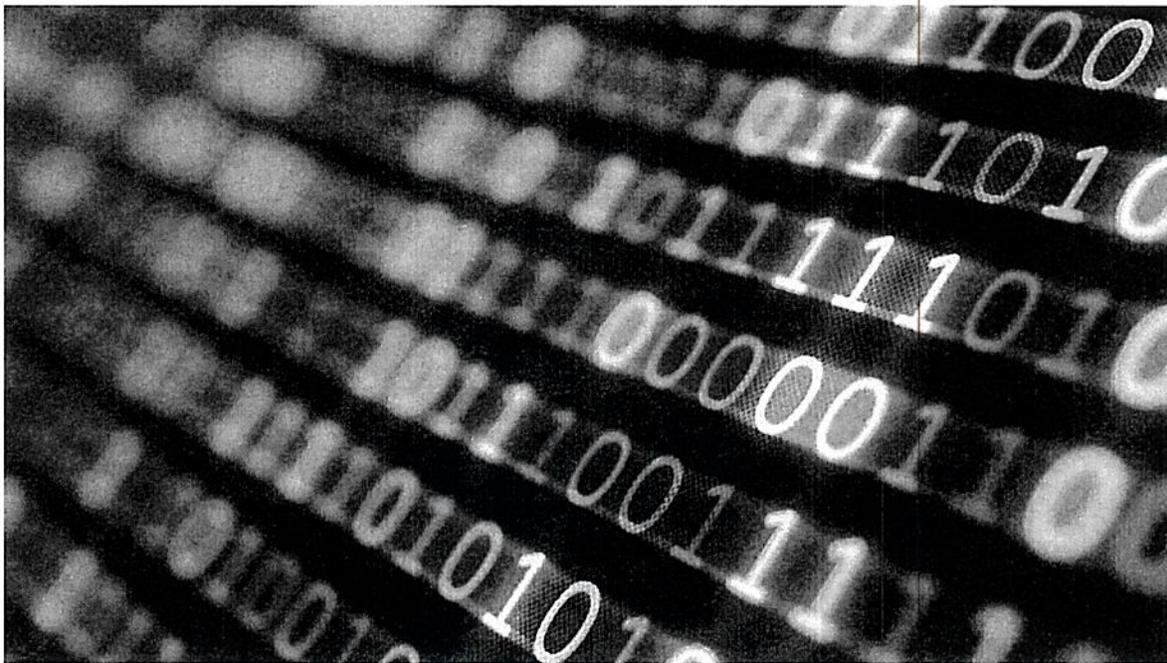


In late 2022 and early 2023, PPL customers experienced unusually high or low estimated bills, missing monthly bills and inadequate customer service support resulting in customers' inability to reach PPL Call Center representatives to discuss their billing concerns.

To address those issues, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) will evaluate and consider a joint settlement. As part of the evaluation, a public comment period regarding the proposed settlement is active through Feb. 28.

Customers may submit a comment by e-filing through the PUC or sending a written comment at the address below. All comments should reference the docket number of the case: M-2023-3038060.

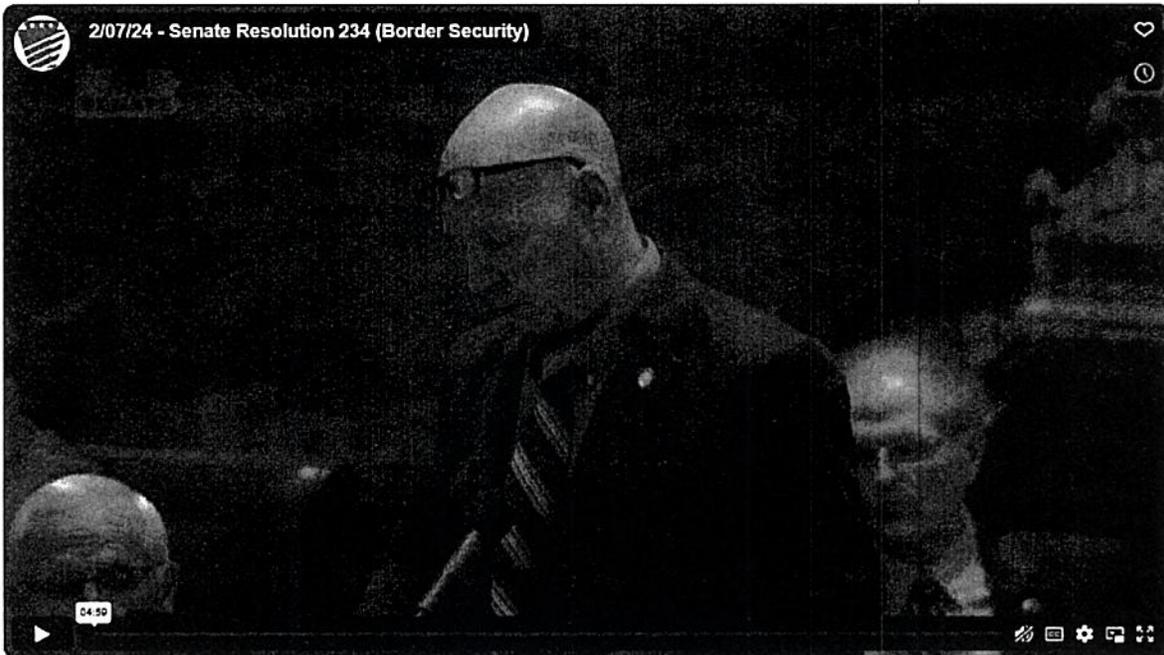
Senate Hearing on Office of Administration Data Loss



This week, the Senate Communications and Technology Committee and Senate State Government Committee held a public hearing on the recent Shapiro Office of Administration (OA) server data loss.

According to the OA, human error from an employee performing server maintenance on Jan. 3 resulted in data loss affecting several agencies. Additional information requested at the hearing will be reviewed once received by the committees. Video of the hearing can be found here.

Senate Passes Measure Supporting a More Secure Southern Border

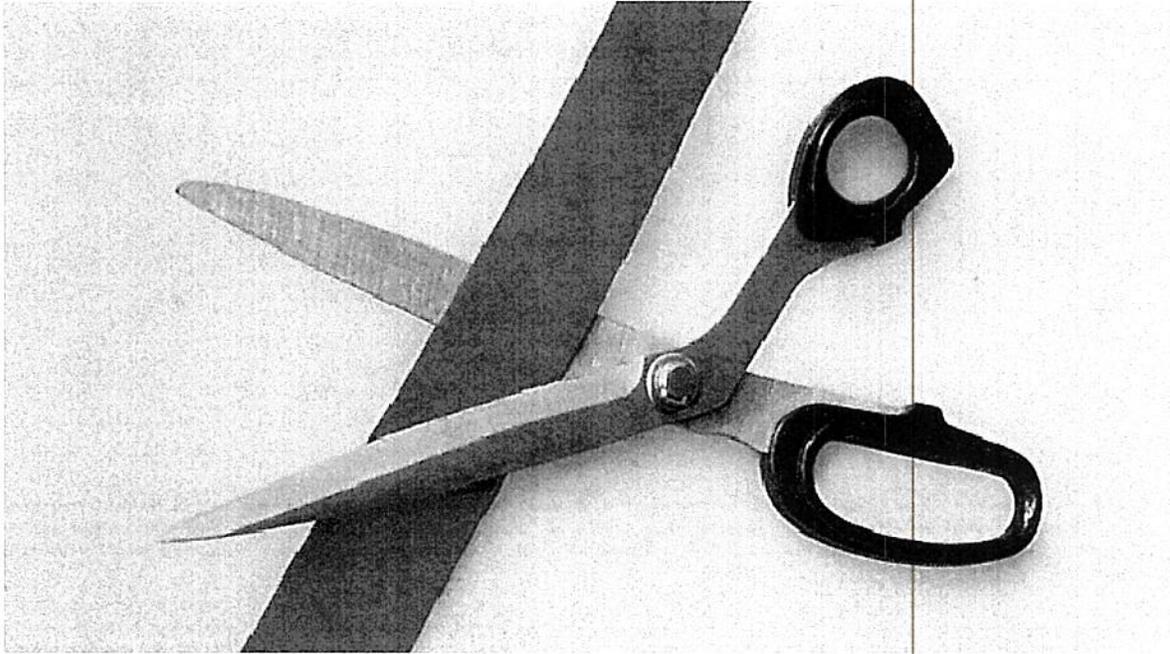


As the unprecedented rise in illegal immigration strains the resources of states throughout the nation, the Senate approved a measure calling for action to address the border crisis and support the rights of states to protect their citizens.

Senate Resolution 234 voices support for Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's actions to secure the border amid federal inaction by the Biden Administration. It also encourages Gov. Josh Shapiro to join dozens of other governors from across the country who have announced their support of Abbott. The Biden Administration continues to fight Abbott's lawful exercise of his Constitutional authority to defend his state and its citizens.

According to the U.S. Center for Immigration Services, the country's illegal immigrant population grew to 12.8 million by October 2023. It rose 2.6 million since January 2021, when President Joe Biden took office and used executive orders to move financial resources away from the border, suspend deportations and end the successful "Remain in Mexico" policy.

2023 Accomplishments: Cutting Red Tape

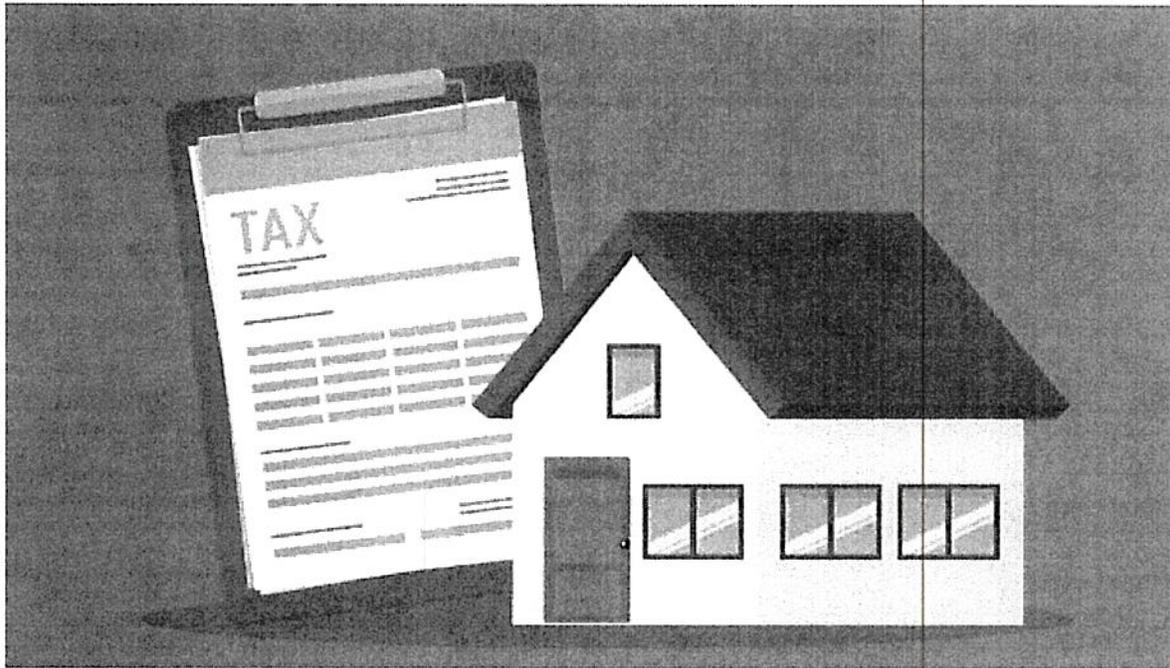


As 2024 kicks off, Senate Republicans will continue our work to cut red tape and improve the experience citizens have when they interact with their government and the agencies intended to help them.

Already this session, we have passed a bill that would improve government efficiency by authorizing the Pennsylvania Treasury Department to return unclaimed property without requiring the owners to search for it. Another legislative measure would ensure Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program and Medical Assistance benefits are not spent on the deceased.

For the Pennsylvanians who must apply for a permit, license or certification, another bill would require state agencies to create an accessible website to explain why a permit application was rejected and enable permit applicants to check their application status. It would also deem a permit, license or certification approved if the agency reviewing the application misses its deadline – giving Pennsylvanians far more predictability than they currently have. This change would also help to attract more business to the state and boost our economy by addressing unreasonable permit delays.

Property Tax Relief is Available for Homeowners



Most homes and farms are eligible for property tax reduction under the Homestead Tax Exemption program.

Under a homestead or farmstead property tax exclusion, the assessed value of each homestead or farmstead is reduced by the same amount before the property tax is computed.

To receive school property tax relief for tax years beginning July 1 or Jan. 1, an application for homestead or farmstead exclusions must be filed by the preceding March 1. School districts are required to notify homeowners by Dec. 31 of each year if their property is not approved for the homestead or farmstead exclusion or if their approval is due to expire. [Learn more and find an application.](#)

Protecting Against Hypothermia and Frostbite



While this winter has been relatively mild so far, colder weather could set in at any time. Brushing up on the signs and symptoms of hypothermia and frostbite can help you keep yourself and others safe. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers [detailed information](#) about warning signs and prevention.

Signs of hypothermia include shivering, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech and confusion. In severe cases, hypothermia can lead to death. If someone is experiencing hypothermia, give them warm water and replace any wet clothing with dry layers. Seek medical attention if their body temperature is below 95 degrees.

Frostbite is an injury that can permanently damage the body and typically impacts the nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers and toes. Symptoms include painful, unusually firm or waxy skin. If impacted, warm the affected area but do not apply pressure. Stay a safe distance from heat sources and know when to get medical care.



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Cc: Grieco, Alyssa
Subject: FW: Senator Mastriano E-Newsletter 2/23/24

Good morning Treasurer,

Forwarding over Senator Mastriano's newsletter. - Char

From: Senator Doug Mastriano <dmastriano@pasen.gov>
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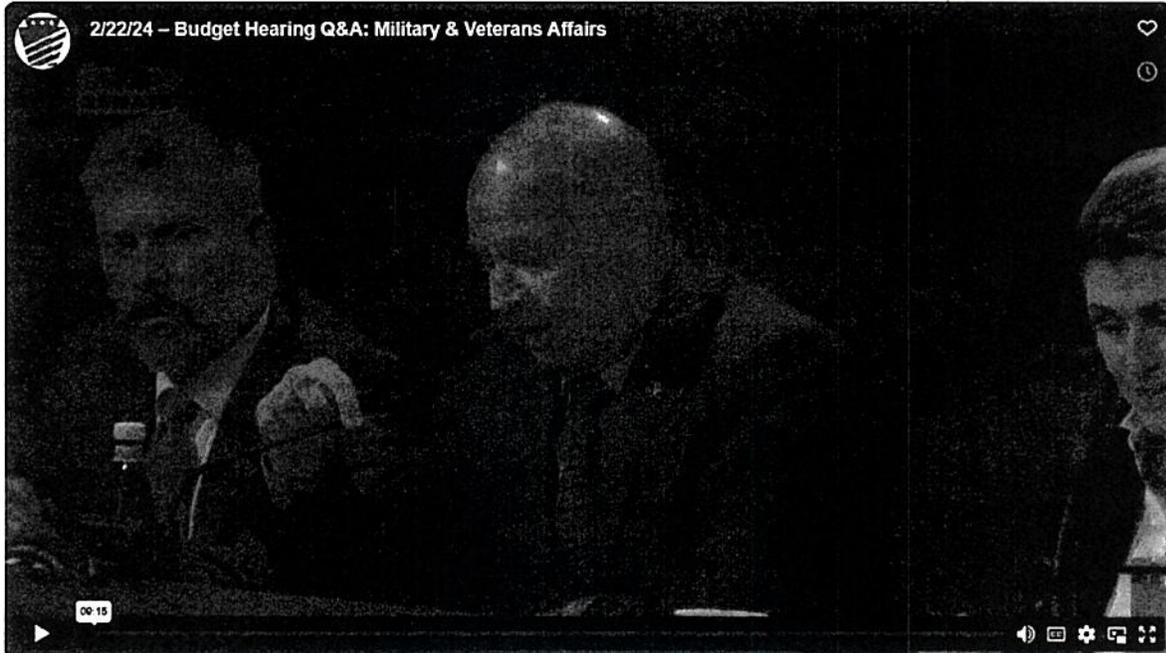
In this Update:

- **Budget Hearing Q&A: Military & Veterans Affairs**
- **Senate Begins Review of Proposed State Budget**
- **Free Webinars Provide Helpful Financial Aid Info**
- **Help is Available for Struggling Veterans**
- **Mental Health Treatment is Available for Farmers**
- **Recognizing National FFA Week**

Budget Hearing Q&A: Military & Veterans Affairs

Our PA National Guard members travel abroad to protect borders of other countries. At this week's PA Senate Budget hearing, I told PADMVA Adj. Gen. Schindler we need them on the Texas border to protect our country and commonwealth. I also asked about what we can do to house PA homeless veterans in existing state-owned facilities.

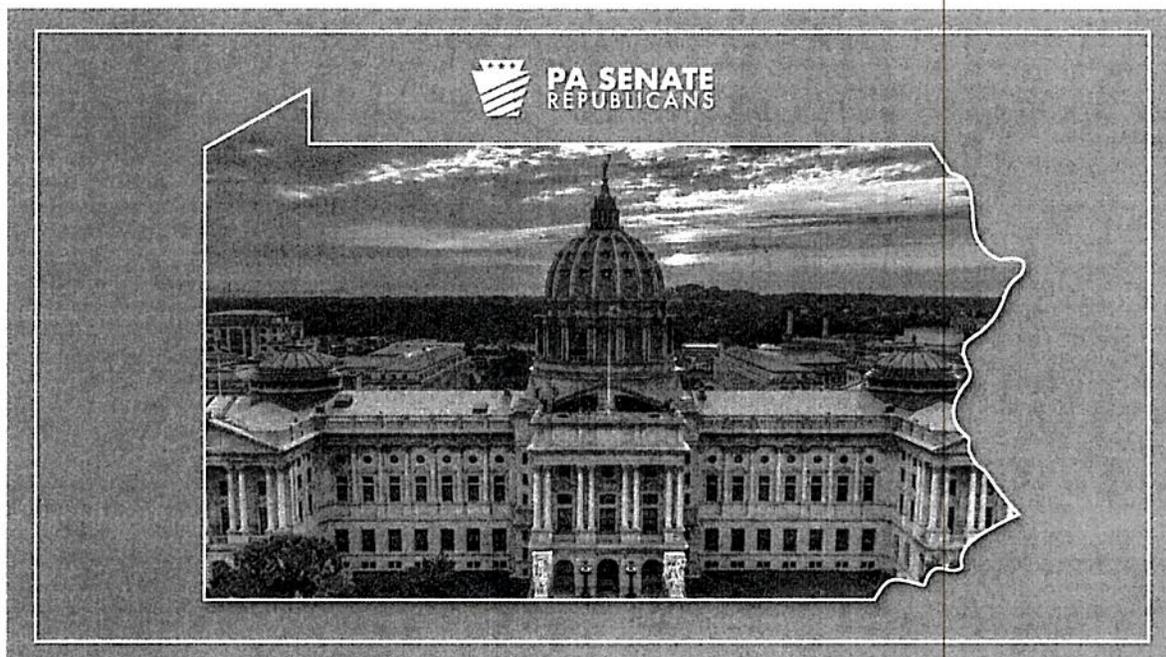
Part I



Part II



Senate Begins Review of Proposed State Budget



The Senate Appropriations Committee began public hearings this week on the proposed 2024-25 state budget.

Gov. Josh Shapiro's budget plan would increase state spending by more than \$3.2 billion, or about 7.1% above the current year's budget. Projections indicate it will be all but impossible to balance budgets in the next five years without deep spending cuts and massive tax increases.

Among the highlights:

The **Independent Fiscal Office (IFO)** hearing focused on the commonwealth's ongoing structural deficit and future financial standing. The IFO's projected revenues for 2024-25 are \$825 million lower than those from the Shapiro administration. Additionally, the IFO director projected the current fund balance and Rainy Day Fund – the state's emergency savings account – would both run out in 2026-27 under the governor's budget.

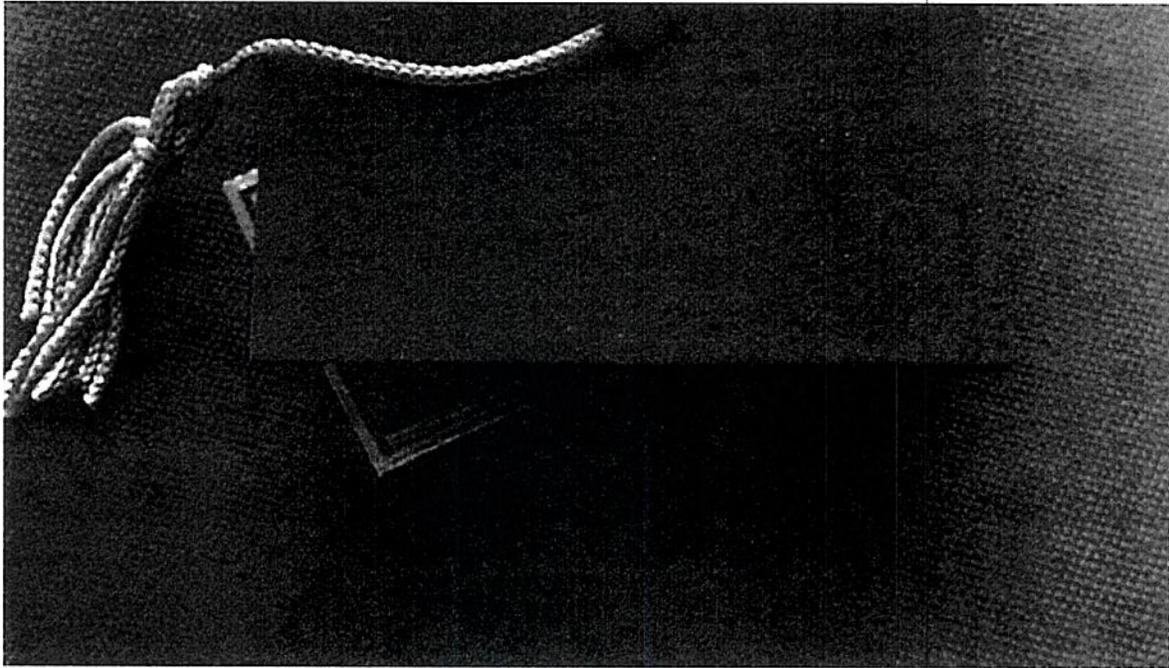
The **Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE)** budget hearing included questions about how the new governance model for PASSHE and community colleges would be structured and when the transition would happen. Unfortunately, very little information was available. PASSHE's chancellor was not included in the work group planning the merger, which caused concerns.

At the **Department of Corrections and Pennsylvania Parole Board** budget hearing, the committee sought an explanation for Shapiro's new funding for the department totaling \$229 million, which is \$74 million more than the department requested. This followed the department overspending its 2023-24 budget by \$100 million. The need to curb excessive spending on overtime was also discussed.

At the **Department of Community and Economic Development** budget hearing, the committee asked about the negative impacts of Pennsylvania's burdensome permit process and tax penalties on startup businesses that don't turn an immediate profit. Members also discussed the governor's Main Street Matters program, which he wants to fund at more than four times the amount of a similar program that already exists.

Thursday's hearings include the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Find the hearings schedule, livestreams of budget hearings, daily recaps and video from prior hearings at PASenateGOP.com.

Free Webinars Provide Helpful Financial Aid Info

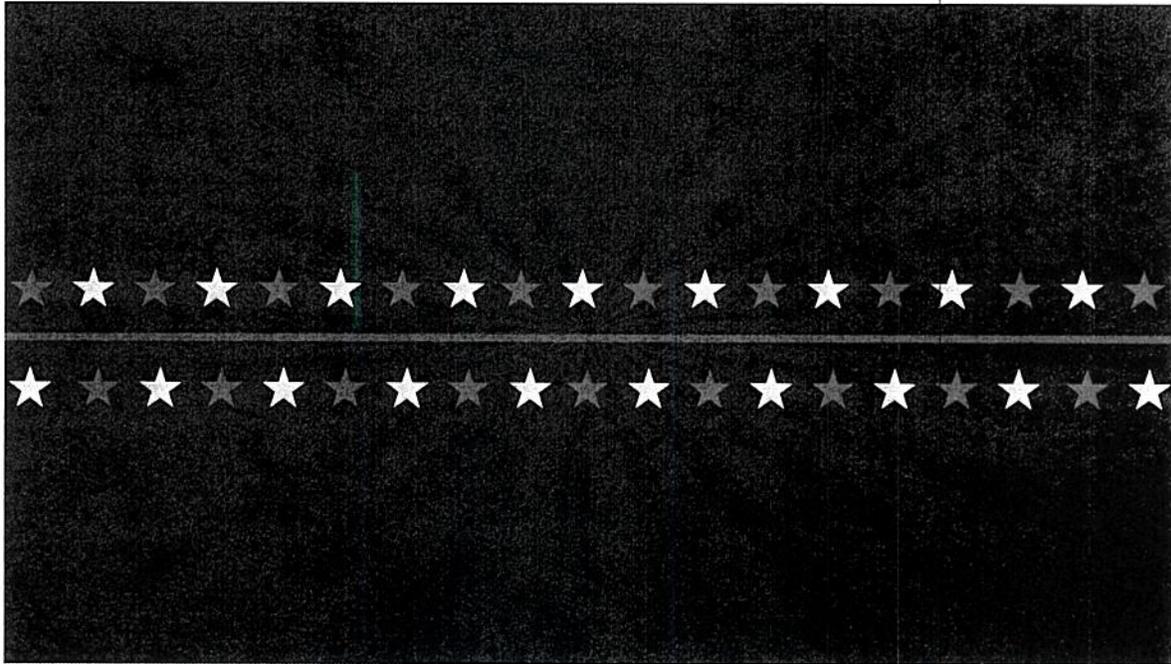


The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) is holding free webinars to assist college-bound students and their families with navigating the financial aid process.

Speakers will discuss planning for higher education financing, comparing financial aid offers and understanding the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

[Register to attend](#) the one-hour webinars, which run through July.

Help is Available for Struggling Veterans



Like anyone, veterans and their families can face unexpected circumstances that impose financial burdens. To help veterans who are facing challenging times, the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs administers the Veterans Temporary Assistance (VTA) Program.

The VTA provides temporary financial assistance of up to \$1,600 in a 12-month period to veterans or their surviving spouses who reside in Pennsylvania for food, shelter, fuel and clothing.

[Learn more](#) about how to qualify and apply.

Mental Health Treatment is Available for Farmers

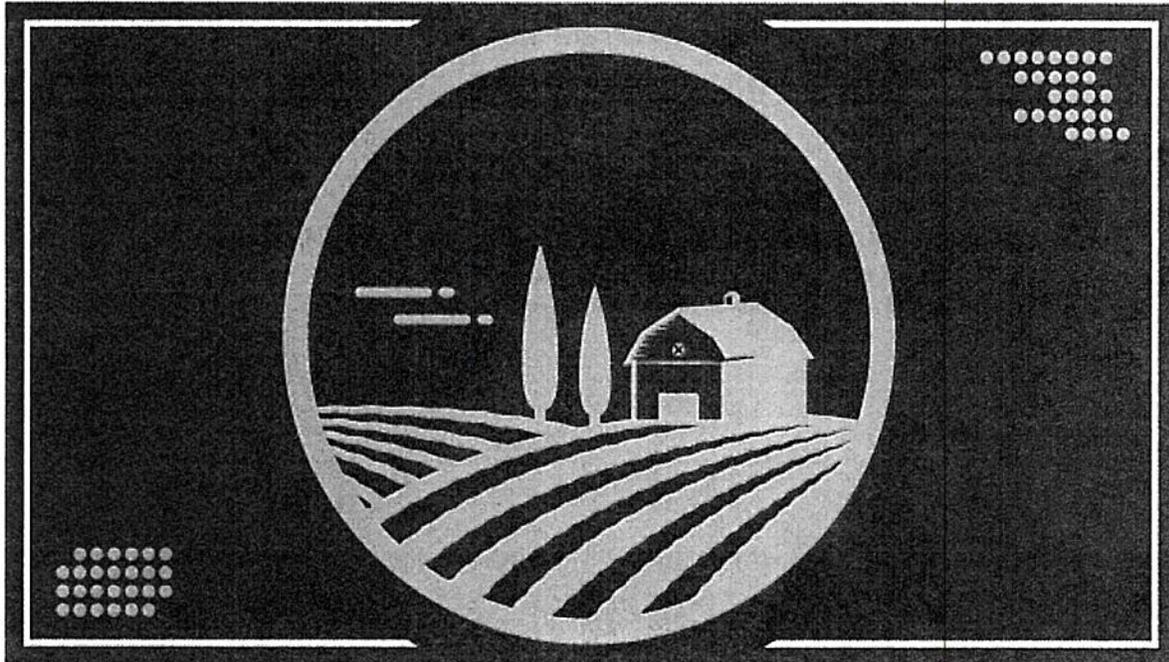


Pennsylvania farmers and farm families live a stressful way of life, often filled with uncertainty. Rural areas have fewer therapists, and the work on a farm never stops.

While the circumstances farmers experience are unique, there is help available for those dealing with loneliness, sadness, stress or depression.

Professional treatment for mental health is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through the free [AgriStress HelpLine](#). Call or text a health care professional at 833-897-2474.

Recognizing National FFA Week



As agriculture is one of Pennsylvania’s top industries, it is important to recognize National FFA Week, which runs from Feb. 17-24.

Farmers work hard so we can enjoy fresh, local fruits, veggies, meats, cheeses and milk. They help to reduce our dependence on other countries for our food supply so we don’t need to worry about being able to put food on the table.

A group of young farmers founded FFA in 1928, and the organization continues to play an important role in attracting future generations. After all, agriculture is more than planting and harvesting – it involves science, business and more.



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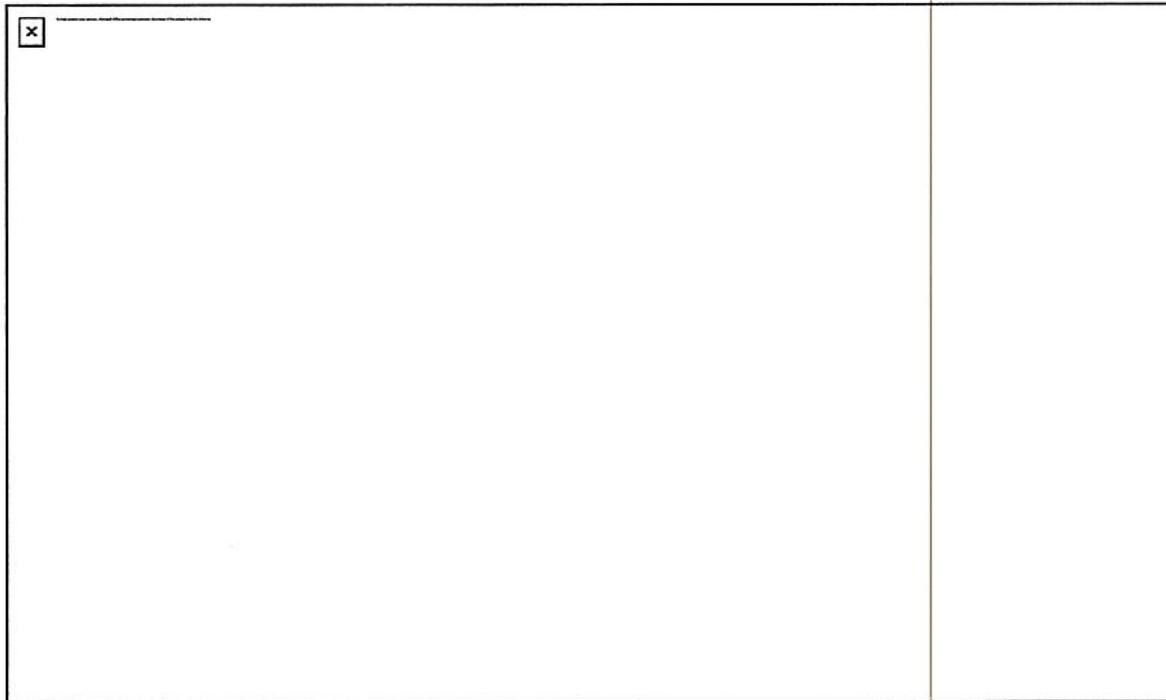


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In this Update:

- **Remembering Operation Desert Storm 33 Years Later**
- **New Legislation Proposes Fee Targeting Illegal Immigrants**
- **Senate Continues Detailed Review of Shapiro's Budget**
- **Scholarship Grants Available for EMS Professionals**
- **Find Lost Life Insurance Policies and Annuity Contracts**
- **Supporting Agriculture, PA's Top Industry**
- **Celebrating "The Star-Spangled Banner"**

Remembering Operation Desert Storm 33 Years Later



We remember the service and sacrifice of our citizens who faced a massive Iraqi Army 33 years ago this week.

The Iraqi Army had just come out of an eight-year war with Iran. Skilled in modern warfare and equipped with chemical weapons, the Iraqi forces were confident of victory.

It all began on Aug. 2, 1990, when Saddam Hussein ordered his army to invade and occupy Kuwait. President Herbert Walker Bush acted swiftly and ordered American forces into the region.

By January 1991, nearly 700,000 U.S. forces backed by 256,000 allied and coalition forces were in the region. My own higher headquarters, the U.S. VII Corps – then based out of Stuttgart, Germany – ordered 10,000 body bags in preparation for high casualties. My regiment, the 2nd Armored Cavalry, was selected to lead the main attack against Saddam Hussein’s elite guards.

Meanwhile, here in Pennsylvania, a spontaneous and massive prayer movement erupted. Twenty-four churches were praying for my squadron in the Second Army Cavalry Regiment. Families at home showed support and solidarity by displaying yellow ribbons. It served as a symbol of hope to remind our brave service members of the strong support at home.

On Jan. 16, 1991, after failed peace negotiations, the air campaign began. A brilliant operation of more than 1,000 hours of aerial bombardment weakened the Iraqi forces in the Kuwait theater of operations.

[Read the rest of my column about Operation Desert Storm by visiting my website.](#)

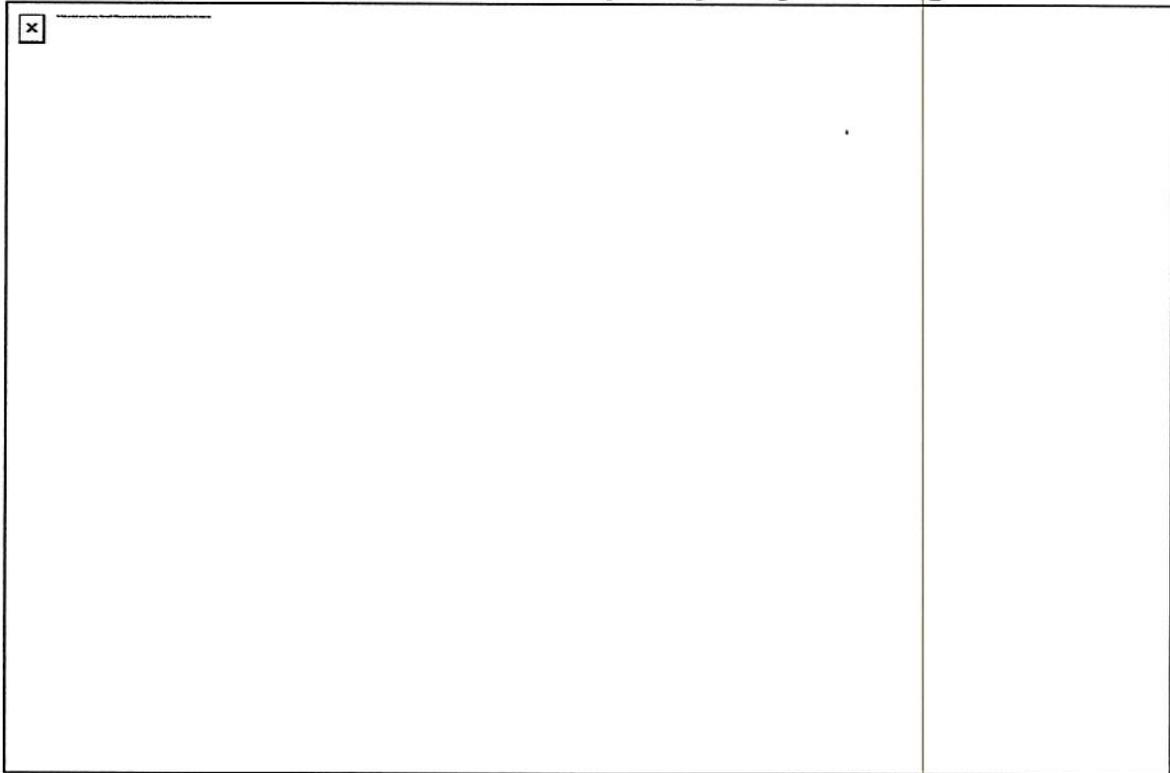
[020724-Mastriano-DesertStorm-Floor-1 \(vimeo.com\)](#)

[020724-Mastriano-DesertStorm-Floor-3 \(vimeo.com\)](#)

[020724-Mastriano-DesertStorm-Floor-4 \(vimeo.com\)](#)

[2/7/24 – Senator Mastriano – Desert Storm Event \(vimeo.com\)](#)

New Legislation Proposes Fee Targeting Illegal Immigrants



I announced plans this week with [Sen. Chris Gebhard \(R-48\)](#) to introduce legislation aiming to deter illegal immigration and generate new revenue for property tax and rent relief.

Illegal immigrants hurt Pennsylvania's economy by sending money out of the United States and back to their country of origin. This fee would ensure some of that money is used to provide property tax relief rather than going to support the economy of a foreign nation.

The bill would impose a 10% fee on international remittances conducted by illegal immigrants who send money overseas through a money transfer licensee or agent.

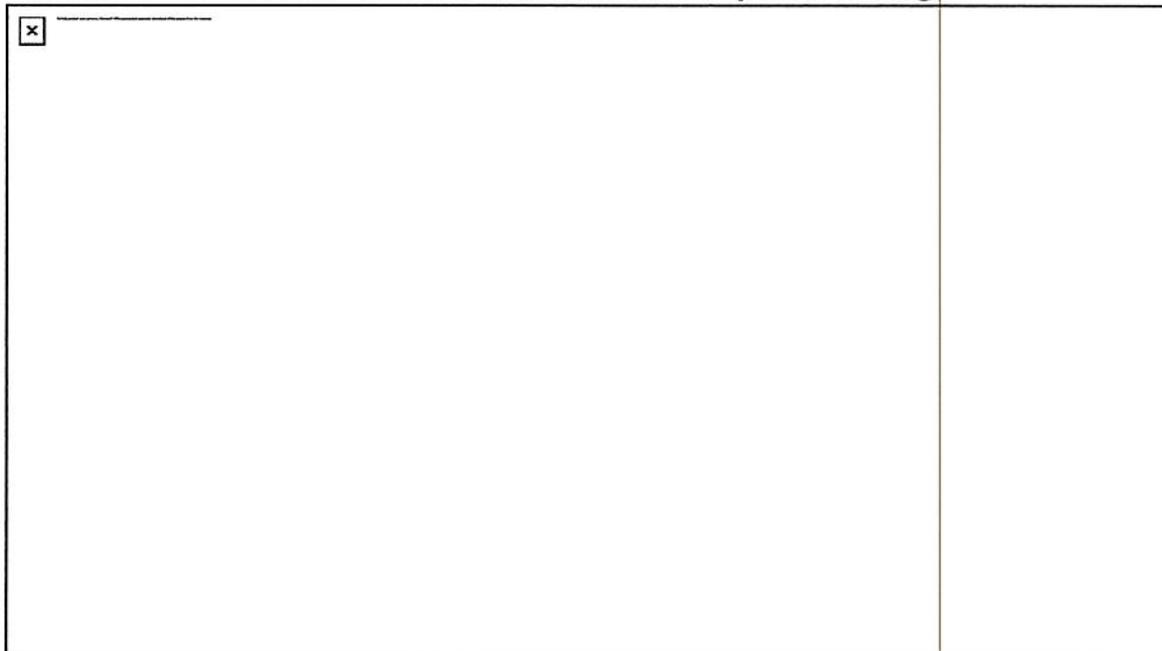
Revenue generated through the new fee would be used to supplement the state Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, which provides rebates of up to \$1,000 to eligible older adults and people with disabilities age 18 and older.

International remittances are money sent electronically out of the Pennsylvania economy and into the economies of international destinations. Illegal immigrants use remittances to send money to relatives and friends in their countries of origin. More than \$70 billion is transferred annually from the United States to other nations.

The bill is based on a similar concept enacted in Oklahoma in 2014. That law includes a 1% remittance fee. The most recent tax report shows the fee generated more than \$15 million for Oklahoma.

[Learn more about our proposal by reading the rest of this article on my website.](#)

Senate Continues Detailed Review of Shapiro’s Budget



Officials struggled to answer questions about Gov. Josh Shapiro’s broad higher education concepts and wide discrepancies in K-12 education funding during the **Department of Education** hearing with the Senate Appropriations Committee this week. He proposes increasing Basic Education spending by nearly \$1.1 billion in his 2024-25 spending plan, but his proposed budget shows no increases in Basic Education funding after this year – raising

concerns that the administration cannot pay for the billions of dollars in promised new education spending without raising taxes.

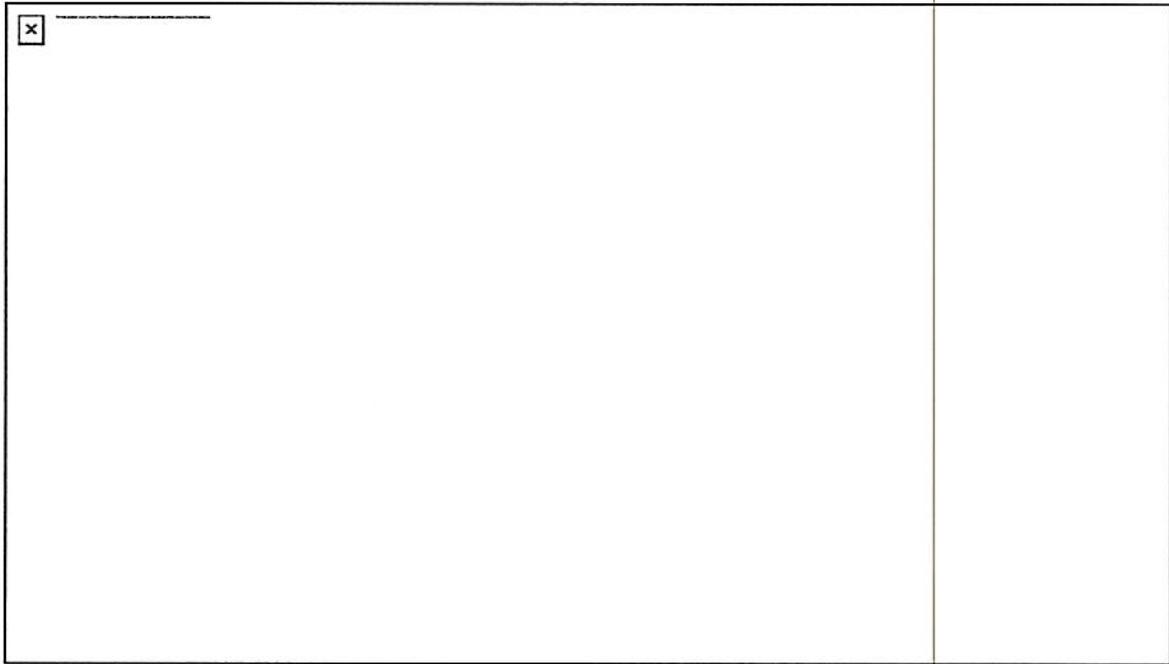
The hearing was one of a series held by the committee to analyze the governor's proposed \$48.3 billion 2024-25 state budget. His plan would boost state spending by more than \$3.3 billion above the current year's budget. It requires thoughtful consideration so tax dollars are spent wisely without eliminating the state's Rainy Day Fund in five years as projections indicate would happen with Shapiro's budget.

At the **Department of Agriculture** budget hearing, discussion included state efforts to combat avian influenza, farming education initiatives and the performance of tax credit programs for PA farmers. Concerns were also raised about Gov. Shapiro's plan to legalize adult-use marijuana.

At the hearing for the **Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC)**, members discussed how to make the most efficient use of existing resources as both agencies have considerable reserves and the PGC's budget increased from approximately \$130 million in 2019-20 to approximately \$350 million in 2024-25.

Thursday's hearings include the Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. Find the hearings schedule, livestreams of budget hearings, daily recaps and video from prior hearings at PASenateGOP.com.

Scholarship Grants Available for EMS Professionals

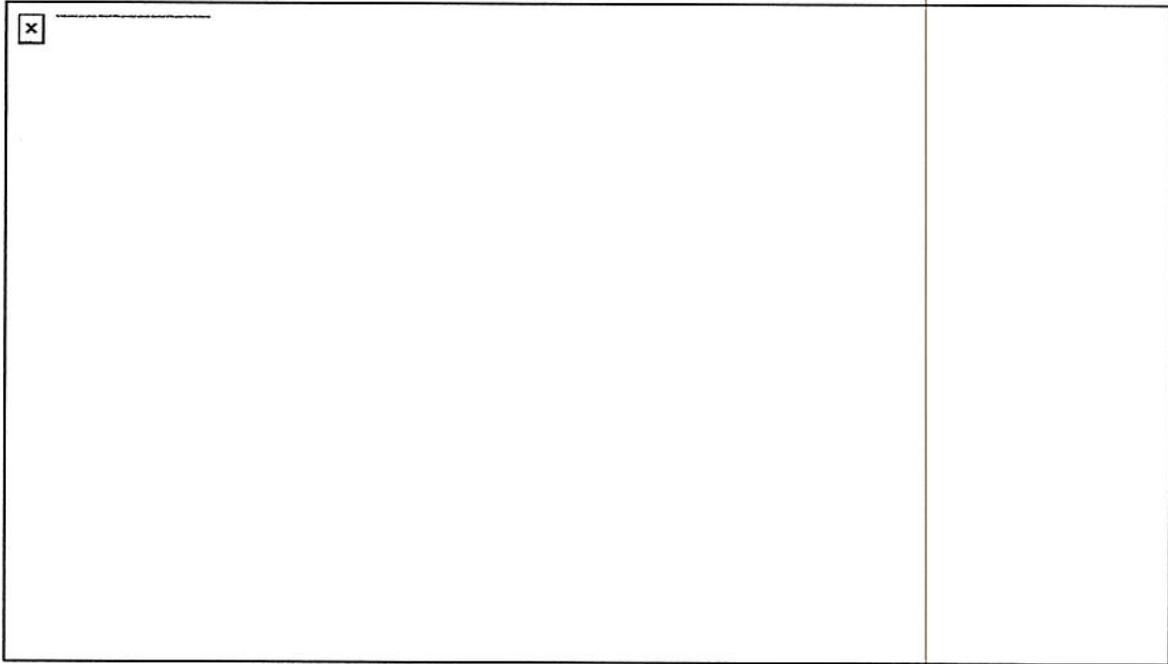


To recruit and retain emergency medical services (EMS) professionals, a tuition assistance program offers up to \$5,000 for reimbursement of EMS state certification training for permanent Pennsylvania residents.

Up to \$300 is available for emergency medical responders, up to \$800 for emergency medical technicians, up to \$1,000 for advanced emergency medical technicians and up to \$5,000 for paramedics.

Pennsylvania-licensed EMS agencies are eligible to receive up to \$1,250 of recruitment and retention expenses per fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). Reimbursement will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted. [Learn more.](#)

Find Lost Life Insurance Policies and Annuity Contracts

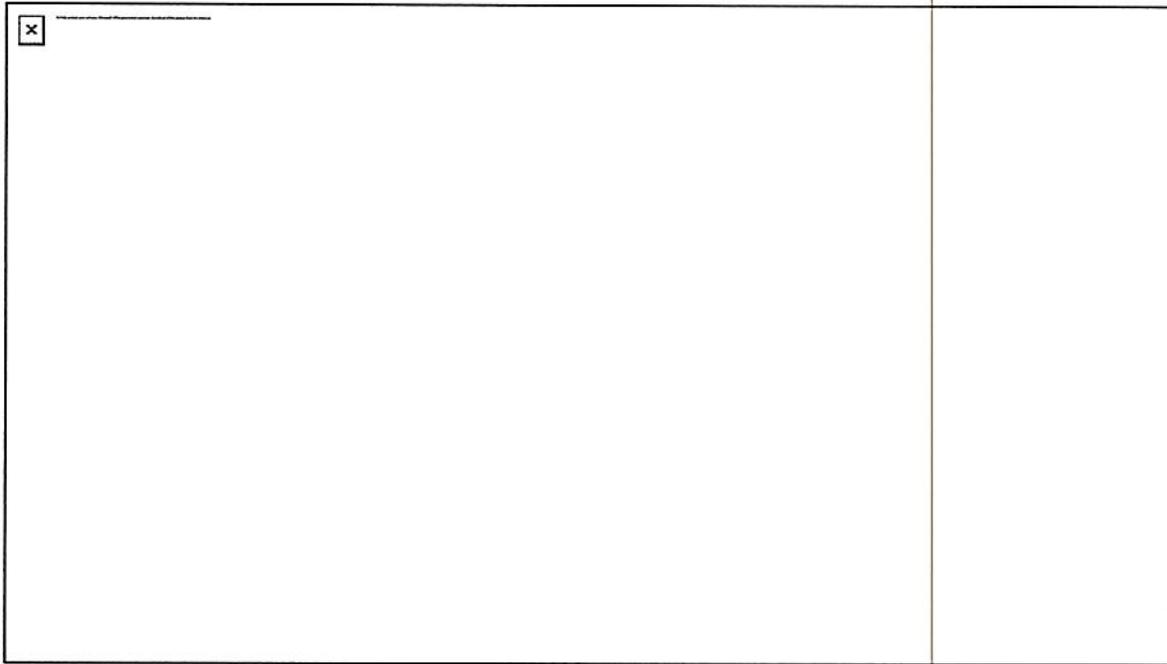


Individuals who believe they are beneficiaries, executors or legal representatives of a family member or friend can locate lost life insurance policies and annuity contracts through the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

When a request is received, the NAIC will give participating companies that have policy information access to respond to you as the designated beneficiary or if you are authorized to receive information. It will also allow participating companies to search their records to determine whether they have a life insurance policy or annuity contract in the name of the deceased person.

Access NAIC's [life insurance policy locator](#).

Supporting Agriculture, PA's Top Industry

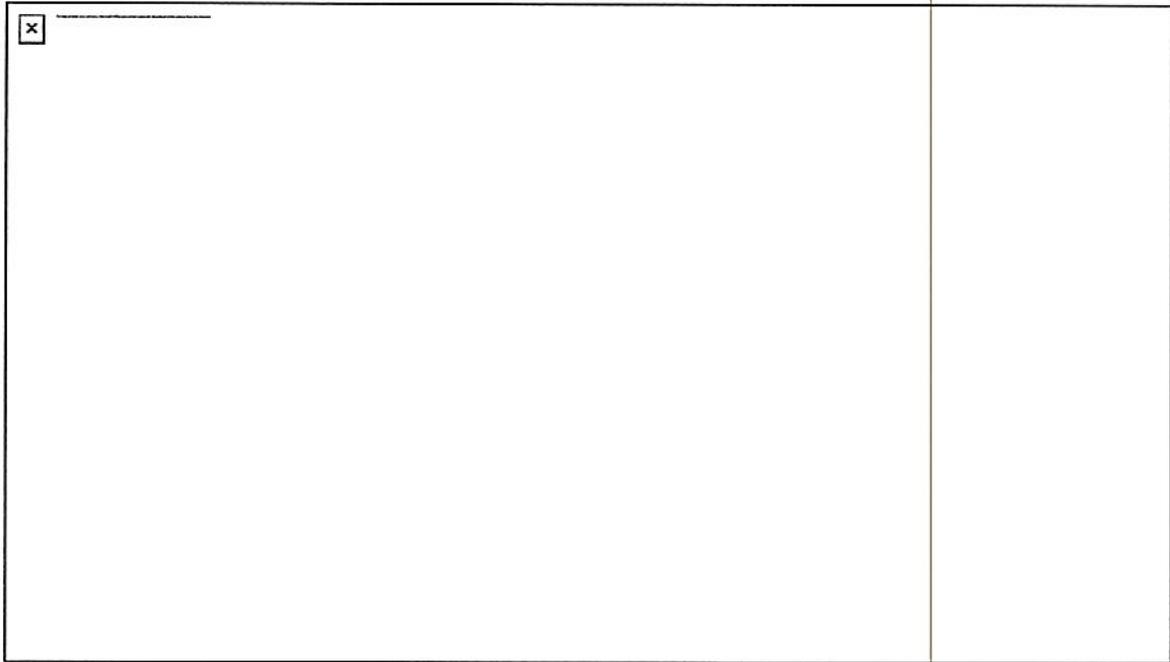


To bolster agriculture – the state’s top industry – \$500,000 in grants is available to help Pennsylvania farms pursue growth opportunities. Funding will be used to benefit economic development, job creation and innovation.

The Farm Vitality Planning Grant Program will help fund professional services for those planning for the future of a farm. The program is designed to enhance the long-term vitality of Pennsylvania’s farms through sound business planning, efficient transitions of farm ownership, strategic farm expansion, diversification of agricultural production and building a team of financial and technical experts as a resource for the state’s farmers.

The maximum grant amount is \$7,500 and is limited to 75% of project costs. [Learn more](#) about guidelines and how to apply.

Celebrating “The Star-Spangled Banner”



Sunday, March 3, is National Anthem Day. “The Star-Spangled Banner” shares a message of endurance and perseverance. Francis Scott Key originally wrote his poem during a naval attack on Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. That battle was nearly lost.

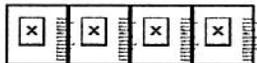
It wasn’t until March 3, 1931, that President Herbert Hoover signed a law officially making the “The Star-Spangled Banner” our country’s national anthem.

Rather than commemorating victory, our national anthem highlights our ability to withstand attack. Today, we continue to raise our flag and refuse to be defeated.



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Cc: Grieco, Alyssa
Subject: FW: Senator Mastriano E-Newsletter 3/8/24

Good morning Treasurer,

Forwarding over Senator Mastriano's newsletter as an FYI. - Char

From: Senator Doug Mastriano <dmastriano@pasen.gov>
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To: Treasurer Garrity
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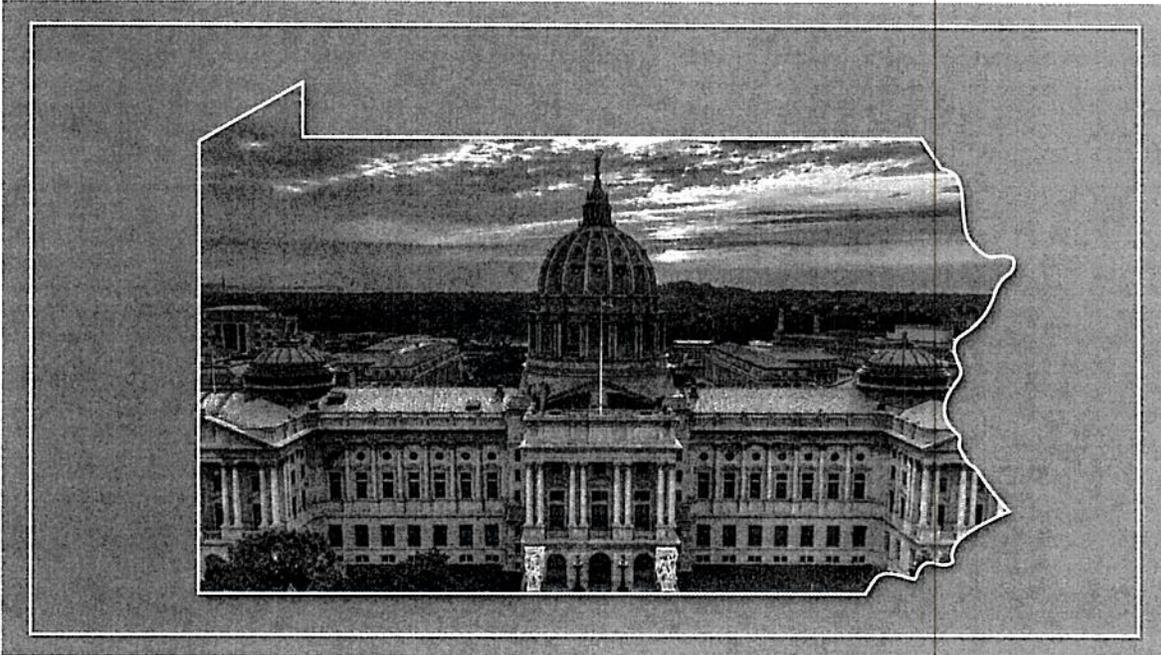


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In this Update:

- **Senate Defends Use of Taxpayer Dollars with Careful Budget Review**
- **Help Available to Fight Drug and Alcohol Abuse**
- **2024 Adult Trout Stocking Schedule Available**
- **Cybersecurity Resources for Local Governments**
- **Daylight Saving Time Begins This Weekend**

Senate Defends Use of Taxpayer Dollars with Careful Budget Review



The Senate Appropriations Committee continues its review of Gov. Josh Shapiro's budget proposal, which totals more than \$48.3 billion. His plan would increase state spending by more than \$3.2 billion, or about 7.1% above the current year's budget. Projections indicate it will be all but impossible to balance budgets in the next five years without deep spending cuts and massive tax increases.

The **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)** hearing focused on what the administration is doing to ensure the commonwealth's power grid can handle increased demand for electricity. Members also had questions about why the current year's budget for DEP included funding for 15 new positions specifically to reduce permitting delays but serious waits – a year and a half and longer – still exist.

At the **Department of Human Services** budget hearing, the committee sought an explanation about the Shapiro administration's plans to spend billions of new taxpayer dollars to expand Medicaid to cover services that do not pertain to physical or behavioral health. Examples include moving expenses and household items like pots and pans, furniture and air conditioning units for eligible recipients, including recently released prison inmates.

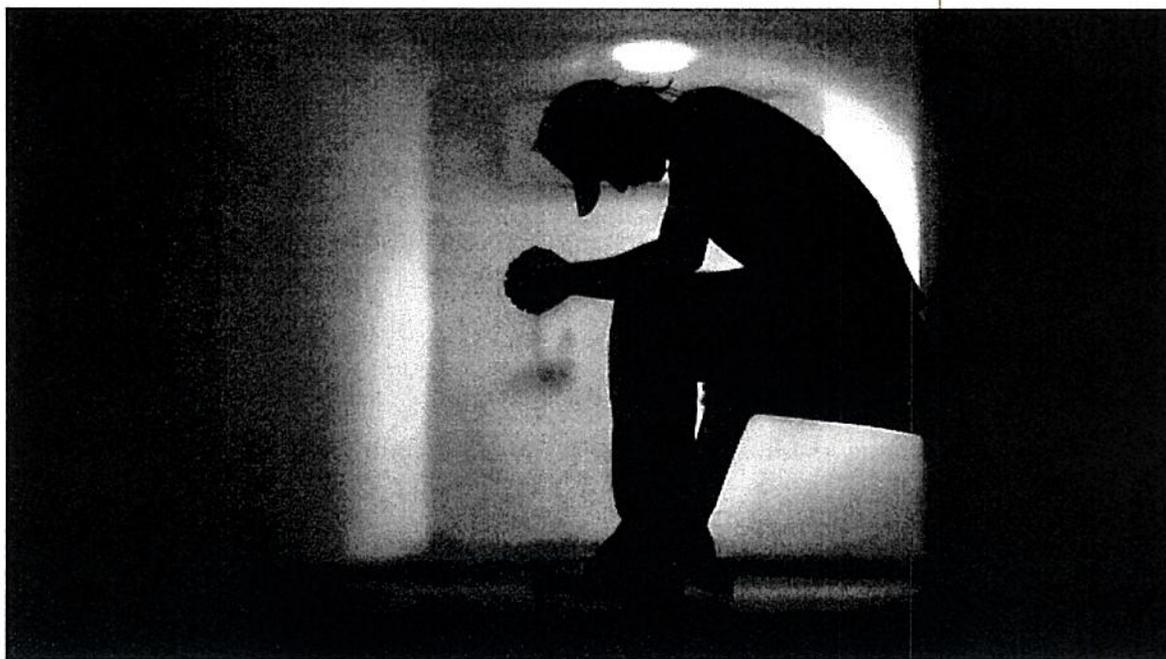
The **Department of Transportation** hearing covered ongoing concerns about the sustainability of the Motor License Fund and commonwealth transportation funding.

Replacing funds lost to electric vehicle use remains a challenge as the phasing-out of State Police from the Motor License Fund continues. The committee received a status update for the replacement of the six interstate bridges that were included a replacement program opposed by Senate Republicans.

At the **Department of State** budget hearing, the committee asked about the department's requested \$5.2 million increase for "Voter Registration and Education" activities throughout the commonwealth. Committee members sought assurances that the outreach would occur in rural areas as well as urban and suburban.

Thursday's hearings include the Department of Health and the Governor's Budget Office/Department of Revenue. Find the hearings schedule, livestreams of budget hearings, daily recaps and video from prior hearings at PASenateGOP.com.

Help Available to Fight Drug and Alcohol Abuse



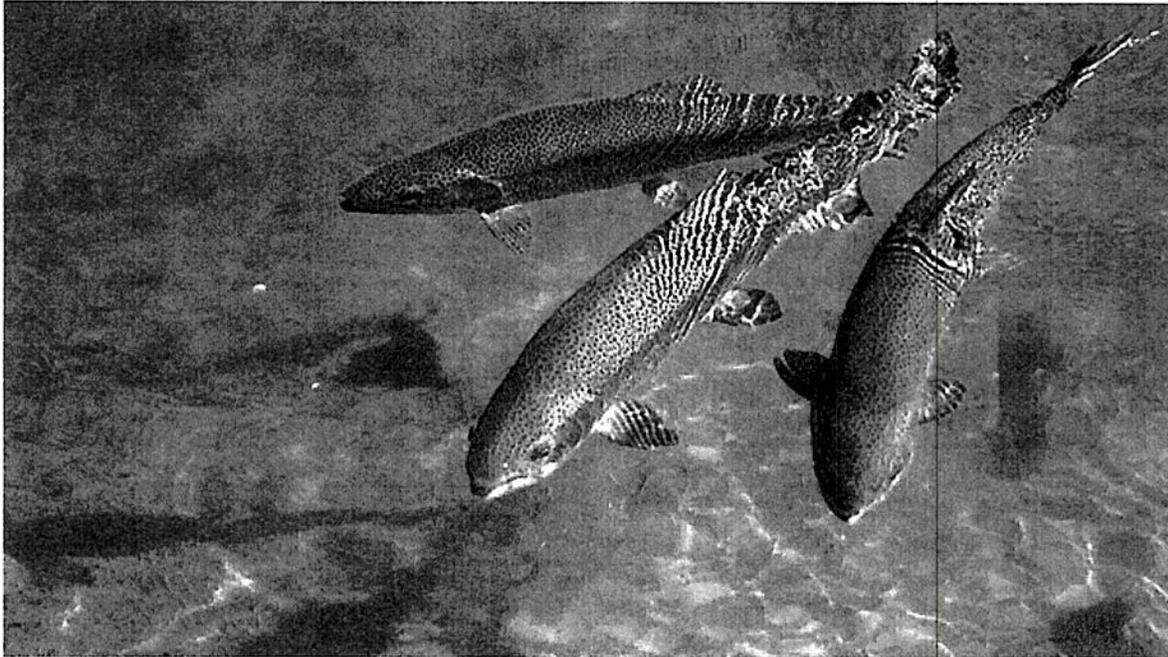
State assistance is available for nonprofit organizations, government entities, community groups and parent groups that work to prevent the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse from harming Pennsylvanians.

Funding can be used to reduce the demand for, or provide an alternative to, drug and alcohol abuse and the violence and other consequences these substances can cause. It can

also be used to prevent drug and alcohol abuse and associated problems through educational programming.

Apply for the grant of up to \$2,000 through the Office of Attorney General Community Drug Abuse Prevention Grant Program.

2024 Adult Trout Stocking Schedule Available

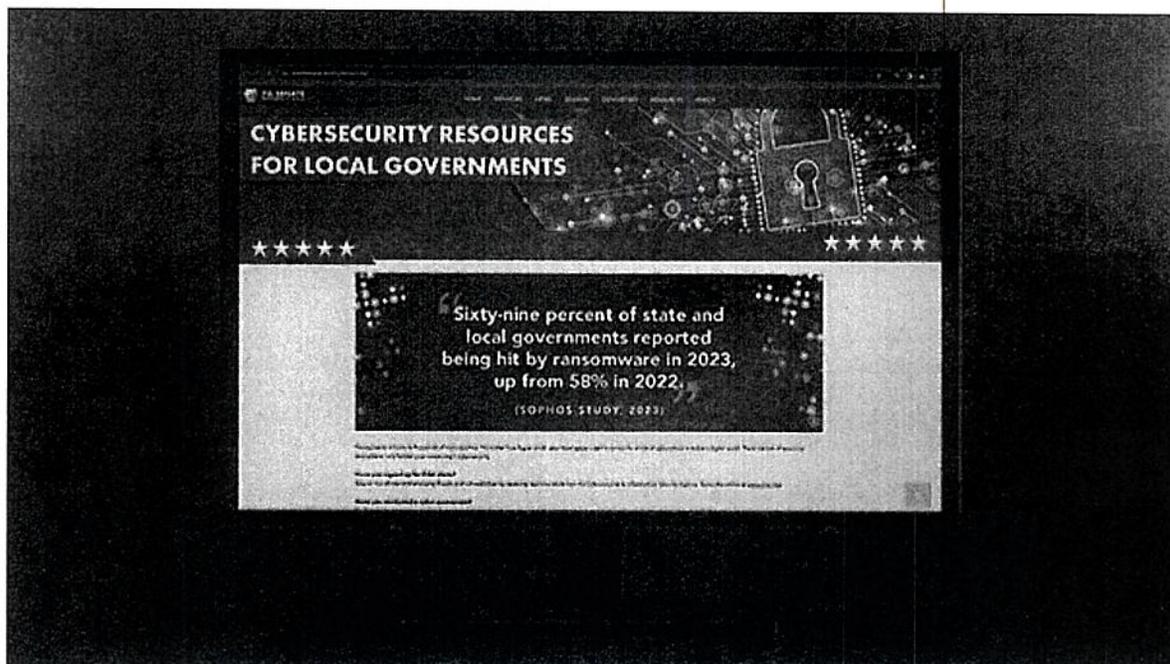


The 2024 adult trout stocking schedule is now available. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will stock approximately 3.2 million adult trout in 695 streams and 128 lakes open to public angling. An additional 1.2 million trout will be stocked by cooperative nurseries.

The trout stocking schedule is searchable by county, lists the waterways in alphabetical order, and indicates stocking dates, meeting locations for volunteers, and the species of trout that are planned to be stocked at each location. Pennsylvania's statewide Opening Day of Trout Season is April 6. A single, statewide Mentored Youth Trout Day will take place March 30.

Trout to be stocked will include approximately 2.3 million Rainbow Trout, 702,000 Brown Trout, 132,000 Brook Trout and 14,000 Golden Rainbow Trout. As with past practice, the average size of the trout produced for stocking is 11 inches in length.

Cybersecurity Resources for Local Governments



Despite the perception that local governments are too small to be the target of bad actors online, Pennsylvania’s thousands of municipalities are at risk of cyberattack. In fact, 69% of state and local governments reported being hit in 2023 by ransomware – malicious software designed to block access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid.

To combat these attacks that often come with costly consequences, local governments should conduct a cyber assessment and make sure municipal employees understand the importance of using strong passwords and spotting suspicious emails. The initiative grew out of a January hearing held by the Senate Communications and Technology Committee and the Senate Local Government Committee focusing on cybersecurity threats faced by local governments and municipal authorities.

Funding opportunities exist to support cybersecurity efforts through the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, which administers a program that distributes federal funding. Local governments can learn more at the new Senate Republican Cybersecurity Resources for Local Governments webpage.

Daylight Saving Time Begins This Weekend



Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday, March 10, at 2 a.m. While cell phone and computer clocks usually change automatically, most people move their standard clocks and appliances ahead one hour on Saturday night.

It's also a good time to check smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. If the devices are older than 10 years, experts suggest upgrading to 10-year, sealed battery alarms. They don't require any battery replacement throughout their lifetime. However, it's still a good idea to press the test button on the alarms at least once every month.



For anyone who hasn't already signed up to receive e-newsletters, you can get on the e-newsletter mailing list [here](#).

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Langan, Jennifer

From: Treasurer Garrity
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 8:31 AM
To: Garrity, Stacy
Cc: Grieco, Alyssa
Subject: FW: Senator Mastriano Newsletter 3/15/24

Treasurer –

Forwarding over Senator Mastriano’s newsletter. - Char

From: Senator Doug Mastriano <dmastriano@pasen.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 3:30 PM
To: Treasurer Garrity
Subject: Senator Mastriano Newsletter 3/15/24

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In this Update:

- **The Importance of Holocaust Education and Support of Israel**
- **Fairfield Fire & EMS Appreciation & Awards Banquet**
- **York Springs Fire Co No 1 Appreciation & Awards Banquet**
- **Senate Finishes Review of Shapiro’s Budget Proposal**
- **PennDOT Shares Roadwork Info with Motorists**
- **Protect Your Family from Dangerous Radon**
- **Help is Available for Problem Gambling**

- Happy St. Patrick's Day!

The Importance of Holocaust Education and Support of Israel



Monday, March 11th I held a press conference in the Main Rotunda, of the State Capitol regarding my legislation, SB1100, *Holocaust Education in Schools*. I was joined by the following:

Representative Stephanie Borowicz, 76th District

Alexandra Levine, world-renowned opera singer and advocate for holocaust education

Rabbi Joseph Kolakowski, Koblentzer Rebbe

Rhonda Fink-Whitman, award-winning screenwriter and Holocaust education advocate

Allan Silverberg, Committee Chair, Holocaust Remembrance Education Program

Keynote Speaker: Sami Steigmann, Holocaust survivor

For more information on SB1100, please read the memoranda at, [Holocaust Education in Schools](#).

Please enjoy these short clips of the press conference.

[3/11/24-Mastriano-Holocaust Remembrance 3 \(vimeo.com\)](#)

[3/11/24-Mastriano-Holocaust Remembrance 4 \(vimeo.com\)](#)

[3/11/24-Fink-Whitman-Holocaust Remembrance \(vimeo.com\)](#)

[3/11/24-Kolakowski-Holocaust Remembrance \(vimeo.com\)](#)

[3/11/24-Levine-Holocaust Remembrance \(vimeo.com\)](#)

[3/11/24-Borowitz-Holocaust Remembrance \(vimeo.com\)](#)

[3/11/24-Silverberg-Holocaust Remembrance \(vimeo.com\)](#)

[3/11/24-Steigmann-Holocaust Remembrance 1 \(vimeo.com\)](#)

[3/11/24-Steigmann-Holocaust Remembrance 2 \(vimeo.com\)](#)

Fairfield Fire & EMS Appreciation & Awards Banquet



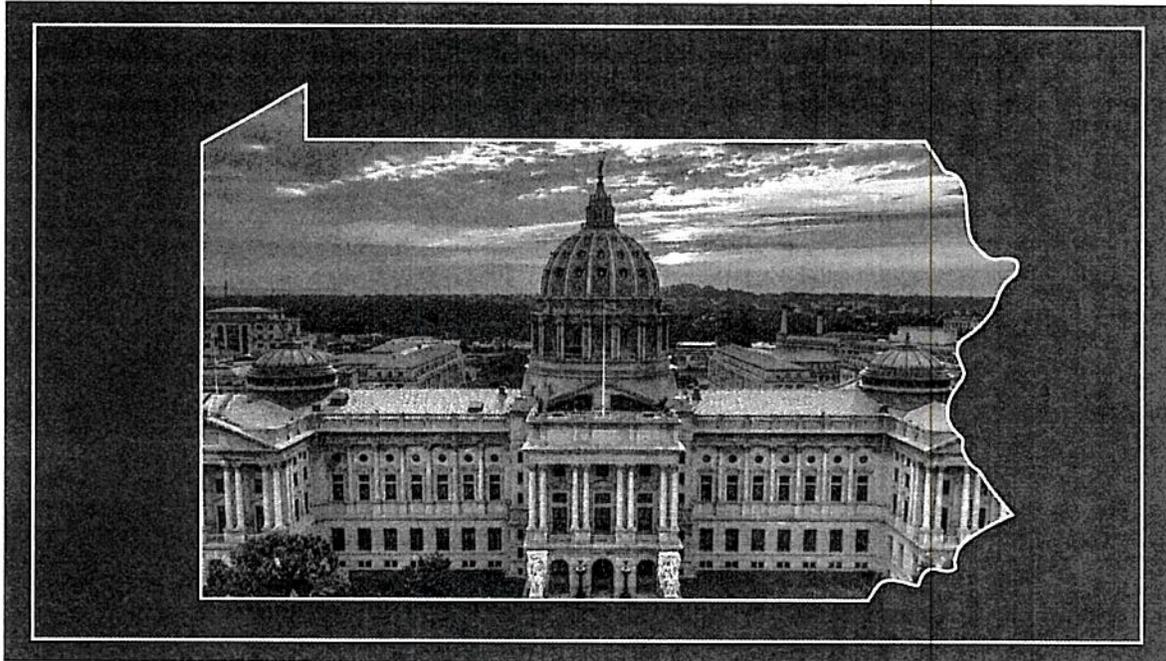
Saturday evening I was honored to attend the Fairfield Fire & EMS Award Banquet & Celebration. Thank you for servicing our community! All respect to these heroes.

York Springs Fire Co No 1 Appreciation & Awards Banquet



Saturday evening I was in Adams county at the York Springs Fire Co No 1 Appreciation & Awards Banquet. It was an honor celebrating with firefighters and their families. My respect to these heroes!

Senate Finishes Review of Shapiro's Budget Proposal



The Senate Appropriations Committee finished the last of its review of Gov. Josh Shapiro's budget proposal, which totals more than \$48.3 billion and would increase state spending by 7.1% above the current year's budget. The governor's proposal would completely drain the state's savings and relies on income and spending estimates that are unrealistic.

The **Department of Revenue and Governor's Budget Office** hearing focused on the report issued by the non-partisan Independent Fiscal Office that indicates a \$24 billion gap between Shapiro's spending plans and the revenue the state expects to collect in the next five years. These projections show it will be all but impossible to balance budgets in the next five years without deep spending cuts and massive tax increases.

At the **Department of Health** hearing, the committee questioned why – as with other departments – the budget shows level funding over five years, which denies legislators the information to accurately assess the ultimate impact on taxpayers. Shapiro proposed spending \$4 million to pay the medical debt of certain Pennsylvanians, and members asked for details about how the money will be distributed and if the program will necessitate additional staffing.

Having completed the official review of Shapiro's budget proposal, the Senate will use its findings from the hearings to craft its own spending plan, with the goal of enacting a final 2024-25 state budget. Find video and recaps of every budget hearing at PASenateGOP.com.

PennDOT Shares Roadwork Info with Motorists



As the weather improves, there will be more roadwork. To inform motorists about construction projects that are underway, beginning this year or being bid, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation offers an [informational portal](#).

It has a mapping application for highway and bridge projects that allows users to obtain information about roadwork projects.

For travel information, visit www.511pa.com or call 5-1-1. 511PA is Pennsylvania's official travel information service, which provides travelers with reliable, current traffic and weather information, as well as links to other transportation services.

Protect Your Family from Dangerous Radon



Radon is an odorless, invisible, radioactive gas that can enter your home from the ground through cracks in the foundation. It increases cancer risks and is the second leading cause of lung cancer.

Pennsylvania has one of the most serious radon problems in the country. Approximately 40% of Pennsylvania homes have radon levels above the Environmental Protection Agency's action guideline.

Find information how to test your home's radon level and find certified radon mitigation contractors [here](#).

Help is Available for Problem Gambling



Problem Gambling Awareness Month, observed in March, promotes prevention, treatment and recovery services.

Sadly, hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians experience gambling-related problems, including family, financial, legal and emotional issues. Gambling problems can be mild or very serious, and can worsen with time.

Individuals seeking treatment for compulsive or problem gambling can call Pennsylvania's helpline at 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537) to connect with local help. People can also text 1-800-522-4700 or [live chat](#).

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Saint Patrick, who lived in the fifth century, is the patron saint of Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to the country.

Even though the Irish have observed St. Patrick's Day as a religious holiday for more than 1,000 years, the first St. Patrick's Day parade actually took place in America. Records show the first parade was held on March 17, 1601, in a Spanish colony in what is now St. Augustine, Fla.

"May your troubles be less and your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door." – Irish blessing



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Langan, Jennifer

From: Treasurer Garrity
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 3:58 PM
To: Garrity, Stacy
Cc: Grieco, Alyssa
Subject: FW: Senator Mastriano E-Newsletter 4/12/24

Treasurer,

Forwarding over Senator Mastriano's newsletter as an FYI. – Char

From: Senator Doug Mastriano <dmastriano@pasen.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 3:45 PM
To: Treasurer Garrity
Subject: Senator Mastriano E-Newsletter 4/12/24

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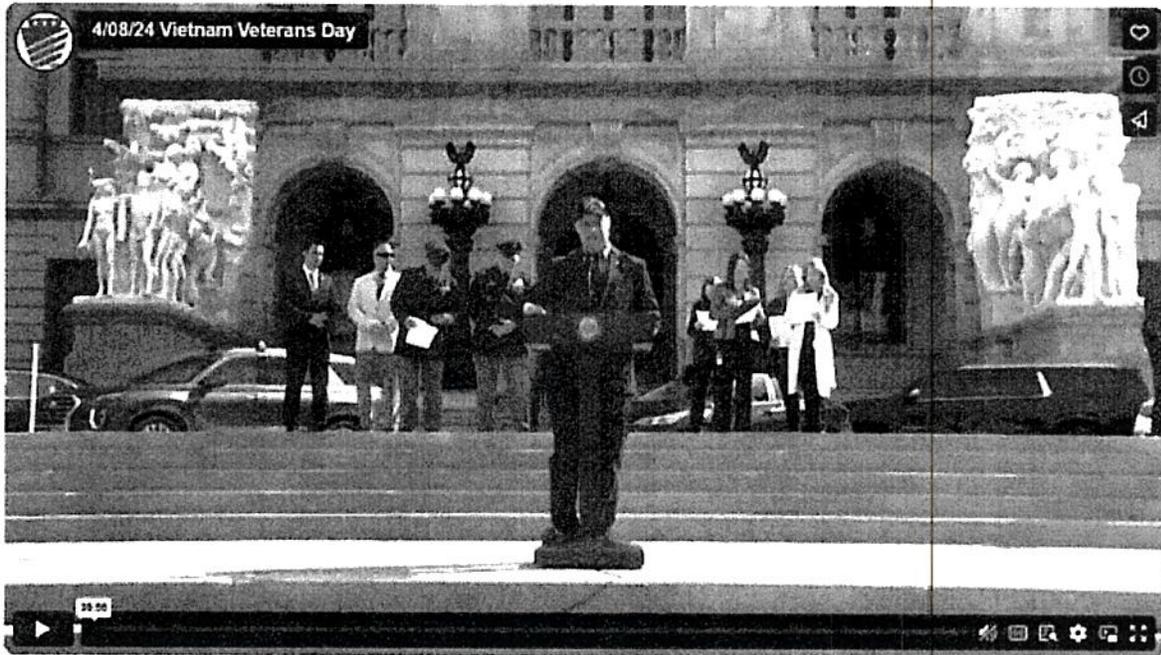
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- Senate Approves Bill Prioritizing Community Safety

- Beware of E-ZPass Scam
- Increasing Student Safety, Eliminating Vehicle Owner Fee
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Vietnam Veterans Day Service



Mastriano Introduces Bill to Divest PA from Chinese Communist Party; Treasurer Garrity Announces Support for Divestment Plan



In an effort to combat the influx of fentanyl into Pennsylvania communities and take a stand against moral transgressions, state Sen. Doug Mastriano (R-33) today introduced a bill to divest all commonwealth holdings in companies controlled by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Pennsylvania State Treasurer Stacy Garrity also announced support for the plan to divest all holdings in Chinese companies.

“Due to serious concerns about geopolitical risk involving China, as well as the country’s record of serious human rights abuses, I directed my investment team to divest all of Treasury’s holdings in China in the first half of 2022,” Garrity said. “I believe it would be smart to do the same across all Commonwealth funds, and I applaud Senator Mastriano for introducing this legislation.”

“The CCP has used force and aggression to commit genocide against Uyghur Muslims, methodically erode self-rule in Hong Kong, weaken democracy in Taiwan, and abuse basic human rights in Tibet. Here in Pennsylvania, much of the fentanyl that has killed tens of thousands of our citizens is manufactured in China. The CCP knows this and has refused to take measures to stop its production and export. It is far past time to take a moral stand and separate our state funds from companies controlled by the CCP.”

Senate Bill 1141 bill would require the state treasurer and the commonwealth’s two largest public pension systems – the State Employees’ Retirement System (SERS) and Public School

Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) – to gradually divest from holdings in companies controlled by the CCP.

“We want our two public pension systems – SERS and PSERS – to enhance their earnings, but not by investing in companies that benefit a regime that routinely commits human rights violations,” Mastriano said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and his government are accused of committing wide-ranging atrocities and human rights violations. The regime’s widespread and systematic persecution of the Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities on religious, cultural and ethnic grounds, combined with other violations based on gender, constitute crimes against humanity. The United Nations in August 2023 released a report assessing human rights concerns in China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

According to the DEA, much of the fentanyl that has killed Pennsylvanians in the ongoing opioid epidemic was manufactured in China.

This bill has been introduced and sent to the Senate Finance Committee for consideration.

Senate Approves Mastriano Bill to Increase Number of Firefighters in PA



The state Senate Monday approved my bill, SB1101, aimed at increasing the number of volunteer firefighters in Pennsylvania by reforming the certification process.

“The bill would make it easier for firefighters to earn their certification while maintaining the high standards and requirements of the certification process,” said Mastriano, who serves as chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee. “We can increase the number of volunteer firefighters by reforming the certification process without jeopardizing quality or safety.”

Pennsylvania in the 1970s had as many as 300,000 volunteer firefighters. There currently are fewer than 38,000 volunteer firefighters in the commonwealth.

Current firefighter applicants must complete four training modules totaling 188 hours. They then must pass a cumulative test covering all four modules.

Senate Bill 1101 would reform the certification process by enabling applicants to be tested following each of the four modules.

“If we want the same highly trained and qualified volunteer firefighters and we want more of them in our communities, my bill is a way to accomplish that,” Mastriano said. “If Pennsylvania is going to reverse the trend of declining numbers of volunteer firefighters, we

need to reform the certification process. Many communities need more volunteer firefighters and this is a step to make that possible.”

My bill now heads to the state House of Representatives for consideration.

To view my floor remarks, please click here. [4/8/24 Firefighter One on Vimeo](#)

Senate Committee Approves Mastriano Bill to Help Veterans’ Families Access Burial Benefits



The state Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee Tuesday at a meeting approved three measures, including one bill to alert the family members of deceased veterans about federal burial benefits.

“Our veterans took care of us and our country while they were alive, so we want to take care of their families when they pass away,” Mastriano said.

The committee approved my bill, Senate Bill 1139, which would require funeral directors, funeral parlors or cemetery companies to notify the director of the county veterans assistance office when a veteran living in the county dies. They also would have to provide the deceased veteran’s family with contact information for the county director. The goal is to ensure veterans’ family members become aware of federal Department of Veterans Affairs burial benefits.

“Our veterans earned their burial benefits by serving our nation,” Mastriano said. “Burial benefits are one of the final ways our nation can show appreciation to our veterans. Fostering communication between surviving family members, funeral directors and county directors of veterans affairs offices will ensure the family gains access to the veteran’s records and the veteran receives a proper farewell.”

The committee also approved Senate Bill 973, which is modeled after the federal Korean American Vietnam Allies Long Overdue Relief (VALOR) Act. The bill would create the Pennsylvania Korean VALOR Act and grant the same rights, benefits and privileges of United States military veterans to any Pennsylvania resident who is both a Vietnam War veteran of the Korean armed forces and a naturalized citizen of the United States.

There are more than 3,000 naturalized Korean American citizens who served in the Vietnam War as part of the Korean armed forces. Hundreds of these veterans, who fought alongside U.S. military forces, reside in Pennsylvania.

“The president signed into law the Korean American VALOR Act in 2023,” Mastriano said. “This federal law – and the state equivalent we are advancing – offers long-overdue benefits to allies who fought alongside American veterans.”

The third measure approved by the committee – Senate Resolution 263 – was introduced by Mastriano and would signal the Senate’s support and encouragement for the Pennsylvania National Guard to enter a partner agreement with Sweden through the U.S. State Partnership Program.

“The National Guard Bureau is looking for a state national guard to partner with Sweden through the U.S. State Partnership Program, and I believe the Pennsylvania National Guard should pursue this opportunity,” Mastriano said. “Pennsylvania National Guard has enjoyed a successful relationship with Lithuania for more than three decades. The partnership with Sweden could strengthen our Pennsylvania National Guard by enabling members to train in unique environments and scenarios while fostering mutual growth and security.”

To view my remarks on SB263, please click here. [4/10/24 – Remarks on Senate Resolution 263 on Vimeo](#)

All three bills now head to the full Senate for consideration.

Bill Requiring Prosecutors to Notify ICE of Illegal Migrants Passes Senate

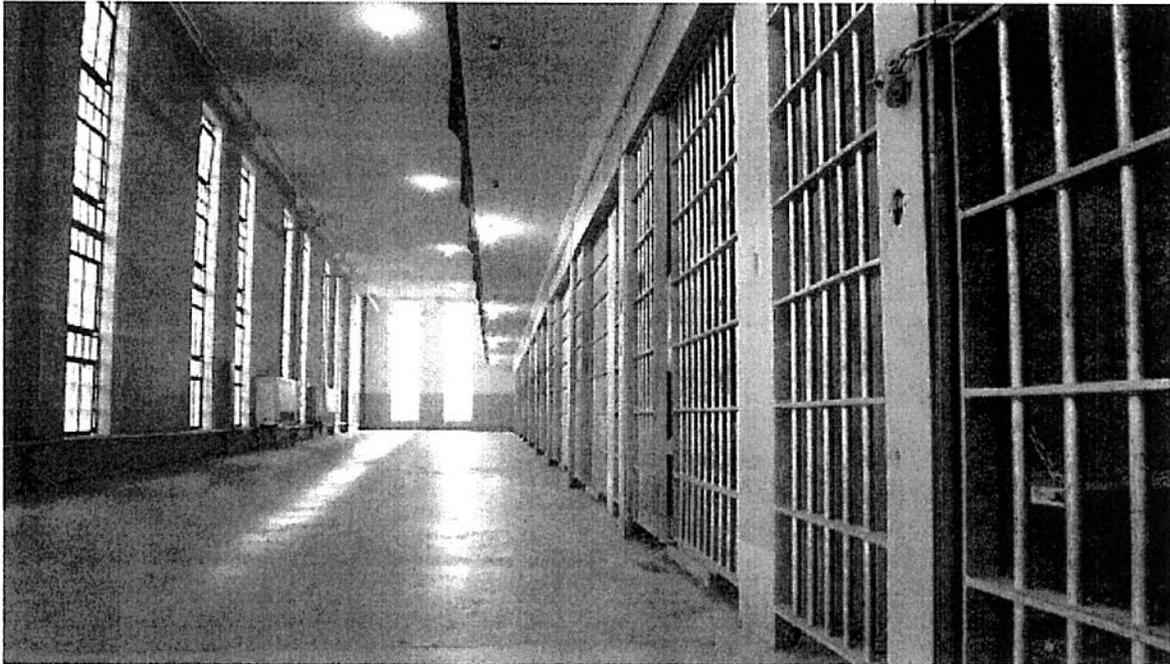


The Senate approved legislation that would require prosecutors across the state to notify U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) whenever illegal migrants are charged with violating state law. It now heads to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Currently in Pennsylvania, violations of state law by illegal migrants are not required to be reported to ICE, but [Senate Bill 1127](#) would ensure illegal migrants who violate our laws are held accountable. The change will better safeguard our communities and protect Pennsylvania's law-abiding citizens.

Earlier this year, two NYPD officers were assaulted in broad daylight by illegal migrants. Several of the offenders had been previously arrested but not reported to ICE and were released back on the streets. The shocking crime prompted New York City Mayor Eric Adams to call for ICE to be informed when illegal migrants have been charged with violations of state law.

Senate Approves Bill Prioritizing Community Safety



The Senate passed legislation this week to strengthen the bail determination process for dangerous individuals: repeat violent offenders, drug dealers trafficking fentanyl and those who assault law enforcement officers or evade arrest on foot.

Senate Bill 1120 would only allow cash bail to be used and ban release on own recognizance or unsecured bail from being issued to those who pose a threat to public safety while they await trial. The bill is part of the Senate Republican effort to improve community safety across Pennsylvania as an average of 14 Pennsylvanians die every day from a drug overdose. It now heads to the House of Representatives for consideration.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, fentanyl is 100 times more potent than morphine and approximately 50 times more potent than heroin. Two milligrams of fentanyl – the amount that fits on the tip of a pencil – is enough to kill an average person.

Beware of E-ZPass Scam



A new phishing scam is targeting E-ZPass account holders requesting information to settle outstanding toll amounts. The texts claim to be from “Pa Turnpike Toll Services” and center around urgent requests with your account that would result in a late fee if the balance does not get settled. Similar scams have been reported by toll agencies across the country in the past several days.

Customers who receive an unsolicited text, email or similar message suggesting it is from E-ZPass or another toll agency should not click the link. E-ZPass account holders can use approved safe methods to check their accounts such as the [PA Turnpike E-ZPass website](#) or the PA Toll Pay app available from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play store](#).

Those who receive a fraudulent text can file a complaint with the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov. The site is dedicated to sharing information on internet crimes across law enforcement agencies.

Increasing Student Safety, Eliminating Vehicle Owner Fee

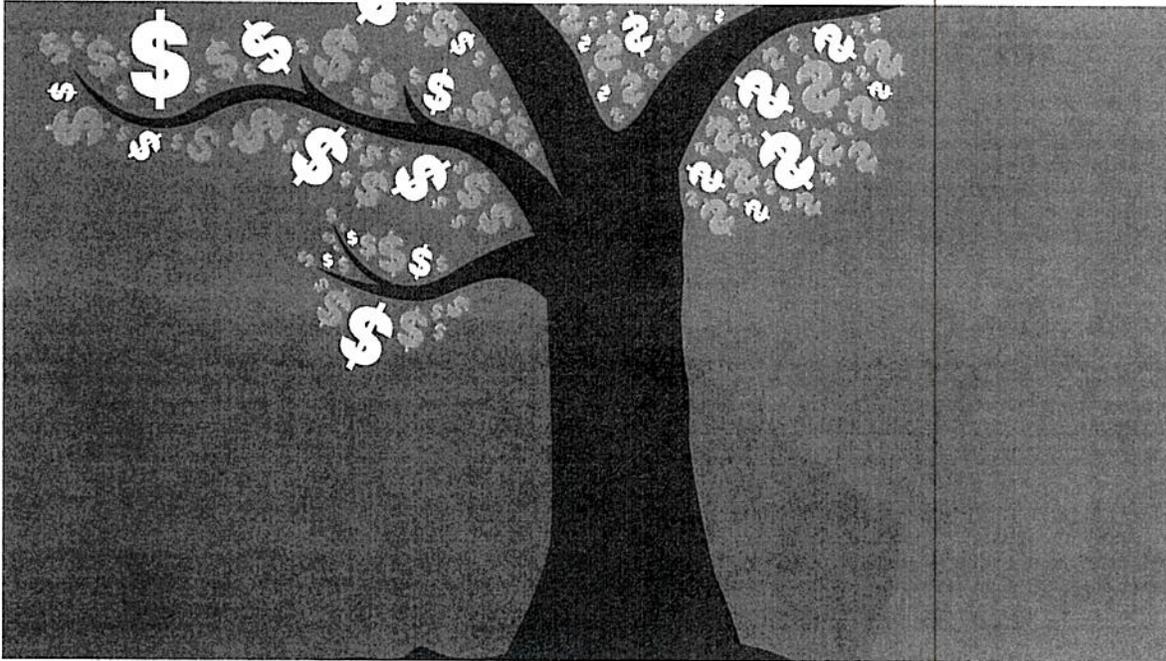


As a result of action taken by Senate Republicans, students will be safer on their journey to and from school. Because of legislation now in effect, school districts may install and operate automated camera systems on school buses to capture violations committed by motorists.

Violations identified by the camera system will be reviewed by police under agreement with the school district. After that review, the school district may issue a violation and a \$300 fine to the vehicle owner. These violations are civil penalties only and no points will be assessed to driver's licenses.

Vehicle owners may request a hearing before a PennDOT hearing office, at no cost to the vehicle owner, if they feel they are innocent. Before the passage of the legislation, the vehicle owner was responsible for paying applicable civil filing fees.

April is National Financial Literacy Month



In April, we recognize National Financial Literacy Month, a time to celebrate work being done to improve the knowledge that helps people achieve their money-focused goals.

Senate Republicans recognized that young adults face financial decisions that can come with long-term consequences and passed legislation to arm high school students with money management skills. The new law requires completion of a half-credit personal finance course to graduate high school.

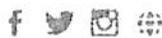
The course will give high school students the understanding they need about topics like credit and credit scores; savings and investments; college, home and auto loans; and planning for postsecondary education and retirement.

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Langan, Jennifer

From: Arneson, Erik
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 2:29 PM
To: Garrity, Stacy ;Allen, Hugh
Subject: FW: Senator Mastriano E-Newsletter 4/12/24

Sen. Mastriano's newsletter includes video from the Vietnam veterans event, and a nice mention in regard to his China divestment bill.

From: Senator Doug Mastriano <dmastriano@pasen.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 3:45 PM
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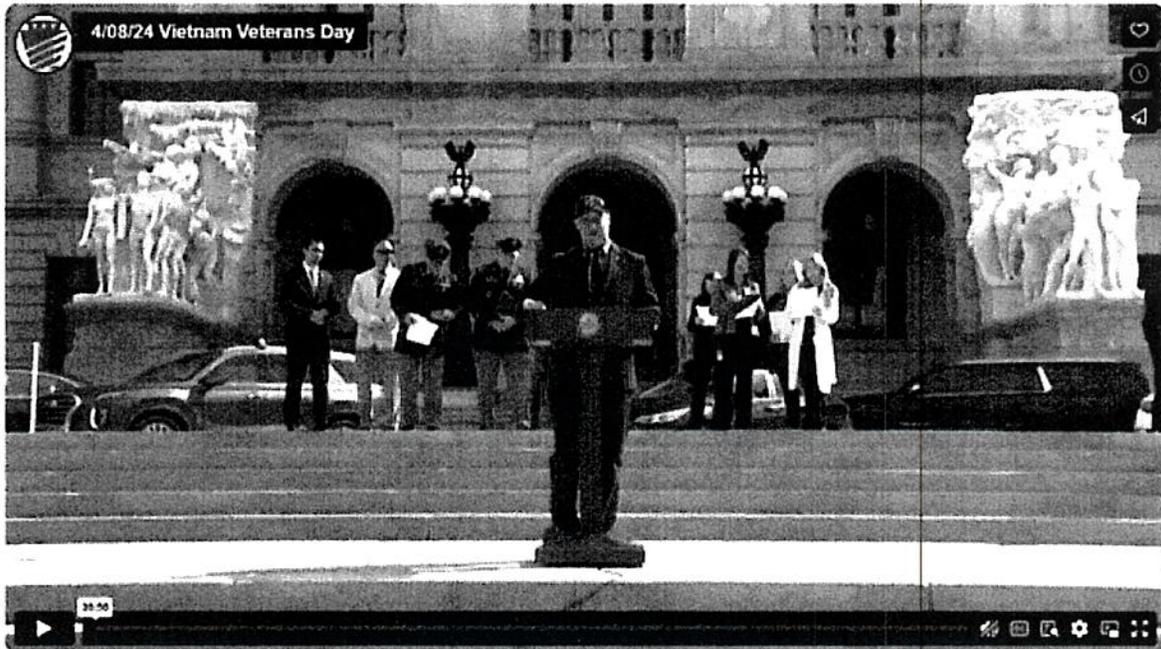
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Bill Requiring Prosecutors to Notify ICE of Illegal Migrants Passes Senate

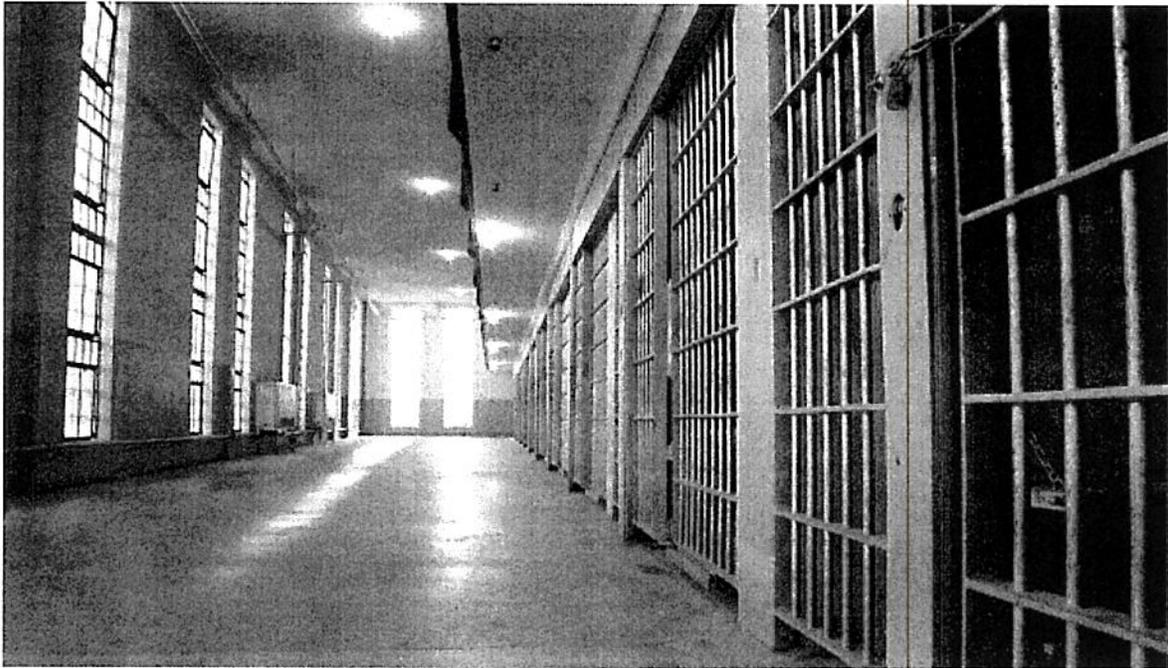


The Senate approved legislation that would require prosecutors across the state to notify U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) whenever illegal migrants are charged with violating state law. It now heads to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Currently in Pennsylvania, violations of state law by illegal migrants are not required to be reported to ICE, but [Senate Bill 1127](#) would ensure illegal migrants who violate our laws are held accountable. The change will better safeguard our communities and protect Pennsylvania's law-abiding citizens.

Earlier this year, two NYPD officers were assaulted in broad daylight by illegal migrants. Several of the offenders had been previously arrested but not reported to ICE and were released back on the streets. The shocking crime prompted New York City Mayor Eric Adams to call for ICE to be informed when illegal migrants have been charged with violations of state law.

Senate Approves Bill Prioritizing Community Safety



The Senate passed legislation this week to strengthen the bail determination process for dangerous individuals: repeat violent offenders, drug dealers trafficking fentanyl and those who assault law enforcement officers or evade arrest on foot.

Senate Bill 1120 would only allow cash bail to be used and ban release on own recognizance or unsecured bail from being issued to those who pose a threat to public safety while they await trial. The bill is part of the Senate Republican effort to improve community safety across Pennsylvania as an average of 14 Pennsylvanians die every day from a drug overdose. It now heads to the House of Representatives for consideration.

According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, fentanyl is 100 times more potent than morphine and approximately 50 times more potent than heroin. Two milligrams of fentanyl – the amount that fits on the tip of a pencil – is enough to kill an average person.

Beware of E-ZPass Scam



A new phishing scam is targeting E-ZPass account holders requesting information to settle outstanding toll amounts. The texts claim to be from “Pa Turnpike Toll Services” and center around urgent requests with your account that would result in a late fee if the balance does not get settled. Similar scams have been reported by toll agencies across the country in the past several days.

Customers who receive an unsolicited text, email or similar message suggesting it is from E-ZPass or another toll agency should not click the link. E-ZPass account holders can use approved safe methods to check their accounts such as the [PA Turnpike E-ZPass website](#) or the PA Toll Pay app available from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play store](#).

Those who receive a fraudulent text can file a complaint with the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov. The site is dedicated to sharing information on internet crimes across law enforcement agencies.

Increasing Student Safety, Eliminating Vehicle Owner Fee

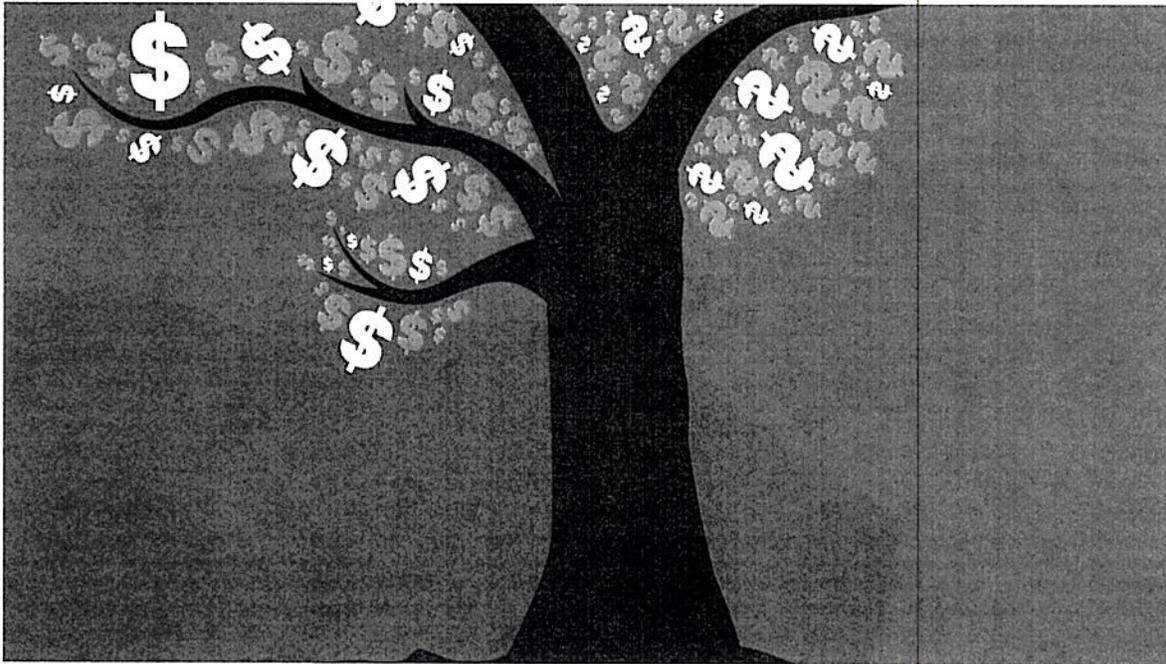


As a result of action taken by Senate Republicans, students will be safer on their journey to and from school. Because of legislation now in effect, school districts may install and operate automated camera systems on school buses to capture violations committed by motorists.

Violations identified by the camera system will be reviewed by police under agreement with the school district. After that review, the school district may issue a violation and a \$300 fine to the vehicle owner. These violations are civil penalties only and no points will be assessed to driver's licenses.

Vehicle owners may request a hearing before a PennDOT hearing office, at no cost to the vehicle owner, if they feel they are innocent. Before the passage of the legislation, the vehicle owner was responsible for paying applicable civil filing fees.

April is National Financial Literacy Month



In April, we recognize National Financial Literacy Month, a time to celebrate work being done to improve the knowledge that helps people achieve their money-focused goals.

Senate Republicans recognized that young adults face financial decisions that can come with long-term consequences and passed legislation to arm high school students with money management skills. The new law requires completion of a half-credit personal finance course to graduate high school.

The course will give high school students the understanding they need about topics like credit and credit scores; savings and investments; college, home and auto loans; and planning for postsecondary education and retirement.



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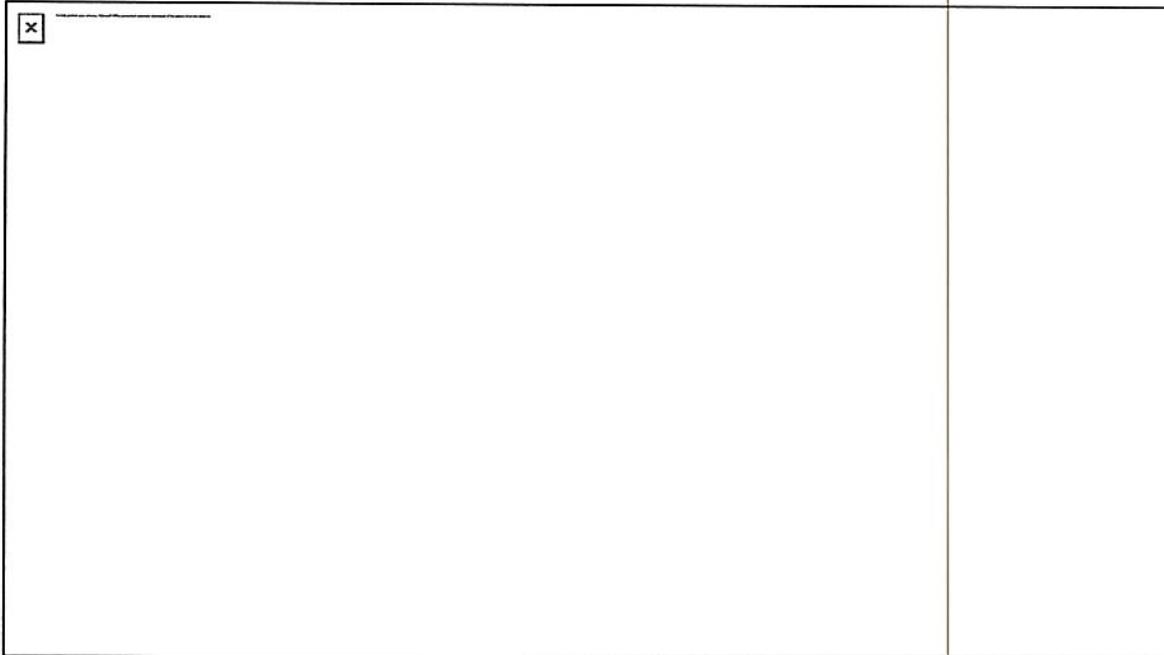


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In this Update:

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- **Chambersburg Pedestrian and Bicycle Route Benefits from \$735,000 Investment**
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Bill Introduced to Defund PA-Taxpayer-Funded Colleges and Universities that Support Antisemitism



With pro-Hamas and anti-Israel encampments being set up at higher education institutions in Pennsylvania and across the United States, I introduced legislation this week to suspend state funding for state-owned or -related colleges and universities in the commonwealth if they support antisemitism.

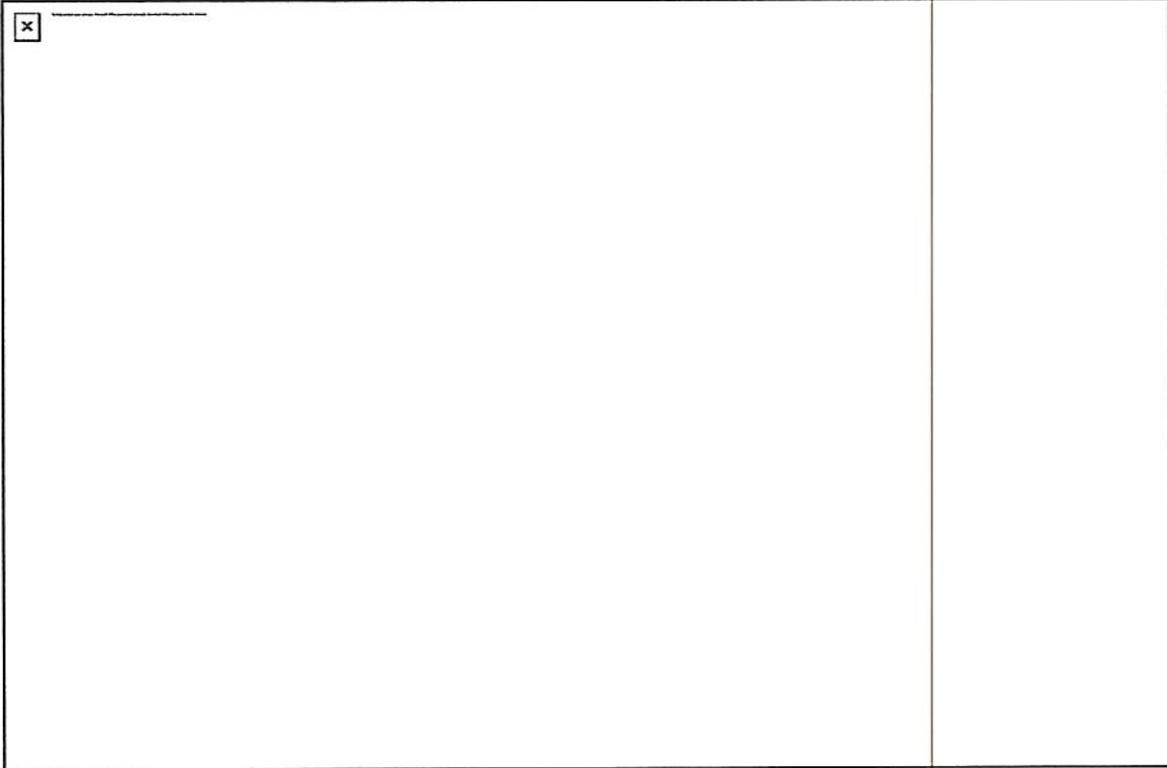
I introduced Senate Bill 1185 as pro-Hamas and anti-Israel protests and encampments recently took root at the University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh and other Pennsylvania colleges and universities that benefit from state tax dollars. My bill would end taxpayer support for any state-owned or -related universities that authorize, facilitate or otherwise support any event promoting antisemitism on campus. Higher education institutions that support antisemitic events would be disqualified from receiving state funding for the following academic year.

The campus protests come following the Oct. 7, 2023, Operation Al-Aqsa Flood attack by Hamas in several Israeli communities, where more than 1,000 Israelis were killed and approximately 250 people were taken hostage.

Israel responded by defending itself through retaliatory air strikes and a large-scale ground invasion in portions of Gaza, with additional operations in the West Bank. The now six-month-long war between Israel and Palestine has resulted in a total of more than 35,000 casualties, with more than 34,000 Palestinian deaths and approximately 1,400 Israeli deaths.

Learn more about my bill by [reading the rest of this article on my website.](#)

Chambersburg Pedestrian and Bicycle Route Benefits from \$735,000 Investment

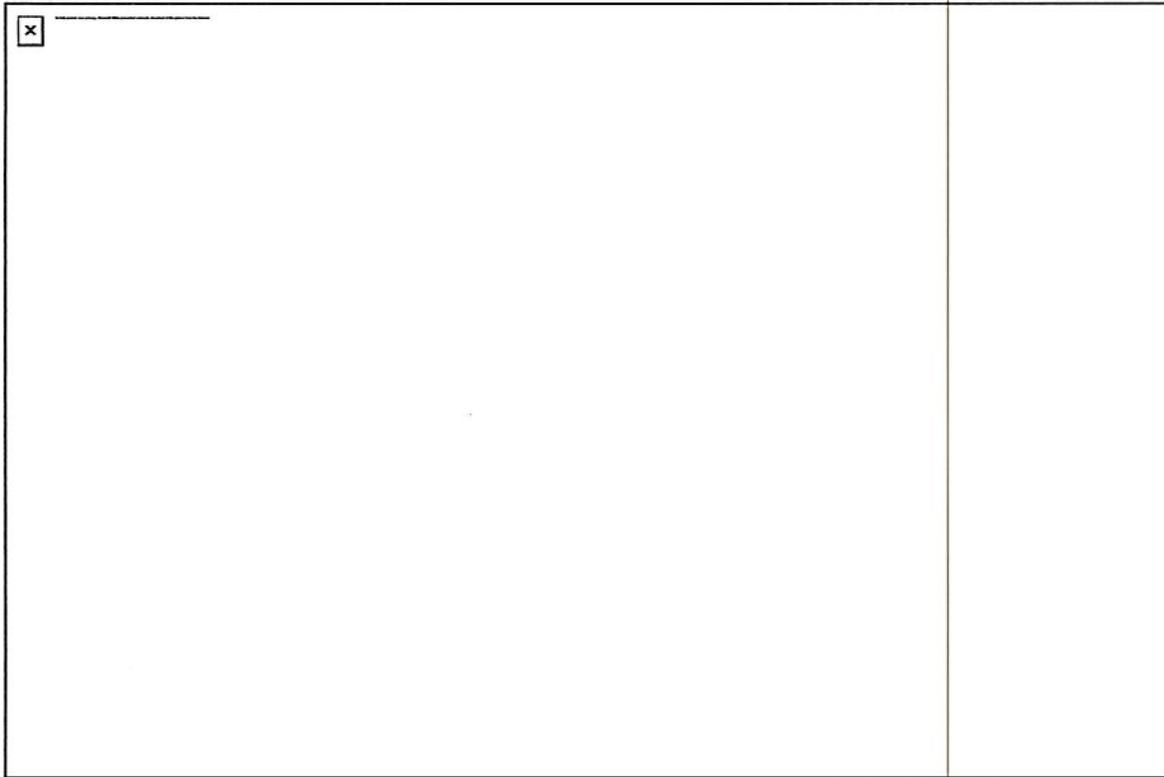


I recently announced nearly \$735,000 has been awarded for a pedestrian and bicycle route project in Chambersburg.

The project involves permanently closing two street blocks to vehicular traffic adjacent to the former Southgate Shopping Center to create a pedestrian and bicycle-only route. The project will create direct pedestrian access from the neighboring senior housing and residential blocks to a new medical facility while establishing greater bicycle and pedestrian connectivity to the Southgate neighborhood and existing rail trail.

Learn more about the project by [reading the rest of this article on my website.](#)

Recent Developments Underline Need to Prevent Gene Therapy in Food Supply

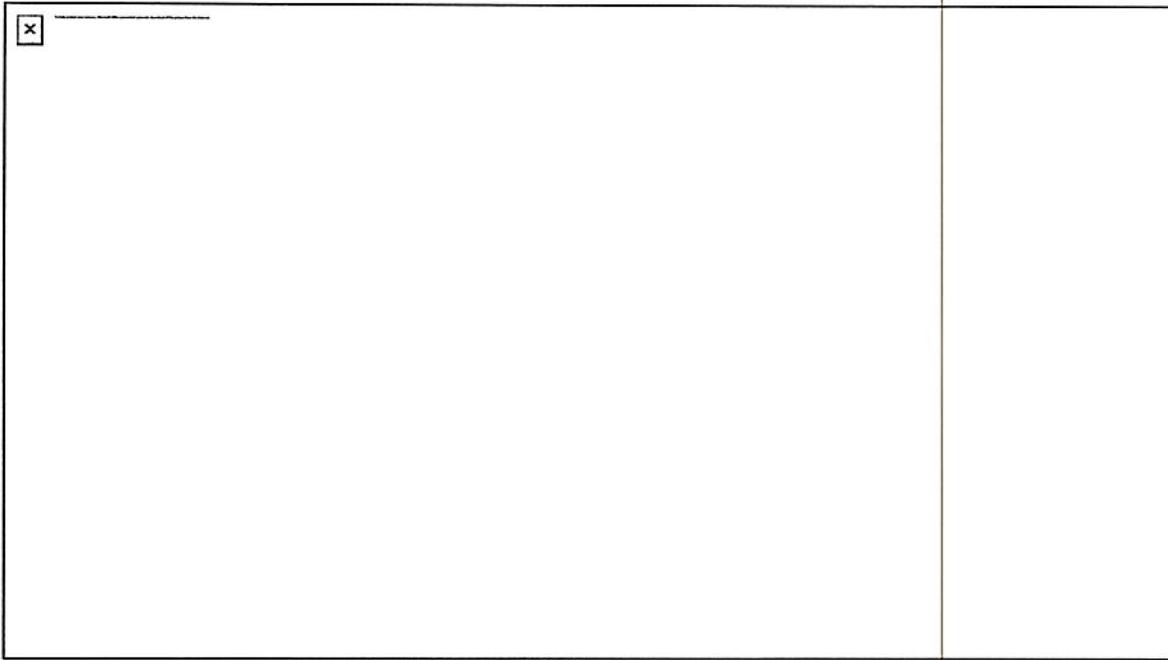


The creation of “Sequivity,” an RNA-based vaccine developed by Merck Animal Health that recently became commercially available, marks a significant development in the pork industry. With its newfound accessibility, there’s a possibility that pork products may now be treated with this vaccine.

I released the following statement in response to this development:

“Injection of gene therapy into the food supply would result in Pennsylvanians unknowingly and unwillingly consuming gene-altering mRNA technology. This is why I introduced Senate Bill 883 to clearly state that gene therapy products are banned from being integrated into any part of the food supply in the commonwealth.”

Senate Acts to Meet PA’s Power Needs

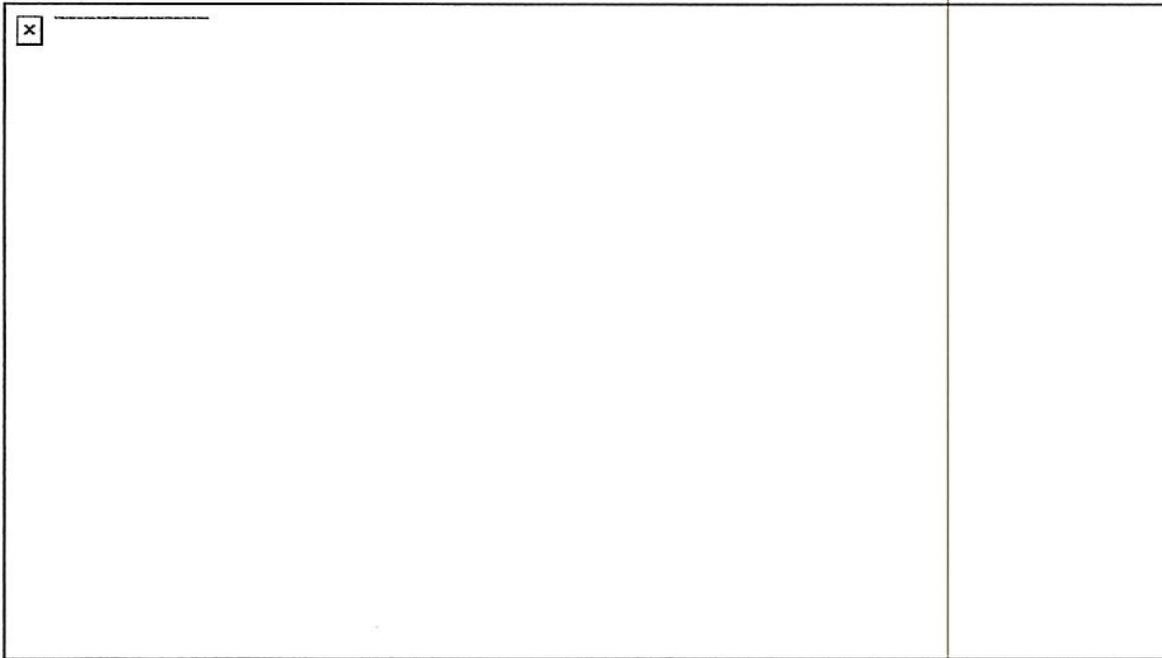


Acting to establish a sweeping, new energy framework for Pennsylvania, the Senate approved legislation this week creating the Independent Energy Office (IEO) and Pennsylvania’s Opportunity with Energy Reliability (POWER) Board. The bill moves to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Under Senate Bill 832, the IEO will provide data-driven analysis and ensure lawmakers have the reliable information necessary to review and implement current energy strategies as well as be on the forefront of new innovative technologies. The POWER Board will be a public clearinghouse for energy development in Pennsylvania and allow residents to see public accountability on decisions that impact energy prices in Pennsylvania.

The federal government has passed legislation to provide funding for states to grow solar, wind, hydro and nuclear capacities. Pennsylvania must apply for these funds and provide a framework to distribute funding throughout the state. The General Assembly has not yet established this framework, and statutory authority is needed.

Bill to Improve Safety, Combat Illegal Street Racing Passes Senate

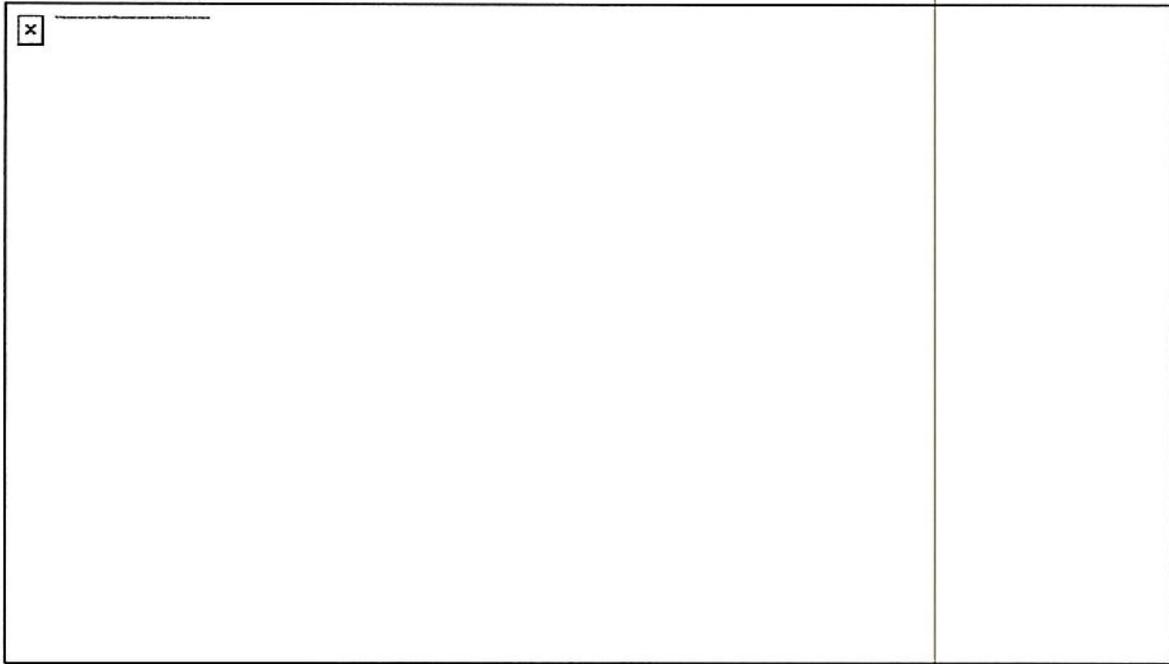


To address how the erratic driving of illegal street racers endangers the safety of other motorists and pedestrians, the Senate passed legislation that would increase street racing fines for first offenses to \$500 and all additional infractions to \$2,000. Senate Bill 998 also calls for impoundment orders for vehicles used in the offense and would hold event organizers accountable using fines, suspension of driving privileges, classification as habitual offenders, impoundment of vehicles and imprisonment.

Additionally, the bill would impose penalties for drifting on highways or trafficways and for organizing street racing or drifting events. Drifting is a driving technique that involves steering a car to make a controlled skid sideways through a turn.

Senate Bill 998 is part of the Senate Republican effort to improve community safety across Pennsylvania. It now heads to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Senate Approves Bill to Get Pennsylvanians Off UC and Back to Work

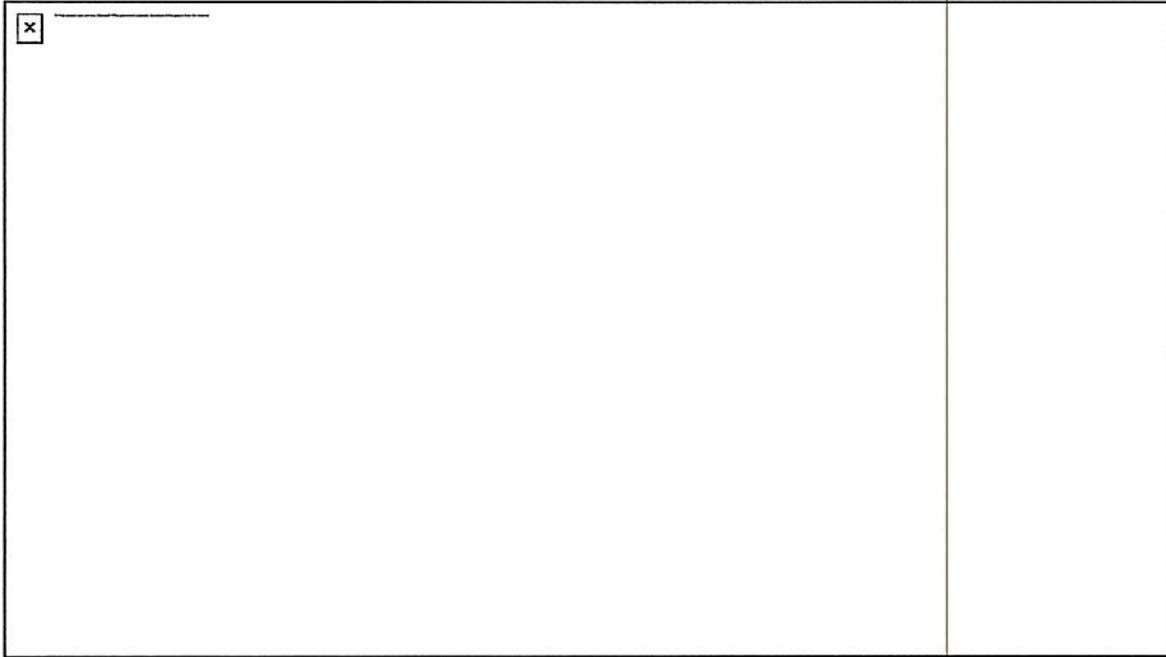


Unemployed Pennsylvanians who engage in job dodging by sabotaging their own efforts to get hired would jeopardize their Unemployment Compensation benefits under a bill approved by the Senate.

Job dodging is the process used by some Unemployment Compensation recipients to avoid obtaining a job and to continue to collect benefits. Job dodgers may skip a job interview or refuse employment or a referral for employment to continue receiving Unemployment Compensation benefits.

Senate Bill 1109 is intended to prevent Unemployment Compensation recipients who apply for a job from unreasonably discouraging their own hiring. It would require the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry to create or update forms enabling employers to report Unemployment Compensation claimants who discourage their own hiring through job dodging. The bill moves to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Celebrating Historic Breast Cancer Screening Law

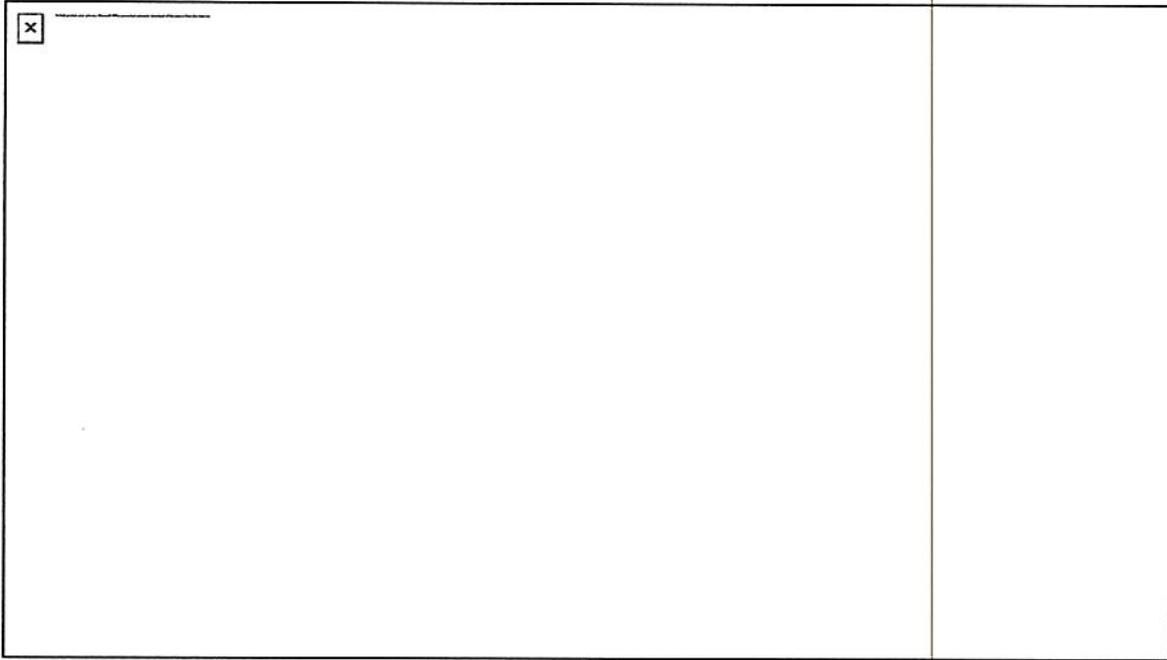


One year ago, a first-of-its-kind in the nation comprehensive breast cancer screening bill was signed into law as Act 1 of 2023. Senate Republicans supported the bill that eliminated out-of-pocket costs associated with BRCA-related genetic testing and counseling as well as supplemental screening such as breast MRI and ultrasound for women at high risk.

High-risk conditions covered by the law include dense breast tissue, personal history of breast cancer, family history of breast cancer, genetic predisposition and prior radiation therapy.

Act 1 covers individuals whose insurance is state-regulated, including plans purchased through the Pennie marketplace or employer-provided insurance. The law takes effect for many plans between 2024 and 2025. All state-regulated plans must be in place before the end of 2025. [Learn more.](#)

Grants Available to Capitalize on Tourism

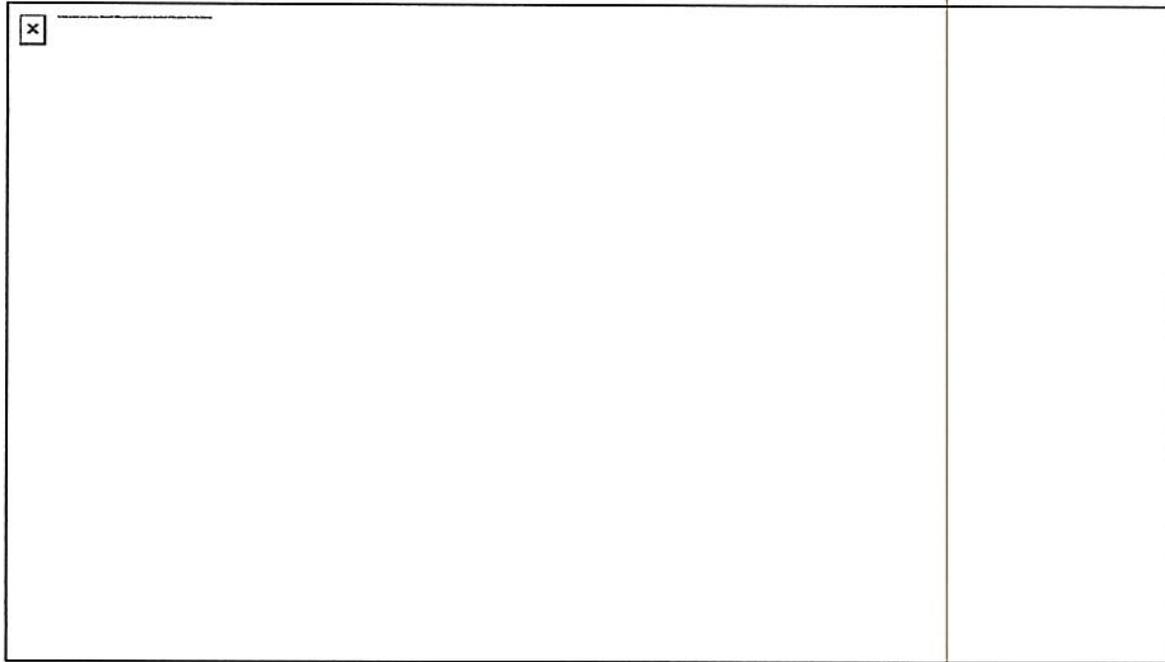


To draw sporting events and the associated tourism to Pennsylvania, grants are available to municipalities, local authorities, nonprofit organizations and legal entities that meet specific criteria. [Learn more](#) and apply by June 30 using the Department of Community and Economic Development's [Electronic Single Application](#).

The Sports Marketing and Tourism Program was created to attract high-quality, amateur and professional sporting and e-sports events to Pennsylvania. Hosting a major event increases sales to small and large businesses in the area, which boosts the local economy.

The last round of grants benefited Philadelphia Soccer for the 2026 World Cup in Philadelphia, the United States Golf Association for the 2025 United States Men's Open in Oakmont and the 2024 United States Women's Open in Lancaster.

Beware of Ticks and Lyme Disease



Pennsylvania leads the nation with the number of Lyme disease cases. While we are lucky to have access to the many outdoor recreational opportunities in the commonwealth, they come with the risks of tickborne diseases.

National Lyme Disease Awareness Month is an opportunity to learn how to protect your family and pets against Lyme. Use insect repellent when spending time outdoors, treat your clothing and gear with permethrin and conduct a tick check when you come inside.

There are three stages of Lyme disease with distinct signs and symptoms occurring in each stage, including a bullseye rash, headaches, nerve pain, heart palpitations and fever. If you discover a tick, safely remove it, put it in a plastic bag and mail it to the Pennsylvania Tick Research Lab for free testing. Within three business days, you will know if the tick carried Lyme disease and other diseases – valuable information for you and your health care provider.

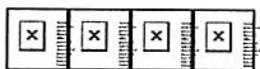


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