



Summary of Legislation January 11, 2018

Turzai Announces Special Elections to Fill Vacancies

This year's spring primary will see two empty seats in the House filled. House Speaker Mike Turzai announced the May 15 special elections earlier this month. The vacancies are the result of two sitting members resigning at the end of 2017 to take other positions.

The 48th District (Washington County) seat was held until Dec. 31 by Democrat **Brandon Neuman**, who was elected to a local judgeship last November. The 178th (Bucks County) district was represented until Jan. 1 by Republican **Scott Petri**. Petri left the House to take a position with the Philadelphia Parking Authority. The local county parties will select candidates for the specials.

In addition, a separate special election will also be held Jan. 23 for the Allegheny County seat held most recently by Democrat Mark Gergely. He was sentenced to house arrest last month after pleading guilty to misdemeanor conspiracy and campaign finance violation counts.

It is unlikely that any of these seats will switch parties. The upcoming special elections come on the heels of another special election held last month. In the **133rd district**, Democrat **Jeanne McNeil** will succeed her late husband, Rep. Dan McNeil, who passed away suddenly over the summer. She defeated Republican **David Molony**, on December 5. Jeanne was sworn in January 2, when the House convened briefly to meet its constitutional requirement.

Republicans hold a 120-to-80 majority in the House, with the three vacancies. 2018 is an election year for all state House seats, the even numbered Senate seats, and the Governor and Lt. Governor. Petitions to run must be filed between February 13 and March 6. A handful of incumbents have already announced plans to not run for re-election, and many more are anticipated to make similar announcements in the coming weeks.

Penn National Wins Auction for First New Casino

Penn National Gaming overcame four other bidders for the first to 10 "satellite" casinos provided for in the recently amended Gaming law. The owner of Hollywood Casino in Grantville bid just over \$50 million for the right to place the small casino in York County. The announcement was made on January 10. Subsequent auctions will continue into May. The intent of the additional casinos was to raise \$100 million or more for state coffers. The new law also provided for video gaming terminals (VGTs) to be allowed at certain truck stops and airports. Local municipalities had the option to prohibit placement in their jurisdiction, until the end of last year. Those who opted out can change their minds later, but those who didn't cannot opt out any longer. It is expected that although Penn National went high for the first bid, the rest will likely not glean the same level of interest, as PNG was also looking to freeze out local competition with the first bid. Each current casino is eligible to bid on one satellite location.

Legislative Activity

The following bills of interest to PEDA were acted on by the General Assembly this past month.

Budget Related Bills

[HB 83](#) RE: Bond Funding (by Rep. John Lawrence, et al)

Amends the Capital Facilities Debt Enabling Act, in capital facilities, further providing for bonds, issue of bonds and notes, maturity and interest. The bill adds that retirements of principal for funding bonds authorized under section 312 shall be regular and substantial if made in annual or semiannual amounts whether by stated serial

maturities or by mandatory sinking fund retirements computed in accordance with either a level annual debt service plan as nearly as may be or upon the equal annual maturities plan. Provisions allowing the issuing officials to enter into agreements or contracts to insure or secure payment of principal, interest or the purchase price of bonds which will assist in managing the interest costs of the debt of the Commonwealth are repealed. Effective January 1, 2018.
Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 1/2/2018

[HB 110](#) RE: Spending Limitations (by Rep. Ryan Warner, et al)

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in taxation and finance, providing for spending limitations on the Commonwealth.

Received in the Senate and referred to Senate State Government Committee, 1/2/2018

[HB 1940](#) RE: Revenue Estimates (by Rep. Dave Reed, et al)

Amends the Administrative Code, in Commonwealth budget procedures, further providing for revenue estimates by adding that if the general appropriation bill becomes law without the approval of the governor and the amount appropriated in the general appropriation bill and other appropriation bills exceeds the official estimate plus any unappropriated surplus the Secretary of the Budget shall disapprove or reduce certain amounts which cause the total appropriations to exceed the official estimate plus any unappropriated surplus. At no time may the total amount disapproved or reduced be less than the total amount disapproved or reduced at the time the general appropriation bill becomes law, unless a change in a statute affecting revenues and receipts is enacted that results in a change in a revenue estimate.

Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 12/20/2017

[HB 1941](#) RE: Lapsing of Funds (by Rep. Stan Saylor, et al)

Amends the Administrative Code, in Commonwealth budget procedures, further providing for lapsing of funds providing that the Secretary of the Budget may waive certain provisions upon written request of an agency justifying an exception to these provisions which is necessary for the prudent management of the Commonwealth's budget. The required waiver request shall include the specific amount, appropriation and fiscal year that the money was appropriated which is the subject of the waiver; the provision of this section requested to be waived; a description of the purpose of the waiver and how granting the waiver is necessary for the prudent management of the Commonwealth's budget; and the number or other identifying information for a contract submitted under Chapter 17 of the Right-to-Know Law, if applicable. Amounts subject to a waiver may not be used for the creation of a new or expanded program or initiative and a waiver shall expire on the first day of the fiscal year following the year in which the waiver was granted. No waiver may be granted for amounts appropriated prior to the two fiscal years preceding the fiscal year in which the waiver is requested.

Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 12/20/2017

[HB 1942](#) RE: [Budget Procedures Reform](#) (by Rep. George Dunbar, et al)

Amends the Administrative Code, in Commonwealth budget procedures, further providing for transmission of budget information to the General Assembly adding that after December 1 and no later than the date of the Governor's briefing, the Secretary of the Budget shall evaluate the official estimate for the fiscal year in comparison to year-to-date revenue collections and updated projections of collections for the remainder of the fiscal year and shall project the difference between the official estimate and the year-to-date revenue collection and updated projections of collections for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Secretary of the Budget shall provide documentation of the projection to the Appropriations committees. If the Secretary of the Budget projects that the actual revenue collections for the fiscal year will be less than the official estimate, the Secretary of the Budget shall disapprove or reduce certain amounts from the departments, boards and commissions. After the revenue conference, the Secretary of the Budget shall revise the projection of the difference and shall ensure that the amounts disapproved or reduced are no less than the revised estimate of the difference at least once per month until the end of the fiscal year. Effective July 1, 2018, or immediately, whichever is later.

Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 12/20/2017

[HB 1943](#) RE: Special Funds (by Rep. Eric Nelson, et al)

Amends the Administrative Code, in Commonwealth budget procedures, providing for definitions and further providing for budget implementation data, for electronic access of information and for lapsing of funds. For each special fund from which grants and subsidies are paid, each department shall prepare a report within 20 days of the end of each calendar quarter indicating the amount, the name of the grantee or recipient and the date of expected

expenditures for each grant and subsidy which has been awarded or otherwise allocated, but is not reflected in the Integrated Central System as an encumbrance as of the end of the calendar quarter. The report shall be issued to the Appropriations committees and a copy of the report shall be sent to the Office of Administration. The Office of Administration shall make the report available on PennWATCH.

Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 12/20/2017

[HB 1944](#) RE: Submission of Budget to General Assembly (by Rep. Sheryl Delozier, et al)

Amends the Administrative Code, in Commonwealth budget procedures, further providing for submission of budget to General Assembly by requiring the governor's submission to include suggested legislative language necessary to implement the operating budget and program and financial plan. The bill also provides for transmission of budget information to the General Assembly by adding that no later than 90 days after the enactment of a general appropriation act, the Secretary of the Budget shall prepare and submit a summary of appropriations to the Appropriations committees. Effective January 1, 2018, or immediately, whichever is later.

Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 12/20/2017

[HB 1945](#) RE: Statement of Need (by Rep. Rosemary Brown, et al)

Amends the Administrative Code, in Commonwealth budget procedures, further providing for submission of budget to General Assembly by requiring a statement of need to accompany a request for an additional appropriation.

Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 12/20/2017

[HB 2002](#) RE: PIT Decrease (by Rep. Jason Ortity, et al)

Amends the Tax Reform Code, in personal income tax, lowering the personal income tax rate to 2.82 percent from 3.7 percent.

Introduced and referred to committee on House Finance Committee, 1/8/2018

KOZ/CRIZ/Tax Credits

NONE

Partnerships/Liability

NONE

Local/State Government Regulations

[HB 1959](#) RE: Permit Administration Act (by Rep. Greg Rothman, et al)

Provides for the administration of permits by state agencies, for a tracking system for permit applications, for the establishment of permit programs and for annual reports. The bill requires state agencies to establish, maintain and make available a secure tracking system for applicants to track the status of applications on their websites.

Introduced and referred to House State Government Committee, 1/3/2018

[HB 1960](#) RE: State Agency Regulatory Compliance Officer Act (by Rep. Brian Ellis, et al)

Requires each state agency to designate an employee as the agency's regulatory compliance officer. Provides for the powers and duties of the regulatory compliance officer. Requires each agency to submit an annual report to the General Assembly detailing the progress made by each agency and the regulatory compliance officer in the preceding calendar year towards compliance with this act.

Introduced and referred to House State Government Committee, 1/5/2018

Local/Property Taxes

NONE

Minimum Wage

NONE

Permitting

NONE

Procurement

NONE

Sales/Use Taxes

NONE

Workforce Development

[HB 1641](#) RE: [Employment First](#) (by Rep. Brian Cutler, et al)

for competitive integrated employment in state and county agencies and any entity providing publicly funded education, training, employment and related services and long-term services and supports for working-age Pennsylvanians with a disability; establishes Employment First, the Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities and the Employment First Oversight Commission and provides for their powers and duties; and confers powers and imposes duties on the Governor and the Office of the Governor. The bill establishes that it shall be the policy of the Commonwealth that competitive integrated employment shall be the preferred outcome for all individuals with a disability eligible to work under federal or state law, regardless of severity of disability and assistance required and work-based learning experiences for all youth with a disability in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Industry. Employment services and opportunities must be offered to all individuals with a disability receiving publicly funded services, regardless of whether they live in their own home or in a residential setting. The Office of the Governor shall develop an initial three-year plan based upon information provided by the state agencies for implementing Employment First for submission to the General Assembly. The plan shall identify the specific policies and implementation dates for state agency compliance.

Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Labor and Industry Committee, 1/2/2018

Upcoming Meetings of Interest

Some House Committee meetings and session can be viewed online at: <http://www.pahousegop.com/>

Senate Committee meetings and session can be streamed at: <http://www.pasenategop.com/>

THURSDAY - 1/11/18

House Democratic Policy Committee

10:00 a.m., PA Career Link Lehigh Valley, PPL Room, 555 Union Boulevard, Allentown

Public Roundtable with Rep. Mike Schlossberg on "Where are the Jobs?"

[Hearing Notice](#)

TUESDAY - 1/16/18

House Transportation Committee

1:00 p.m., Bloomsburg University of PA, Assembly Room at Monty's (Upper Campus), 400 E. Second Street, Bloomsburg

Public hearing on the gaps that exist in a rural area regarding transportation

House Democratic Policy Committee

2:00 p.m., Bellevue Borough Building, Council Chambers, 537 Bayne Avenue, Pittsburgh

Public Roundtable with Rep. Adam Ravenstahl on small business development and jobs

WEDNESDAY - 1/17/18

House Democratic Policy Committee

10:00 a.m., Community College of Beaver County, Community Education Center Boardroom, 1 Campus Drive, Monaca

Public Roundtable with Rep. Rob Matzie on workforce development

THURSDAY - 1/18/18

House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Fiscal Policy

9:00 a.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Public hearing on PA Tax Structure, Climate and Competitiveness and Impact on Federal Tax Law changes

WEDNESDAY - 1/24/18

House Appropriations Committee

9:00 a.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Public hearing on Special Funds related to the Department of Community & Economic Development

THURSDAY - 1/25/18

House Appropriations Committee

Time TBA, Location TBA

Public hearing on Special Funds related to the Department of Environmental Protection & the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

2018 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

January 2, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31
February 5, 6, 7
Break for Budget Hearings
March 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28
April 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30
May 1, 2, 21, 22, 23
June 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

2018 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

January 2 (non-voting), 22, 23, 24
February 5, 6, 7
Break for Budget Hearings
March 12, 13, 14
April 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 30
May 1, 2, 22, 23
June 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

Copies of all bills of interest can be accessed via the Internet at:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/session.cfm>