



Summary of Legislation January 17, 2019

WOLF ADMINISTRATION HIGHLIGHTS INITIATIVES FOR A STRONGER ECONOMY

Gov. Tom Wolf, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Sec. Leslie Richards, Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Sec. Dennis Davin, and York County Economic Alliance (YCEA) CEO Kevin Schreiber held a press conference January 10 to discuss the key initiatives strengthening Pennsylvania's economy.

Gov. Wolf stated that for the past four years he has worked hard on three things in particular: modernizing and improving Pennsylvania's education system, investing in community and economic development, and prioritizing investment in infrastructure.

He continued that businesses are only as strong as their employees and that is why he created Manufacturing PA. Gov. Wolf explained the initiative responds to the needs of the manufacturing community as it gives manufacturing the resources it needs to adapt to business climate. He noted workforce training is just one component to build a strong economy and Pennsylvania needs to eliminate barriers, which is why he chose to phase out the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax.

Gov. Wolf also explained Pennsylvania's One-Stop Shop now gives businesses what they need with one website and one phone call. He said in less than one year it has helped 86,000 entrepreneurs and business owners in Pennsylvania. In combination with improving the intangible, Pennsylvania must make strategic investments in the tangible, Gov. Wolf said. He stated that in the last four years the administration has improved 2,400 bridges and more than 24,800 miles of roadways. Gov. Wolf noted he announced the \$2.4 billion investment in the road maintenance initiative. He added the administration has invested \$300 million in Philadelphia, not just on roads and bridges, but also the Port of Philadelphia.

"I want Pennsylvanians in every corner of our commonwealth to feel proud of their region and their communities," Gov. Wolf said.

Sec. Richards noted that PennDOT has worked to make sure goods and people can move about the state in the best way possible. She explained that since Gov. Wolf took office the department has put out 1,162 bridge projects and 2,583 projects for roadways and other improvements. Sec. Richards noted they awarded \$2.5 billion in highway and bridge contracts. She said the department is also investing in multi-modal pedestrian and bicycle improvements and \$30 million into the Erie Bay fund. The department is investing over \$2 million in paving and maintenance programs due to the Road MaP Program, Sec. Richards said. She stated they also have expanded the use of recycled and sustainable materials. Sec. Richards added the department dealt with \$125 million in added cost due to flooding in 2018.

"We firmly believe that every dollar we invest in a PennDOT project is a dollar we are investing in the community where that project is located," Sec. Richards said.

Sec. Davin noted one of Gov. Wolf's goals is to create an environment where economy, businesses, and residences can thrive. He said in addition to **One-Stop Shop**, **Manufacturing PA** and the **PAsmart initiative**, the administration has increased broadband access and assisted more than 5,000 technology-based and life science businesses with funding or technical assistance.

He added Pennsylvania was recognized by Amazon, who put Pittsburgh and Philadelphia in the top 20 for HQ2. Sec. Davin stated **five communities have exited Act 47** status and have pulled themselves out of financial distress.

“For these economic and community development efforts paired with PennDOT’s commitment to roadway and bridge improvement initiative like the RoadMaP initiative, we are improving our residents’ quality of life and providing a better business environment,” Sec. Davin said.

Schreiber explained York County has worked closely with the Wolf administration, and last year York had \$200 million in economic activity, 1,400 new jobs created, and 3,900 jobs retained. Support from the commonwealth allows York to directly connect with multinational companies and niche growing companies, Schreiber said. He noted DCED has programs to help improve a community’s quality of place, which helps companies have the ability to attract and retain trained employees. Schreiber commended Gov. Wolf and his administration for the work they do for all local citizens to improve communities across the commonwealth.

“These past four years have been incredibly successful for our Keystone State economy,” Schreiber said. “Private investment is up, job growth is steady, unemployment is down and confidence continues to grow in our commonwealth, our county and most certainly our state government.”

Questions were taken from the media.

With not winning the Amazon lottery, what will the administration do to make sure the next corporation does select Pennsylvania?

Gov. Wolf responded that he believes it was a mistake to not choose Pennsylvania. He said it gave the administration a greater sense of who Pennsylvania is and that it is the kind of place that can grow the next Amazon. He noted the selection was not about incentives but looking for a place that was good for their employees.

Will you work to lower the Corporate Net Income (CNI) Tax?

Gov. Wolf said he has been consistent in wanting to reduce the CNI Tax.

Are there any thoughts you can share on addressing the big obligation that the Turnpike has to fund the transportation system?

Gov. Wolf stated transferring money from the Turnpike is unsustainable, so they have to come up with a better way to improve infrastructure. Sec. Richards added there are a few components involved she cannot share because of litigation, but she is concerned with how the Turnpike will move forward.

Is there a contingency plan if the federal government shutdown continues?

Gov. Wolf replied it does not affect every agency, so right now the administration is trying to put together a plan and look at how it might affect specific agencies. He commented Pennsylvanians are being affected and he urged the people in Washington to bring the shutdown to an end.

PA Senate Democratic Caucus Releases Committee Assignments

The Pennsylvania Senate Democratic Caucus released its committee assignments for the 2019-20 legislative session on January 16. The other caucus committee lists should be out in the next two weeks.

“Committee meetings offer our members and the public the best opportunity to learn about legislation, and it’s important to assign Senators based on their interest and experience in the subject of each committee,” said Senator Costa. “I believe we have a great roster of committee chairs and members here that will delve into the issues of our caucus’ platform.” The committees, listed here alphabetically, will have the following members from the Senate Democratic Caucus.

- Aging & Youth: Maria Collett (Chair), John Sabatina, Jr., Judy Schwank, Christine Tartaglione
- Agriculture & Rural Affairs: Judy Schwank (Chair), Andrew Dinniman, John Sabatina, Jr., Sharif Street
- **Appropriations: Vincent Hughes (Chair), Judy Schwank (Vice Chair), Jay Costa (Ex Officio), John Blake, Maria Collett, Art Haywood, Daylin Leach, Steve Santarsiero, Sharif Street**
- Banking & Insurance: Sharif Street (Chair), Lisa Boscola, James Brewster, Larry Farnese, Christine Tartaglione
- Communications & Technology: Steve Santarsiero (Chair), Jay Costa, Tim Kearney, Lindsey Williams
- **Community, Economic & Recreational Development: Larry Farnese (Chair), John Blake, Lisa Boscola, Wayne Fontana, John Sabatina, Jr.**

- Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure: Lisa Boscola (Chair), Maria Collett, Larry Farnese, Steve Santarsiero, John Yudichak
- Education: Andrew Dinniman (Chair), James Brewster, Daylin Leach, Lindsey Williams
- **Environmental Resources & Energy: John Yudichak (Chair), Andrew Dinniman, Daylin Leach, Anthony Williams**
- **Finance: John Blake (Chair), Art Haywood, Vincent Hughes, Katie Muth**
- Game & Fisheries: James Brewster (Chair), Lisa Boscola, Andrew Dinniman, John Yudichak
- Health & Human Services: Art Haywood (Chair), Katie Muth, Judy Schwank, Sharif Street
- Intergovernmental Operations: Wayne Fontana (Chair), Art Haywood, Vincent Hughes, Katie Muth
- Judiciary: Daylin Leach (Chair), Larry Farnese, Art Haywood, John Sabatina, Jr., Steve Santarsiero
- Labor & Industry: Christine Tartaglione (Chair), Tim Kearney, Lindsey Williams, John Yudichak
- Law & Justice: James Brewster (Chair), Wayne Fontana, Christine Tartaglione, Anthony Williams
- Local Government: Tim Kearney (Chair), John Blake, Steve Santarsiero, Judy Schwank
- Rules & Executive Nominations: Jay Costa (Chair), Lisa Boscola, Larry Farnese, Wayne Fontana, Vincent Hughes, Anthony Williams
- State Government: Anthony Williams (Chair), Maria Collett, Katie Muth, Lindsey Williams
- Transportation: John Sabatina, Jr. (Chair), John Blake, James Brewster, Tim Kearney, John Yudichak
- Urban Affairs & Housing: Katie Muth (Chair), Wayne Fontana, Tim Kearney, Sharif Street
- Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness: Lindsey Williams (Chair), John Blake, Maria Collett, Andrew

Legislative Activity

No bills of interest to PEDAs were acted on by the General Assembly this past month. The 2019-20 legislative session began officially on January 1. The following co-sponsorship memos for bills to be introduced this session have been circulated thus far.

Budget Related Bills

NONE

KOZ/CRIZ/Tax Credits

[SCO 442](#) (Hutchinson) - Establishes the Pennsylvania Affordable Energy Development Zones Program to help create jobs and lift the economy in rural Pennsylvania by capitalizing on the unconventional natural gas.

Filed, 1/11/2019

[SCO 446](#) (Browne) - Amends the Tax Increment Financing Law to add state and local sales taxes to the list of taxes included in the tax increment used to secure TIF projects.

Filed, 1/11/2019

[SCO 447](#) (Browne) - Amends the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Act to allow municipalities to add wage tax revenue in a TIF to the tax revenue that can be dedicated to amortize bond issues used to pay for infrastructure improvements in the TIF district.

Filed, 1/11/2019

[SCO 455](#) (Scavello) - Permits community solar projects in Pennsylvania.

Filed, 1/14/2019

Local/State Government Regulations

NONE

Local/Property Taxes

NONE

Minimum Wage

NONE

Permitting

NONE

Sales/Use Taxes

NONE

Workforce Development

NONE

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/>

2019 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

January	1, 28, 29, 30
February	4, 5, 6
March	18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27
April	8, 9, 10, 29, 30
May	1, 6, 7, 8
June	3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

2019 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

January	1, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30
February	4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 21
March	11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27
April	8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 29, 30
May	1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 22
June	3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

Commonwealth Financing Authority Meeting Schedule (Subject to Change)

2019 schedule (subject to change): January 29, March 26, May 21, July 16

All meetings are held beginning at 10:30 AM, in the Forest Room, CKB Meeting Center, 1st Floor (plaza) Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street, Harrisburg

The public is welcome.

For more information:

<https://dced.pa.gov/programs-funding/commonwealth-financing-authority-cfa/>

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

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