



Summary of Legislation March 8, 2018

House Appropriations Committee Holds Budget Hearing On Job Creation

The committee held a budget hearing February 21 on job creation with the **Department of Labor and Industry (L&I)**, **Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)**, and the **Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)**.

Chairman Stan Saylor (R-York) said the committee members are focusing on job creation with the hearing because it is a central focus of his caucus. He stated they want to talk about how to improve Pennsylvania's business climate and dive deep into the effective programs of job creation. Saylor explained the committee intends to look at appropriations to see if these dollars are really getting the return on investment.

Minority Chairman Joe Markosek (D-Allegheny) noted that this was Gov. Tom Wolf's fourth budget address that has had education and job creation as a cornerstone. He said the three organizations present today will lead that change in the commonwealth.

Rep. Delozier explained she is a member of the PHEAA board. She stated it has a huge basis in job creation as it allows students to pay for school and training. Rep. Delozier asked for a look at the tough times ahead for PHEAA and the competitiveness. [Jim Preston](#), president of PHEAA, replied they are generally competing with for-profit entities to sustain contracts. He explained there are three servicers in the system in the United States and PHEAA is one of them. Preston said they plan for \$56 million in the 2018-19 budget, and they have invested \$867 million to supplement some of the programs. Rep. Delozier stated people tend to blame PHEAA when their grant money is reverted to a loan because of noncompliance, when PHEAA is actually just a middle man. Preston commented questions will go to the federal government on why it is structured a certain way, and PHEAA does suffer reputation when related to the federal government. Rep. Delozier added sometimes the agency's hands are tied.

Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-Montgomery) questioned what the **Office of Vocation Rehabilitation (OVR)** fund does and what pre-employment opportunities there are. **Gerard Oleksiak, Secretary of L&I**, said it is one of the big gems of the department as it is to help citizens with disabilities. He explained the program has helped 9,300 citizens find employment with 6,000 employers. Sec. Oleksiak said they are working on a summer paid internship program in the Capitol for students with disabilities, as well as summer camps. Rep. Dean stated there is a proposed 1.6 percent increase in funding. She asked if there is a sense of how many students are in need. Sec. Oleksiak explained they are not meeting the needs of students. He said most of the money they work with is federal dollars and they received less money this year because some of the fund was used for hurricane relief. The state provides about \$40 million which gets matched by the federal government, Sec. Oleksiak said.

Rep. Brad Roae (R-Crawford) focused on the minimum wage issue. He said there are about 25 percent fewer minimum wage employees now than in 2011 and about 2.4 percent of all jobs in Pennsylvania pay minimum wage. He added about 85 percent of those earning minimum wage do not have any children and about 50 percent of minimum wage earners are 24 years old or younger. Rep. Roae explained Gov. Wolf has proposed again to increase the minimum wage to \$12, which the Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) projects will result in 54,000 fewer jobs if this happens. He questioned if **DCED Secretary Dennis Davin** believes that Gov. Wolf took this report seriously. Sec. Davin replied the governor takes everything seriously. He stated they do not think there will be any effect and he spends his time with businesses. Rep. Roae asked if this would have any effect on small business owners who make \$50,000 a year after all expenses. Sec. Davin explained he meets with a number of small businesses and does not believe there will be an effect. Rep. Roae questioned if any owners have told him to raise the minimum wage. Sec.

Davin said he would never ask that question. He explained he meets with people all the time and compares where Pennsylvania stands with other states.

Rep. Mary Jo Daley (D-Montgomery) inquired what programs are implemented in the budget to help with the business climate in Pennsylvania, as many say taxes are an impediment to job growth. Sec. Davin replied there are programs such as **Manufacturing Pennsylvania, Business One Stop Shop, Engage Training Career Grants, and innovation programming with research universities**. He stated all programs have been implemented and they have seen results. For the One Stop Shop they have gotten good responses but it will take a couple years to include everything, he indicated. Sec. Davin commented there were **78,000 new jobs in 2017** and a total of 370,000 jobs over the last three years. He explained the problem is with retention and making people ready for the jobs. Rep. Daley asked if the programs are intersecting with federally funded workforce programs. Sec. Davin explained DCED works closely with L&I on apprenticeships and training. Rep. Daley inquired if taxes are the only issue important to Pennsylvania businesses. Sec. Davin replied no.

Rep. James Santora (R-Delaware) stated that Pennsylvania is losing small businesses to New Jersey and Delaware. He questioned if the Departments are seeing this at other borders and what they are doing to attract new business. Sec. Davin answered the first goal is to retain existing businesses and help them grow through tax policy, infrastructure, and training. He said in terms of infrastructure they are working closely with the Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to look at necessary improvements. Sec. Davin explained the New Jersey Grow Program makes commitments to businesses but whether those businesses see those credits is a whole other story. Rep. Santora stated the **Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC)** allows technical schools to receive funding. He inquired if there is a second step with helping those that graduate towards getting a well-paying job. Sec. Oleksiak replied they are working with the Department of Education and the schools to change the culture. He explained they are working with schools to show trades are just as important as getting a four-year degree. Rep. Santora asked for the number of students benefitting from the scholarship. Sec. Davin said they will get that information. Rep. Santora commented they need to work on getting the letters out faster too.

Rep. Leanne Krueger-Braneky (D-Delaware) commented she is worried that some people in the legislature think working folks at minimum wage do not deserve a raise. She inquired what the departments are doing to address income inequality. Sec. Oleksiak replied the average salary for an apprenticeship is \$60,000 so they are asking for more money for apprenticeships. He agreed there is an issue as the last time the minimum wage was raised in 2007 it was not matched to inflation. Sec. Oleksiak commented if the minimum wage is raised there will be a savings of \$101 million in other benefits. Sec. Davin added they focus on manufacturing as the average salary is \$60,000. He commented they need to develop programs for younger people because of the aging workforce. Rep. Krueger-Braneky questioned if DCED has a definition for a good quality job. Sec. Davin replied from their standpoint it is a job with benefits and family sustaining wages.

Rep. Marguerite Quinn (R-Bucks) commented members should be asking questions to learn information, not aim for "gotcha" questions. Rep. Quinn explained there was a report that Pennsylvania is the third highest in the nation regarding a ranking of **opioid use among Workers' Compensation** recipients. She said she is concerned that they are going back to where they were several years ago. Sec. Oleksiak replied with Workers' Compensation they have access to prescription drug monitoring programs to identify opioid abuse within the system. They are also working within the system to better identify doctors that overprescribe, Sec. Oleksiak said. He stated at the same time they need to balance it with the doctor-patient relationship. Rep. Quinn inquired what the waiting list is for the **Ready to Success Scholarship Act**. Preston answered he believes the waiting list is about 6,000.

Rep. Peter Schweyer (D-Lehigh) commented he is concerned with funding being reduced for Unemployment Compensation and asked if they are comfortable having resources they need going forward. Sec. Oleksiak replied they would be happy to have more resources. He explained they have begun calling people back to work and have rehired more than 200 people. The wait times are declining and there are several things in the pipeline like a new phone system, Sec. Oleksiak said. Rep. Schweyer stated the governor proposed adding \$7 million to the apprenticeship program with the goal of doubling participants. He asked what these dollars would go towards. Sec. Oleksiak answered dollars are used as grants to provide training so they go to labor organizations and employers. Rep. Schweyer suggested they help local government by providing the next generation of zoning officers. Rep. Schweyer asked if anyone has asked to get rid of minimum wage. Sec. Davin said no.

Rep. Warren Kampf (R-Chester) commented Pennsylvania has 4.7 percent unemployment, which could be viewed as nearly full employment. He added \$12 an hour does not sustain a family. Rep. Kampf said from the IFO submission yesterday, from 2012 to 2017 there was a 13 percent decline in mining, 14 percent decline in manufacturing, and a growth in hospitality and administrative jobs. He asked if they keep track of the type of jobs they are adding and what they do to bring more family sustaining jobs to the state. Sec. Davin answered they do keep track of the type of jobs. He said they focus on manufacturing because they are family sustaining jobs. Sec. Davin added they need people to understand there are more options than just a four-year degree. Rep. Kampf inquired if there are statistics on wage levels of new jobs. Sec. Davin said yes and they will get that information at a later time. Sec. Oleksiak added they can provide information on high priority jobs.

Rep. Maria Donatucci (D-Philadelphia) explained the average student is changing, and asked how programs in Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) have changed in recent years. Preston replied PASSHE and other schools have supported distance education because of those in the workforce, but he cannot speak for PASSHE. Rep. Donatucci asked if there is any data regarding student success after graduation, and how they can improve the government-private partnership. Sec. Davin said they are focusing on having a quality workforce. He added they are working closely with organizations to build a skilled workforce.

House Labor and Industry Chairman Rob Kauffman (R-Franklin) commented that [Act 60 of 2017](#) was an important product of last year's session. He explained it provided the benefit modernization money that was requested by the department but the intent was to eliminate the reliance of the State Workers Insurance Fund (SWIF) transfers over the next several years. He asked for an update on the Benefit Modernization Program, efficiencies that are being identified, and how they are encouraging online interaction. Sec. Oleksiak answered the program is on budget and on time. He explained they made changes in management and shifted people around. There is a series of regularly scheduled meetings set up where they talk to the vendor to make sure they are on the same page, Sec. Oleksiak said. He added they have a benefit advisory committee that is hoping to start meeting in early March. Rep. Kauffman inquired if they received all nominations. Sec. Oleksiak replied they have not received all nominations but are very serious about getting it done. He added the Unemployment Compensation office made tremendous improvements from things as simple as how they use excess paper to cutting wait times in half. They are in the early stages of encouraging online use, Sec. Oleksiak said.

Chairman Kauffman commented that when the **Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund** reaches full solvency at 250 percent, there are employee and employer taxes that are removed which is important for the climate in Pennsylvania. He asked for an update. Sec. Oleksiak they **expect to reach 250 percent in 2024**.

Rep. Curtis Thomas (D-Philadelphia), minority chairman of the **Commerce Committee**, wanted to know what the two departments are doing to support the state's commerce. He also questioned whether the programs that are in place to improve the unemployment rates of cities like Pottstown, Reading and Philadelphia have been effective. Expanding upon that question, Rep. Thomas asked if PHEAA has any programs that offer scholarships or grants to college students, or programs that help people that are just entering the workforce to obtain jobs. Due to time constraints, Chairman Saylor said the answers to Rep. Thomas's questions would be sent to him in writing.

Rep. Susan Helm (R-Dauphin) mentioned the success of **PA Women Work** at assisting Pennsylvania women, particularly single mothers, in finding jobs. She wondered why the program was eliminated despite its success. Sec. Oleksiak replied, "We respect the program and the work that they do. If the legislature wants to reinstate the program, we are happy to work with them on that." Rep. Helm also wanted to know how the legislature can make jobs in Pennsylvania more attractive. Sec. Oleksiak said the legislature could begin by expanding upon programs that have already been created, including community programs and apprenticeships. Rep. Helm then wanted to know why the number of job opportunities increased last year while the unemployment rate rose. She wondered how these numbers are calculated and why the numbers do not seem to correlate. Sec. Davin claimed that the difference exists because of the way that the numbers are retained. The best way to combat the difference, according to Sec. Davin, is to ensure that more people are entering the workforce than are leaving it. Rep. Helm wondered if the difference had anything to do with in-state workers choosing to work out-of-state, or vice versa. Sec. Davin replied that that certainly has something to do with it.

Rep. Donna Bullock (D-Philadelphia) questioned what work the two departments have accomplished at providing job opportunities for diverse communities in the state. She was particularly concerned with communities where

English is not the primary language or where people who have had run-ins with the law that make getting higher-paying jobs difficult. Sec. Oleksiak claimed that his department's middle-class task force has focused heavily on ways that job opportunities can be created for the citizens who she is concerned about. He emphasized that he finds the task force's work to be beneficial to the creation of jobs for minority communities. Sec. Davin mentioned PayPal's withdrawal of plans to place its headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina, due to the state's anti-discrimination laws as a lesson for Pennsylvania.

Rep. Fred Keller (R-Snyder/Union) requested a defense of the proposed increases in the general government operations lines in DCED and L&I's budgets. Sec. Davin said they need a complete complement at DCED and the funds requested are needed to cover that expense. He said he would have to get back to the committee with the department's headcount last year but indicated its full authorized total of 282 is needed now. Rep. Keller noted that in the previous year the dollar total in the line went down and said he is "wondering about the numbers," particularly as the increases are considerably above the rate of inflation. Sec. Davin recommended scrutinizing the line item totals over the course of multiple years and said in the past they felt the numbers were not enough. He emphasized the need to have a respectful budget while maintaining a sufficient staff complement.

Rep. Stephen Kinsey (D-Philadelphia) mentioned that Pennsylvania is **31st in the nation in regard to minimum wage** pay. He also mentioned the tension on both sides of the aisle when the topic of raising the state's minimum wage was raised, and questioned the panel on the impact that raising the minimum wage would have. Sec. Davin replied that he does not have specific data to confirm speculation on one side or the other. Kinsey requested that Sec. Davin speak on the types of jobs that were created in Pennsylvania in 2017. Sec. Davin said many different types of jobs were created, primarily in the manufacturing field. Kinsey mentioned that he is having a hard time understanding why Pennsylvania does not do more to make itself a state in which people want to retire. Sec. Oleksiak responded that the state is not on the wrong track, and that there are people that want to retire in Pennsylvania. Sec. Davin argued that part of his department's goal is to merge community and economic development to attract and keep jobs in the state.

Rep. Jason Ortity (R-Allegheny), asked Sec. Davin to walk him through the marketing methods used to attract big businesses to Pennsylvania. Sec. Davin said DCED's marketing line items are used on digital media, which are effective in reaching both young and older residents. He also said some of the money from the line items goes to consultants, with a "good" return on investment for the department. Rep. Ortity wanted to know what DCED could do if another \$8 million was added to its budget. Sec. Davin replied that it is hard to know what the department would be able to do, and that he finds the amount of money allocated to them to be an acceptable amount.

Rep. Marty Flynn (D-Lackawanna) said **Act 72 investigations** and enforcement, coupled with prevailing wage enforcement, are issues in his district, where inspectors claim to be shorthanded. He said those factors are effectively creating an underground labor economy and questioned what the department is doing to combat it. Sec. Oleksiak agreed it is a problem and said they have made "some real progress" in collecting child labor violations, prevailing wage adjustments, and misclassification of workers. He acknowledged it is not enough, however. He said they are committed to improvement, and said funding is sufficient to continue to make improvements, though he remarked with more personnel, they could do more.

Rep. Karen Boback (R-Luzerne) asked what businesses the two departments are trying to attract to Pennsylvania. Sec. Davin mentioned a study that revealed that prolific resources in the state mean that more businesses can be attracted, with the potential for more plants to be built in the commonwealth, including fertilizer and plastics plants. He said he is proud of Pennsylvania's success in manufacturing "small plastic pieces" that can be used for a variety of reasons and were previously manufactured in Asia. Rep. Boback commended Sec. Davin and his department on their attempts to increase employment opportunities in the manufacturing industry in the commonwealth.

Rep. Patty Kim (D-Dauphin) questioned how DCED has been marketing for growth and increased activity. Sec. Davin replied that his department has marketed strongly for the state's tourism industry, as well as increased promotion of tourism in areas of the state that have not been known to generate much tourism, outside areas like Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Rep. Kim lamented a "missed opportunity" for Congress not to have increased the minimum wage alongside recent tax cuts. She noted that **wage stagnation** is one of the ways that the state struggles and also wanted to know how businesses are held accountable to paying their employees the minimum wage or

higher. Sec. Oleksiak responded that there are 30 people in his department that are assigned to enforcement of this type of regulation.

Rep. George Dunbar (R-Westmoreland) requested an update on the governor's proposed **accountability standards** in place for companies that receive grants. Sec. Davin remarked that compliance efforts have existed for a long time, but Gov. Wolf wanted to make the penalties more severe, especially for companies that leave the state. Rep. Dunbar then wanted to know if there are different department programs that handle this issue. Sec. Oleksiak said handling the responsibilities is a collective effort that provides flexibility and allows each department to handle more responsibilities at one time. Rep. Dunbar asked what career fields have particularly expanded in the commonwealth. Sec. Davin said the biggest changes have occurred in the manufacturing field. Sec. Oleksiak claimed that the state's apprenticeship programs have been very successful and would need state money to supplement the program's sole federal funding from last year.

Rep. Tim Briggs (D-Montgomery) requested that the panel provide an update on the state's efforts to entice **Amazon** to create its second headquarters building in Pittsburgh or Philadelphia. Sec. Davin replied that the strategy was to not want to limit any part of the state from applying to become Amazon's next headquarters location, as New Jersey had done in the past. He noted that resulted in six different responses from the commonwealth.

Rep. Seth Grove (R-York) asked Preston about conducting an analysis to determine if the minimum hours required to be eligible for eligible for PHEAA grants could be reduced. Preston cited the **PA TIP** program which allows for grant money to be used for less than two years, which is the minimum for state grants. Rep. Grove asked if technical schools are generally aware of the program. Preston said he thinks so, and believes there is in fact unmet need. Rep. Grove discussed the **Pittsburgh and Philadelphia Amazon bids**, and asked what they contain. Sec. Davin said a very redacted version of their package was released to the press by Philadelphia, while Pittsburgh did not release anything. Sec. Davin noted there will after discussions with Amazon be a state package on top of the two cities', though nothing is contained in the budget proposal to that end. Rep. Grove asked about high occupation jobs and where information is coming from on that point. Sec. Oleksiak said they are locally-generated reports.

Rep. Keith Greiner (R-Lancaster) noted the **Manufacturing PA** initiative was supposed to create/ maintain 6,000 jobs, but it appears it is down 2,500 since the prior year. He questioned what is going on. Sec. Davin said they believe they are going to meet their target, and have yet to deploy the entirety of their funding. Rep. Greiner continued, stating he cannot understand the administration's stance on the **depreciation deduction**. He said it makes a difference on job creation and added he hopes there is legislation that resolves the issue. Sec. Davin said the governor's goal is to level the playing field with combined reporting and showcasing Pennsylvania as a place to do business.

Rep. Curt Sonney (R-Erie) spoke to the importance of apprenticeship programs. He questioned what is changing that the trade unions need assistance with their apprenticeship programs now. Sec. Davin noted the Shell cracker plant, for example, has caused more need for steamfitters than ever expected. He said there will be a tremendous need for skilled technicians in various areas, and a significant proportion of that work will be done by unions. He added the issue ultimately goes back to the high schools and helping students and parents understand that a four-year degree is not the only road to success. Rep. Sonney asked what percentage is benefitting manufacturing versus other sectors. Sec. Davin offered to return that information. Rep. Sonney asked what comprises "proper training." Sec. Davin said it includes technical and life skills.

Rep. Doyle Heffley (R-Carbon) identified the **Uniform Construction Code (UCC)** as one obstacle encountered by individuals and small businesses. He noted L&I has oversight over code officials, and if a business has a complaint they go to L&I and it can be a cumbersome project. He questioned if there is anything that L&I is looking at to provide a better recourse for people who feel they've been unjustly delayed because of code officials. Sec. Oleksiak said he will have to get back to committee with that information. Rep. Heffley said he would also like to know if an official has ever been decertified. He said the complaint he gets from small businesses and individuals is that it is a cumbersome and expensive process, and there often can be retribution by code officials. Sec. Oleksiak confirmed L&I has decertified inspectors in the past and reiterated he will provide more details. Rep. Heffley noted that in the governor's proposal there is a **\$7 million cut for tourism promotion**. He questioned whether DCED can manage with that kind of a cut. Sec. Davin noted that amount constitutes **legislative initiatives** that were put in last year, so the amount provided for tourism is about the same as the department requested last year.

Rep. Mike Peifer (R-Wayne) offered congratulations to Preston in light of his upcoming retirement. Discussing FAFSA, he noted it has always been a process that starts in early spring, meaning tax returns have to be completed very early. He noted that was changed from spring to a fall deadline, trying to encourage more to apply early. Preston said when they did that they realized most people won't fill out their taxes till January or February so it defeated its purpose. By way of solution he said they then allowed an early tax form using tax details from the prior year. In general, he concluded, it basically averaged out.

Rep. Brian Ellis (R-Butler), chairman of the House Commerce Committee, asked whether DCED would support **putting the "one stop shop" concept into statute**. Sec. Davin said the idea is a great one and will only get better. In terms of putting it in statute, he said if legislators think it is a good thing to do, it is up to them. Rep. Ellis asked if either department would be willing to cede their authority over workforce development and apprenticeship programs. Both secretaries indicated they would support whatever leads to the most efficiency. Rep. Ellis said in a "perfect world" they would not need to incentivize businesses to settle in Pennsylvania. Nevertheless, he said, it is needed in the form of **Keystone Opportunity Zones (KOZs)** and similar initiatives. He questioned how legislation establishing entertainment districts is being implemented. Sec. Davin said they are still working out some issues in that regard. Speaking to KOZs, he remarked in some cases they make sense - such as brownfield sites - and others they do not. Rep. Ellis asked for a timeline on new tax credit programs. Sec. Davin said they should be available shortly. Rep. Ellis asked if PHEAA has programs in place to inform borrowers about their debt obligations. Preston referred to a page on their website called My Smart Borrowing. Rep. Ellis noted Rep. Quinn has legislation modeled on an Indiana initiative that provides information every time someone takes a loan out. Preston said he would absolutely support that. "Every time we can avoid a default on a loan, that's a good thing," he said.

Rep. Mark Longietti (R-Mercer), minority chairman of the **Tourism and Recreational Development Committee**, noted that Pennsylvania competes with other states when it comes to tourism. He questioned what is "the next step" in that regard, particularly with a view to avoiding leaving money on the table. Sec. Davin said there has been a lot of discussion about it, and bills that would provide a stream of funding on a consistent basis. He said that would make "all the sense in the world," and said there never seems to be enough money for tourism marketing. Rep. Longietti asked about the **What's So Cool About Manufacturing program** and how communities can take advantage. Sec. Davin said he would like the program to get "bigger and bigger and bigger," and said it is the best event he has attended in his tenure.

Chairman Markosek credited DCED for its intervention in his hometown of Monroeville and thanked the panel for their work. Chairman Saylor noted there is confusion over what constitutes prevailing wage when it comes to construction versus maintenance. He said clearing that up would be helpful for school districts. Sec. Oleksiak said he will work to clear that up. Chairman Saylor also said he is confused by the actions of successive governors who eliminate the **New Choices, New Options program** in their budgets. Sec. Oleksiak said the budget is about priorities and tough choices, and said he would be happy to continue the program's work if legislators add it back. Chairman Saylor also called Workforce Investment Boards "a waste of money" whose time has come to end. He said he does not intend to impugn the reputations of the people who sit on the boards, but simply to point out they are not working. He said something is needed to replace them that is more beneficial to Pennsylvania workers. Chairman Saylor also requested the panel review a report by Washington University on the effects of a minimum wage increase in Seattle.

Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearing with DEP

The committee held a budget hearing March 1 with the **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**, represented by **Sec. Patrick McDonnell**.

Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), chairman of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, opened by asking about the proposed well permit fee, which would increase to \$12,500. He pointed out it was \$100 per well until 2008, and then increased to \$3,200 and then \$5,000. Sec. McDonnell noted the increase is still a proposal and explained the \$12,500 fee is based on the assumption of 2,000 permits per year to cover current staff of 190 people. The fees would go into place in 2020. He pointed out the fund is currently losing more than \$500,000 per month. Sen. Yaw recalled that one of the justifications for the increase was to make it a self-pay proposition to hire more people and around 2011 there were 111 rigs, but this year it is down to 36 while the complement has gone from 134

to 190. He asked, "What are those people doing?" Sec. McDonnell replied the activity on the permitting side is driven by the amount of applications received, not the amount of activity at any given point. Further, he reviewed inspection requirements that are based on the types of proposed activities with up to six inspections as drilling is being done. He commented the department at one point was doing about half of that and it is now closer to meeting those requirements. Sen. Yaw said that it appears the time period for getting permits tends to increase when the fees are increased. Sec. McDonnell pointed out staff has declined from a high of 220 positions, and noted some of those positions were lost in the southwest regional office. "We've done a number of things to get that back on track," he reported, such as electronic inspections. Sen. Yaw asked the relative time period for permit decisions. Sec. McDonnell replied permit decision guarantees are around 45 days and erosion sedimentation is about 79 days in the northcentral and more than 80 in the southwest. He confirmed problems in the southwest have been reigned in from a high of around 300 days.

Sen. Yaw also asked about the **Chesapeake Bay**, referencing a Penn State study that indicated Pennsylvania needs to spend more than \$300 million each year for ten years. Sec. McDonnell reported DEP has more than \$1 million going to agriculture plan reimbursement and offered to get specifics to the committee. He added that the department is looking to leverage additional dollars wherever it can and opined there is a variety of ways to get at the total costs and it doesn't have to be all state dollars.

Sen. Yaw said he hears a lot about the **GP5 and GP5a** permitting and asked for an update. Sec. McDonnell indicated they will issue in the next month or two and said the permits will be effective sixty days after. He said they'll be able to manage them electronically.

Sen. Yaw also asked for a status update on clean water. Sec. McDonnell replied the department has looked at drinking water fees, which will be final later this spring, and has looked at cash flow and is bringing those positions on now. He said 33 positions are needed and he expects most to be on board by the end of this month in anticipation of the drinking water fees, which will be from drinking water providers.

Sen. John Yudichak (D-Luzerne), minority chairman of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, discussed permit reform and mentioned the passage of [SR 226](#) and asked how reform initiatives underway at the department will dovetail with that resolution. He also asked about the impact on staffing and deficiencies in industry applications. Sec. McDonnell said the department has been coming at permit reforms "from every direction" because the problem stems from no single source. He said the department has a unified process for applications and has moved things around so things are more even across the state. The department has also moved heavily into e-permitting, he added. He said the resolution is "particularly timely."

Sen. Yudichak also discussed the problem of orphan oil and gas wells and methane leakage. He asked what the department is doing to address the orphan wells and who bears the cost. He also wondered if concrete is the best product to use to plug the wells. Sec. McDonnell was not aware of other products or procedures, stating usually concrete is used especially when there is interaction with water table. He said he would get more details to the committee. Regarding abandoned and orphaned wells, Sec. McDonnell stated the department has 8,000 in its database, but estimates as many as 200,000. The department has worked with the conventional industry to do some well-plugging pro bono and has also been more deliberate in interaction with the industry and municipalities to get applications before the Commonwealth Finance Agency to get dollars for the projects. In conclusion, he confirmed there are a tremendous number of orphaned wells and not enough money to go around.

Sen. Yudichak mentioned a project proceeding in his district and wondered what funding resources will be applied to authorities or municipalities that have to meet MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer) challenges. Sec. McDonnell referenced a few examples of projects and said resources are a challenge. The department has leveraged a bit of money out of the Chesapeake Bay money from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and tries to be flexible and adaptable, while encouraging collaboration.

Lastly, Sen. Yudichak asked about abandoned mine land (AML) funding, noting Pennsylvania is going to receive \$55 million in 2018. Sec. McDonnell confirmed Pennsylvania generally receives about \$50 million each year and leverages those dollars. He discussed efforts to reclaim lands and address brownfields, noting the brownfield model is being adapted for greyfields (coal fields).

Sen. Elder Vogel (R-Beaver) mentioned a bill he has to address summer gas in western Pennsylvania and mentioned progress to that end. Sec. McDonnell indicated it is working through the regulatory process and then EPA will need to review it. Sen. Vogel also asked about increased fees for farmers and wondered if farmers will be able to bear those fees. Sec. McDonnell explained the permit expires at the end of this month and the department is doing outreach with the farm community to hear their concerns. He said the starting point is that the oversight of the program is about \$600,000 but only \$15,000 comes in from fees, and the fee increase will still only get to about one-third of costs. He was willing to work with the industry to make sure they understand the environmental responsibilities.

Sen. Vogel also asked about west Nile virus funding. Sec. McDonnell replied most of the money is for surveillance programs in the counties, plus some spraying in particular areas where the virus is found.

Sen. John Blake (D-Lackawanna) mentioned funding for the clean air economy and referenced his efforts of [SB 234](#). He asked the secretary to support the bill to help it move along, because he believes it is a good policy position that will also drive jobs. Sen. Blake also mentioned business interests in his district using water and urged the department to look at the permit requests, pointing out the two plans have the intent of removing iron from the water. Sec. McDonnell replied it is the first he has heard of the hydroelectric project and appreciated that some energy could probably be generated. Sen. Blake also lamented the **recycling statute is old** and sought the department's input for how to best update the law. Sec. McDonnell confirmed they have pulled together a workgroup to look at the issue and said all ideas are on the table. Sen. Blake noted the Department of Health did a health assessment, which did not have alarming findings, but made him consider drawing connections between the permits on landfill expansion and those issues. Sec. McDonnell was open to the conversation.

Sen. Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne) said she heard from a constituent who filed a permit request eight months ago for a low-head dam and has heard nothing. She wondered when a permit applicant should expect to receive some contact from the department. Sec. McDonnell offered to follow up on the specifics. Sen. Baker then asked about Act 26 and efforts to make it easier to build in areas without central sewer, mentioning a township that is receiving conflicting information on the department's approach. Sec. McDonnell said the department has made it clear to staff that while they are working on guidance documents, alternate on-lot can be considered in play. He indicated he will ensure the parameters of the new law are reemphasized to staff.

Sen. Baker then asked about the Delaware River and Susquehanna River basin commissions. Sec. McDonnell confirmed he's the appointed person to sit on those commissions and Jennifer Orr in the department is his alternate. Sen. Baker referenced the ban on natural gas exploration in the Delaware River basin, but on the Susquehanna side it has been found safe. Sec. McDonnell pointed out the two commissions have different authorities and it has not come before the Susquehanna commission. Sen. Baker said only two counties are singled out on the Delaware River basin and they're seeing differences of policy and application of state regulations. She wondered if it amounts to eminent domain and a taking of land rights. Sec. McDonnell reported the issue is working through the process and he is reviewing comments. Sen. Baker pointed to the high quality water in the area and said these are people that do not want to degrade their land or water. Sec. McDonnell agreed with her premise that Pennsylvania has very good oil and gas regulations.

Sen. Sharif Street (D-Philadelphia) asked about programs that could be used to remediate brownfields. Sec. McDonnell explained site cleanup goes through the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program, funded by the like-named fund. He also mentioned a Storage Tank Cleanup Fund and the possibility of grants through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Prioritization, he continued, comes down to risk and dollars available. The primary funding source is the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax, which is being phased out, and thus conversations are needed about how to replace that \$45 to \$50 million each year.

Sen. Scott Wagner (R-York) asked about permits and handed some charts to the secretary regarding the backlogs. He requested a breakdown of all permits and backlogs, wondering why there is such a large backlog. Sec. McDonnell offered to review the numbers and get back to the committee. He did note that anything under the permit decision guarantee is meeting the timeframes and the erosion and sediment times in the southwest are down as well. Sen. Wagner also discussed a chart on **staffing levels in oil and gas permitting** and estimated costs are about \$136,000 per person. He said he does not understand why there are permit delays and also wondered who is submitting incomplete applications. Sec. McDonnell reminded the committee that staffing activities extend beyond

well permits and each added well adds requirements and the only funding source is the Well Plugging Fund, which is funded by permit fees. He said the department is engaged in working with the industry to ensure good, complete applications are submitted in the first place. Sen. Wagner asked if the applications are being done online. Sec. McDonnell clarified not all of them, explaining they started with the mining application and have moved on to other higher volume activities and now moving into oil and gas mid-year. Sen. Wagner was interested in income generation from the permits that are not processed in a timely manner.

Sen. Wagner wondered about **storm water permits**, stating he was led to believe there was an issue because DEP did not file proper forms with the federal government and as a result stormwater permits are being delayed in Pennsylvania. Sec. McDonnell was not familiar with that issue, but did note one related permit that DEP worked with EPA on and said there is no delay.

Sen. Wagner asked about the role of the department in the Delaware River Basin Commission resolution banning fracking. Sec. McDonnell reiterated he is the representative on the commission and indicated he would provide minutes from the meeting.

Sen. Dave Argall (R-Schuylkill) recalled a tire pile fire years ago, which has led him to learn about scrap tires, and he asked about the progress of the cleanup. Sec. McDonnell confirmed much of the work is done and there are two priority piles left, with 700,000 tires. He called them "pretty challenging piles" because a lot of the tires are buried and there are streams going through. He noted the department has done about 40 million since 1996. Sen. Argall cautioned against the fire and mosquito issues they pose.

Sen. Argall then wondered about vacancies in state office buildings in light of declining complements. Sec. McDonnell offered to get specifics to the committee, noting a smaller district office was recently closed and the department has had some empty cubes. He noted, also, that as online operations increase that will lead to more space. Sen. Argall remarked he was dismayed to realize the Department of General Services does not have empty space information.

Sen. Art Haywood (D-Philadelphia) was concerned about water contamination, especially in relation to natural gas drilling. He asked how the department is protecting water. Sec. McDonnell responded the department has developed "robust casings regulations to make sure we are protected." He said it has been an effort over a number of years to be as protective as possible. Sen. Haywood wondered why Pennsylvania has not instituted a moratorium like New York has. Sec. McDonnell replied the administration believes it is possible to extract the resource while being protective of the environment. Sen. Haywood asked the number of wells. Sec. McDonnell replied there are about 200,000 abandoned conventional wells, some more than 100 years old, and one of the challenges is that as the wells age they deteriorate and the cost to plug them increases. Sen. Haywood asked cost estimates to address those wells. Sec. McDonnell replied no, indicating there may very well be more than 200,000 wells and they don't know where they all are. Sen. Haywood asked about the danger risk posed by the wells. Sec. McDonnell estimated \$350 million to plug the 8,000 they know about. He indicated cost depends on the individual situation and dangers include methane or gas migration into a home or well. Sen. Haywood was displeased with the risk and burden private industry has left for taxpayers to pay to resolve. Sec. McDonnell said there is some bonding on existing wells. Sen. Yaw asked how many unconventional wells there are in Pennsylvania. Sec. McDonnell did not know the total, but noted fewer than 1,000 were done last year. He offered to get data to the committee on both conventional and unconventional. Sen. Yaw wanted to know the average age of unplugged wells. Sec. McDonnell agreed with the premise that newer wells are subject to more oversight, but did not know the average age of the wells. He pointed out the bonds are not usually enough to do more than a few wells. Sen. Yaw suggested the Well Plugging Fund will be insolvent by 2020 and asked for a solution. Sec. McDonnell explained that is what the proposed fee increase is for, and clarified the fund is somewhat misnamed, as it is the fund for implementing statute regarding well permitting. He was hopeful to access Commonwealth Finance Agency dollars and other sources, but there is not nearly enough.

Sen. Yaw also asked about domestic water and wondered if there are any issues involving a water supply pending as a result of gas drilling. Sec. McDonnell said there are some migration cases still out there, but it is traditionally associated with older drilling. He offered to get specifics to the committee.

Committee Chairman Browne (R- Lehigh) read the projections of filled complement in the budget, including an increase of about 80, and wondered "where do you see this going," referencing Sec. McDonnell's frequent mentions of declines since 2008, which he called an unsustainable level. Sec. McDonnell clarified the basis is not 2008, but it is to find areas where additional staff provides some additional service and address risk. He mentioned the Dam Safety Program and air quality as two areas in need of more staff.

Regarding timing of permits, Chairman Browne commented that is the prime contract of a lot of commercial interests with the department. Sec. McDonnell agreed.

Chairman Browne asked about the issue of blending. Sec. McDonnell mentioned a situation where blending was potentially on the table, but the department did not receive an application and thus has not evaluated. Generally, the department is looking at low cost options and technology regarding the mix of sewage with treated water. He indicated it is prohibited by regulation and would necessitate a conversation with EPA, and reiterated no proposal is before the department so the science has not been evaluated.

Chairman Browne commented the department accomplishes a lot of its goals through **special funds** and noted concern with some of the funds. He discussed the need to discuss the financial future for the funds and pointed out the premise of a special fund is that it sustains itself. He welcomed conversations about where they are going. Sec. McDonnell identified a process put in place at the department that includes a three-year fee review and looking at revenues. He noted a lot of the funds do not have complement on them, including the Clean Water Fund, and cautioned the funds are authorizations and have been used in some emergency situations. Chairman Browne commented it would be worthwhile to have a premise to not project expenditures into a negative balance. Sec. McDonnell remarked on the value in showing the direction they are going and having an understanding of what happens if fees are not occasionally updated.

Senate Appropriations Committee Holds Budget Hearing with DCED

DCED Secretary Dennis Davin took his turn before the Senate Appropriations Committee on March 5. The committee held a budget hearing with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) represented by **Secretary Dennis Davin, executive deputy secretary Scott Dunkelberger, and deputy secretary for business financing Carol Kilko.**

Bills discussed: [SB 714](#), [SB 234](#) Keyword(s): business, communities, local projects, grants

Members Present: **and Senators, John Blake (D-Lackawanna), Randy Vulakovich (R-Allegheny), Elder Vogel (R-Beaver) Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland), Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne) and Judy Schwank (D-Berks).**

Sen. Mario Scavello (R-Monroe), Chair of the Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee, discussed Pennsylvania being a finalist for the new Amazon headquarters and wondered how that is playing out. Sec. Davin said having two cities as finalists is great for Pennsylvania and reflects the positive business environment in the state. He stated DCED touts the advantages of being in Pennsylvania with particular benefits from the **removal of the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax (CSFT)**, investments in ports, discussions on reducing the Corporate Net Income Tax (CNIT), and overall being "in a very good position" to appeal to Amazon. On PA First, Sen. Scavello noted there is an extra \$5 million in the budget for that and wondered what its impact is on job creation. Sec. Davin explained it has a tremendous impact by funding job creation activities and a good portion is for the **WEDnetPA** program, also noting the increase comes after a \$5 million decrease last year. Sen. Scavello then asked about work by DCED in Pittsburgh for distressed communities. Sec. Davin said that visit was in relation to Amazon's speech technology work, unrelated to the new headquarters, and on helping third class cities, highlighted a focus on both community projects and economic development projects together in a comprehensive way to get good news in the cities along with the maximum benefit and funding. He said DCED needs to work harder and smarter with their money. Sen. Scavello discussed a cut to marketing and tourism in the governor's budget of \$8.8 million. Sec. Davin noted \$4 million is pretty consistent with last year's budget after accounting for increases last year from legislative initiatives, admitting the \$4 million is "probably not enough" but will be used in the best way it can while also looking for a sustained funding means, with a 3 to 1 ratio on dollars spent and received for tourism. Sen. Scavello wondered if specific organizations are promoted and if the local and regional tourism levels can be improved. Sec. Davin quipped absolutely and one consistent brand is needed throughout the state as some areas do

not receive a lot of attention. Sen. Scavello asked for a walkthrough of DCED workforce development programs. Kilko explained WEDnetPA works with companies to increase funding as well as implement training programs in a collaborative effort with the Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) to make sure all funding available is coordinated in an efficient manner.

Senate Democrat leaser Jay Costa (D-Allegheny), discussed the removal of Pittsburgh from Act 47, and on legislation making changes to the Act 47 program, asked if remaining communities fully understand what is next for them if they do not remove themselves. Sec. Davin stated "we think that they do" in all 18 cities currently under the act but there will be tough decisions to make. He highlighted the importance of early intervention to prevent other cities from entering the program and emphasized education on ramifications of that program is critical. He added for all cities that came out of Act 47 it was very emotional because of what they had to go through and DCED wants to make sure cities have the proper tools to get out. Sen. Costa then discussed the Film Tax Credit Program wondering what modifications should be made to attract that business into the future. Sec. Davin voiced his support for the credit saying Pennsylvania has seen a benefit from it economically as well as the attention received from seeing the city in a film, but commented a sustained funding source is needed to keep it going as there are projects coming soon, and a better story of the benefit of the program must be told.

Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming) wondered what DCED is doing to coordinate open jobs with an area, noting 250 open jobs in his district. Sec. Davin responded that is the single biggest task in economic development in **matching jobs with the appropriate people**, mentioning initiatives in manufacturing such as Manufacturing PA to utilize specific training programs for the specific needs of area companies. He said getting people to those areas won't happen overnight and some areas need to be improved such as Wi-Fi access, along with adequate training in those areas to attract young people. He also highlighted apprenticeship programs and work with L&I to ensure coordination to train people for jobs that are already available. Sen. Yaw agreed with the importance of communication and **broadband access**, saying the issue also carries over to health care to attract doctors to certain areas. Lastly he asked how the success of a program is measured in DCED. Sec. Davin quipped "we are doing that all the time" such as in Manufacturing PA with examining what funds lead to results, training, and progress. He said the other part is ensuring the Department of Education (PDE) is making students career-ready which requires further coordination between agencies to prepare, train, and empower individuals for work.

Sen. John Blake (D-Lackawanna) thanked DCED for their responsiveness to the legislature as well as input given to the Senate Finance Committee for their initiatives, specifically mentioning conversations around a potential base realignment and closure (**BRAC**). Sec. Davin agreed a BRAC would be significant and Pennsylvania must be ready to defend the value of the state's bases. Sen. Blake then discussed **Innovate PA** which he said raised \$85 million net for the Benjamin Franklin Technology Partners and commended DCED for the rapid disbursement of the funds, saying it was important to recover losses from the recession in venture capital rankings. He also touched on career readiness and being encouraged from those efforts, but highlighted the need for a **career readiness council** as established in [SB 714](#) to disburse further grants. He also touched on municipal pension feedback needed from the department with respect to distressed pensions, also taking time to advocate for action on [SB 234](#) which would authorize **assessments for energy improvements** in districts designated by municipalities. Lastly Sen. Blake asked for an update on the Office of International Business Development (OIBD). Sec. Davin responded Pennsylvania is doing really well with getting the word out especially with support from trade representatives from various countries.

Sen. Scott Martin (R-Lancaster) revisited Pittsburgh coming out of act 47 and wondered if anyone entered in the last year, which Sec. Davin said Hazleton has entered this past year. He believed **Clairton** served the longest time under the designation, and noted the change in legislation pushed cities to get out of the program even though there are hard decisions that have to be made to do so. He added there are infrastructure issues in third class cities which lost population over the years and at the federal level community grants for such issues have decreased. Sen. Martin agreed local programs can be key to turn around cities and next on a reduction in tourism funding, commented we are in an age where to attract business to the state "breaks from the treasury" are needed to compete. He said that leads to a business of awarding credits for certain industries and taxes on others and wondered how picking winners and losers would affect the health of Pennsylvania and its business climate, while tourism funding which benefit Pennsylvania businesses is reduced. Sec. Davin clarified the governor is not cutting that line item at all as the additional amount last year was from legislative initiatives that went away, but reiterated dedicated funding for tourism and marketing is needed. On **tax credits**, he responded the administration does not want to pick winners and

losers but wants to work with businesses who want to come to Pennsylvania, with the governor's intent to work on the underlying infrastructure such as ports and roads and reduce CNIT to attract business. "I think we are on the right track," he added, mentioning Pennsylvania's effective tax rate is up 4.5 percent right now in line with national averages. Sen. Martin commented if a break is given to one area the tax pressure falls to everybody else and the state must be wary of that, lastly asking about the federal **Opportunity Zone Program** and if Pennsylvania is looking to do that. Sec. Davin said they will take advantage of anything out there, but on Opportunity Zones, questions remain around what that program means. He said work is ongoing with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) to identify areas around the state, as 1,200 areas qualify and 299 can be selected. He reiterated there are still questions around what will happen with the program but the federal government is likely open to extensions on deadlines.

Committee **Chairman Patrick Browne (R-Lehigh)**, interjected a statewide investment platform for tourism has been a struggle and switching from a direct appropriation model to an incremental increase model which, which doesn't always work, could work in this case considering the data and results tracking that is kept on tourism.

Sen. David Argall (R-Schuylkill) referenced bringing people to his district in Pottsville through increased development, but also mentioned things he is "not so proud of" and challenges that create an interest in the federal Opportunity Zones Program with a March 22 deadline, wondering if Pennsylvania will be entering the program. Sec. Davin said Pennsylvania will be entering the program but is considering asking for an extension to make sure the best information is gathered to determine which cities will benefit the most and conduct selection in a fairer way. He restated there are **1,200 zones that qualify** and 25 percent or 299 of those can be named, which the governor will recommend to the Treasury and go from there. Dunkelberger added the program will develop funds to invest in those zones and however long you keep that money in those funds preferential treatment will grow. He said the trick is to name the zone where there will be private investment which will make things happen quicker. Sec. Davin refuted questions from Sen. Argall stating that areas that will see investment regardless of the program will be avoided, saying the department is still trying to understand the details of the program and want to benefit areas that have opportunity and could be helped even more by the program.

Sen. Sharif Street (D-Philadelphia) indicated complex manufacturing is one of the fastest growing industries in the world and still requires human input, such as the tanker ship building projects in the Philadelphia Navy Yard and electronic assembly. He wondered if Pennsylvania will position itself to take advantage of that. Sec. Davin responded "absolutely" and DCED is focusing on businesses' needs for a properly trained workforce such as Manufacturing PA, working with research universities, and getting younger people into manufacturing establishments to explore education outlets other than a four year degree. Sen. Street thanked Sec. Davin for those efforts and called for strategic partnerships with the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) schools to prepare for jobs that are coming as well as market the state to businesses. Chairman Browne commented changing people's attitudes towards what manufacturing is relevant as it is often misunderstood along with changes in space and workforce needed for those businesses.

Sen. Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne) discussed coordination between the business and community side for program support and requested information on how much is distributed annually to each side along with a breakdown by area, communicating frustration from smaller communities in not being considered in the same way as large cities. Sec. Davin said that would be provided and referenced various programs which are applied differently throughout the state. Sen. Baker then discussed the CNIT rate and the governor's plan to bring it down to 7.99 percent and wondered if that is being looked at in conjunction with the **Department of Revenue (DOR) enacting changes relating to not being able to claim depreciation** unless the assets are sold and establishing combined reporting, wondering how that would affect DCED efforts to attract companies due to potential negative business effects. Sec. Davin explained combined reporting is about "leveling the playing field." On the other two, he added in regard to Amazon "we're in pretty good shape" and they know what is happening and still selected two Pennsylvania cities. Sen. Baker opined we will have to see what happens and communicated frustration from small communities with respect to establishing resources for high demand jobs through adult education programs. Kilko agreed career technology education is an important measure such as programs in Johnstown focused on adults which she described as "truly a model" to look into in other areas. Sen. Baker agreed that looking to the future, high priority areas need to be looked at differently in rural areas.

Sen. Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland) thanked Sec. Davin for his assistance in Westmoreland County and discussed the **Residential Universal Services Program** for low income individuals, wondering if there is a shortage of resources in that area considering a proposal to raise rates on commercial industrial gas and oil use. Sec. Davin responded he would have to look and provide further information.

Sen. Judy Schwank (D-Berks) said DCED "represents the lifeblood of our communities in terms of jobs" and opportunities for the next generation and on the Opportunity Zones Program, wondered if that replaced the Markets Tax Credit Program. Dunkelberger indicated it is separate and the new market program has not gone away. Sen. Schwank added that program is significant to her district and on older adult learning for reentry to the workforce, stated a focus on lifelong learning is important. She brought up consolidation and services sharing, wondering where DCED is on that. Sec. Davin said there is funding available to get communities to think about program sharing saying he believes "it has to happen" in various ways, specifically highlighting police merging, and reiterating support for shared services to save costs. Sen. Schwank replied sometimes it can be about saving programs that individual areas cannot afford, and opined municipal assistance decreases must be reexamined to help communities work together and ensure continuation of programs. She lastly asked that the Wolf administration continue with a holistic approach on the economic and community side and continue assistance in that respect.

Sen. Randy Vulakovich (R-Allegheny) wondered if the Opportunity Zone Program is too new to understand yet. Sec. Davin responded "yes and no" as he is not sure the federal government fully understands the project yet, reiterating previous data figures of 299 possible designations but saying the federal government could come up with some new things yet. Sen. Vulakovich referenced projects in his district and some businesses not being able to afford to stay and looking for more affordable facilities, wondering if that would be part of that program. Sec. Davin said low income and adjacent communities can potentially utilize the program which must be thought through by the department to ensure maximum benefit goes to those areas that need it. Sen. Vulakovich then moved to workforce development wondering what impact trade unions have on the issue. Sec. Davin noted they have a "great positive impact." Kilko added they work with the apprenticeship and manufacturing programs and do great work in training. She also added they are looking to address the lack of people coming into the trades to create a more robust program. Sen. Vulakovich referenced a change in thought from needing a college education to a more positive light of career training, evidenced by a glass manufacturing plant in his district which the trades are getting applications from their workers.

Sen. Elder Vogel (R-Beaver) thanked DCED for its work in his district and talked about the **Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Program**, wondering how many received the credit last year. Sec. Davin said it would be provided and agreed it is a "tremendous program" for businesses to invest in communities and there is movement to increase that model. Sen. Vogel agreed more money is needed and wondered about international trade and what Pennsylvania exports. Sec. Davin noted discussions with Canadian provinces are happening as Pennsylvania imports more than it exports to those areas, indicating Pennsylvania is an important trading partner for lumber, agriculture products, and manufactured components and those relationships must be maintained. Sen. Vogel asked for an update on the new **Shale cracker plant**. Sec. Davin said vertical construction is now going on and hundreds of millions of dollars were spent to get to that point, specifically saying "they think they are right on target" to get up and running by 2020. He noted DCED likes the project and because that was built, Pennsylvania has even more opportunities for such manufacturing. Sen. Vogel agreed it would have a trickledown effect and lastly voiced agreement on the shared services initiative to help local communities afford and maintain services.

Sen. Argall discussed small-town **City Revitalization and Improvement Zones (CRIZ)** and the benefit they had in his district, wondering why Gov. Wolf has not allowed new applications. Sec. Davin said that is likely continue with "a number of issues related to it" such as not being revenue neutral, businesses not seeing a benefit but getting fined if they do not submit reports, and a need for the program to be "more workable" as there are other programs that exist that can better benefit those areas. Sen. Argall commented there is a desire to "breathe new life into old towns" which drives the continued interest in CRIZ and expanding the Keystone Opportunity Zones (KOZ). Sec. Davin responded that could happen and pinned various sites around the state that benefited from the KOZ program, saying DCED is mindful of what works and what makes sense as well as maintaining areas that are already in the program through extensions if appropriate.

Minority Chairman Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia) said the **Neighborhood Assistance Program** is impactful and valuable and must be expanded. He opined the broader conversation is many communities across the state are

suffering because of a lack of investment which will not happen passively over time, wondering how the effort of the various DCED programs can be combined to change the dynamic and circumstance of local communities. Sec. Davin explained the DCED charge goes back to looking at communities holistically in regard to housing, infrastructure, and business development and must be utilized to make impactful investments. He added DCED does take this holistic approach seriously by looking at opportunities in conjunction with other departments to maximize funding and resources and continue a sustained investment. Chairman Hughes subsequently thanked Sec. Davin for visiting his district and delivering on those discussions and said the issue of building on investment and bringing everyone together is applicable in all varying areas of the state, saying the state must figure out how to bring everyone together to address the varying fronts.

Chairman Browne commented on Amazon, wondering what they will want from the state in terms of incentives and mentioning talks in other states of "maybe \$3 or \$4 billion." Sec. Davin responded the question is what it would take to get their attention, which has already been done as evidenced by placement on the shortlist. He indicated the next step is waiting to hear what Amazon desires which they do not know at this point and will not happen until a city is selected. He said the state must step up and show what Philadelphia and Pittsburgh have with respect to talent as that is what companies are looking for. Chairman Browne clarified an incentive package will be part of it, which Sec. Davin concurred in, but opined that is the next step after accounting for talent and the cost of living of potential sites, outlining the economic impact Amazon coming would have. He said any incentive package would have to be approved by the legislature but that length is unknown at this time.

Chairman Browne next commented on the **Naval Assistance Program** saying things like that should be built off of as they create local partnerships and yield results, and on the matter of partnerships and CRIZ, said the filing issues can be worked through and solved if that is the main hang-up. On the federal tax bill, Chairman Browne wondered how changes requiring corporations that receive subsidies from states to pay taxes on them would impact DCED recruitment, which he opined is not good tax policy. Sec. Davin indicated it might hurt that ability but he gets where they are coming from as an ideal discussion would not include any state subsidies and instead focus on quality investments, saying he is not sure but it "would probably make it a little more difficult" depending on how companies would react. Chairman Browne summarized the change is a statement from the federal government but the wrong thing to do.

House Commerce Committee Holds Informational Hearing with DCED

The committee held an informational meeting with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) on March 6. **Committee Chairman Brian Ellis (R-Butler)** said the committee is interested in more details on the programs that help small businesses and grow communities. He noted a lot of talk at last week's [budget hearing](#) with the department centered on the minimum wage, and that will continue in the Labor and Industry Committee. He said the Commerce Committee wants to deal more with DCED's programs.

Scott Dunkelberger, executive deputy secretary, offered an overview of the department, which he said has a current complement of 282. He explained that in addition to running programs more commonly known, DCED also oversees authorities such as the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA), the Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority (PMBDA), and the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA). He introduced various deputy secretaries from the department, who offered overviews of their areas of responsibility.

Carol Kilko, deputy secretary for business financing, outlined the programs under her purview. She explained the **Pennsylvania First program**, which was established several years ago as the consolidation of multiple grant programs. From the same pot of money, she went on, they also have the **Workforce and Economic Development Network of Pennsylvania (WEDnet PA)**, which helps train incumbent workers to help companies grow. She said through WEDnet PA they have trained one million workers since its 1999 inception. She also offered details on a new initiative called **PA Business One-Stop Shop**, a collaborative effort among several agencies to help businesses start or grow in the commonwealth. Continuing, Kilko discussed the **pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship program**, whose goal is to assist employers with talent recruitment and development by increasing accessibility to apprenticeships. She also explained **PIDA**, which provides low-interest loans and lines of credit to businesses in exchange for commitments to creating and retaining jobs in the commonwealth. Finally, Kilko told members about the small diverse business financing initiative, borne out of [Executive Order 2015-11](#), which established the

Governor's Advisor Council on Diversity, Inclusion and Small Businesses Opportunities. As a result, DCED made \$4.5 million available to increase lending to diverse businesses, she said.

Jennifer Leinbach, executive director of the **Office of Technology and Innovation**, discussed programs in her oversight. Among them she reported the **Manufacturing PA program** was launched this fiscal year and is aimed at helping implement training programs at community colleges and other training partners via grants. She also discussed the **Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority**, which she noted has been level-funded since 2012. The Ben Franklin partners provide early stage firms with critical seed capital, technology expertise and resources, Leinbach said. In addition to the regional partners' work, she added, the authority took critical steps forward in helping the venture capital community, transferring \$11 million to various firms across the state, further expanding what she said is vital access to early stage capital. Leinbach also talked about the **Engage! Program**, designed to proactively interact with targeted companies, and offer "follow-up care" based upon business needs, from practical action plans to address needs and opportunities available to businesses.

Rick Vilello, deputy secretary for community affairs and development, said he is responsible for a range of programs to help solve problems in municipalities and communities. He explained the **Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP)**, which he said brings businesses, nonprofits and local governments together to solve their own problems. He said projects may include initiatives addressing affordable housing, community services, crime prevention, and conservation. Annually, he said, there are \$18 million in tax credits made available, and demand is increasing each year, doubling in 2017-18. He noted their involvement generates about a 7:1 return on investment. Vilello discussed the **Governor's Center for Local Government Services**, which he advised works with fire and police services, helps with visioning and long-term planning for municipalities, training opportunities, and offers a library of handbooks and reference guides for local officials. Continuing, Vilello detailed the Early Intervention Program, which he said has been really pushed, up to a \$200,000 grant with 50 percent matching funds, and comprises a strategic financial management plan to implement recommended strategies to prevent communities from sliding downward. Additionally, Vilello noted there are **17 current municipalities in Act 47**, and five have left that status in recent years, including Pittsburgh and Altoona most recently. He acknowledged some concern regarding [Act 199 of 2014](#) but said DCED is working through them.

Joe Burke serves as deputy secretary of the **Office of International Business Development**, which he said is committed to helping Pennsylvania companies increase their export sales, and helping foreign companies invest in Pennsylvania. He said they work with international business consultants around the world and in the state to develop export and investment strategies, and have offices in countries around the world. Burke detailed how they maintain regional export network partners around that state that work with local companies, chambers of commerce and local economic development groups.

Chairman Ellis asked how many vacancies there are at DCED. Dunkelberger said there are 15 vacancies currently. Chairman Ellis asked Burke to provide the metrics they use to guide performance. Burke said he would provide them.

Rep. Michael Driscoll (D-Philadelphia) inquired how DCED interacts with the governor's response team, and if there are any other "big" projects on the horizon, aside from possibly Amazon. Dunkelberger said the Governor's Action Team is part of DCED, and works with companies in Pennsylvania that would have an impact through expansion, or who want to locate in the state.

Rep. Rob Matzie (D-Beaver) commented that in his experience he has seen "highs and lows" of DCED-involved projects. He said just about every project he has been a part of in some way has been related to a former industrial hub of the kind that used to make up the economic engine of the state. He thanked Dunkelberger and his team for their efforts.

New committee member **Rep. Austin Davis (D-Allegheny)** also thanked the panel, noting there are several Act 47 communities in his district. In particular he said **Duquesne** has been in Act 47 for some time, and asked what the plan is for such places that have been in the program for upwards of two decades. Dunkelberger said when an entire economic base leaves in one day, "that's pretty devastating." He said small civil divisions in those cases can work against a region. Vilello reiterated one of his fears is the "cliff" associated with Act 199's time limit, after which

taxing advantages expire. He said Duquesne and Mahanoy City, for example, are a real concern when they hit that hard deadline.

Rep. Dawn Keefer (R-York) said unmet employer needs are a big issue in her district, and asked if there is a collaboration with the Department of Education (PDE) to focus on technical schools and the existence of other "paths to prosperity" besides four-year college degrees. Dunkelberger pointed out it is not just her district but all over the state. He indicated a cultural shift has to happen to recognize the viability of technical careers, and also the aging workforce plays a role. Kilko explained they have for the last several years worked closely with L&I and PDE through the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act. She said they recognize their interest is the state's businesses, and the difficulty they have in finding employees. Rep. Keefer cited the York Technical School in her district as an institution that is playing an important role. Kilko said the "hardest nut to crack" is getting parents to recognize the importance of manufacturing and other jobs for their children.

Rep. Chris Quinn (R-Delaware) asked why foreign companies choose to locate in PA. Burke identified several success stories, including companies from France and Mexico, and said part of the attraction is proximity to market, as well as great transportation options and a good workforce. He said every country they talk to has a similar problem with qualified workers and Germany works to reach children early on in their education.

Rep. Bill Kortz (D-Allegheny) noted municipalities in his region, former steel centers like Homestead, were able to develop their waterfronts as an economic driver. He asked what the plan is to develop Duquesne's waterfront in a similar way, and take advantage of the coming Mon-Fayette Expressway. Dunkelberger said it is a matter of location, and places like Homestead have done well and are heading in the right direction. He said the expressway will help, but there are big stretches of highways in the state where there are business parks ready to go, but companies want to locate near communities. He said an emerging model for redeveloping brownfield sites is keeping or building facilities and leasing them out.

Rep. Tommy Sankey (R-Clearfield) asked if there is an update on movement in the administration to attract **Amazon**, and if there is anything legislators can do to make the state more attractive. Dunkelberger said Pennsylvania is a "pretty great place to be," and reflected on the fact that two of the Amazon finalist cities are in the state. He said they know they need to improve the corporate tax rate and hopefully that will happen, but there is generally a good business climate that people are taking notice of. At this point, he said, they are engaged with the company and are happy they are looking so hard at the state.

Rep. Doyle Heffley (R-Carbon) asked how much money is in the department's various grant programs, particularly related to renewable energy. Dunkelberger said the **Alternative Energy Investment Act** was passed in 2008, and directed \$295 million to the CFA "to do all sorts of alternative energy," with \$25 million for just renewable energy, \$160 million for alternative and clean energy, and also \$30 million in applications for solar projects that will be considered next week by the CFA. Rep. Heffley said the state's nuclear plants are making so much energy they can't sell it. He questioned why they are giving money to companies to generate even more solar and wind-based electricity. Dunkelberger pointed out the legislature passed the act and charged DCED with implementing its provisions. He said there are companies very much committed to clean energy, and schools and municipalities appreciate knowing what their energy costs will be going forward. Rep. Heffley said he would like to see waste coal part of the energy portfolio. Rep. Heffley discussed the state's "**homegrown businesses**," such as fire engine manufacturer KME. He said there are many obstacles, groups, and regulations facing companies that want to expand, and asked what DCED does to help companies navigate through those waters. Dunkelberger noted some municipalities want growth and others want to close the door on development, often in areas such as the Poconos. He said there are literally thousands of municipalities, each with their own mindset, that make it a challenge. He said he thinks the One-Stop Shop will be a fantastic tool to help businesses in that situation. He pointed out most of what DCED does to help businesses doesn't make the headlines like Amazon has.

Rep. Heffley expressed frustration on behalf of companies stymied by opposition groups or regulations as they try to continue to operate and grow.

Minority Chairman Curtis Thomas (D-Philadelphia), asked if there is an office in Taiwan and Beijing. Burke said there is one in Taiwan and one on mainland China in Shanghai. Chairman Thomas said **disadvantaged businesses** register with the Department of General Services (DGS) and from that point are given an opportunity to participate in state businesses, but there is another set of qualifications required when it comes to technology in

order to do business with the state. He recommended merging those two applications. Dunkelberger said he will speak with DGS to flesh out that issue.

Chairman Thomas noted a budget hearing last week that discussed **non-traditional pre-apprenticeship opportunities**, and a joint effort between L&I, DCED and PDE to identify and add such opportunities to the program. He noted there are no opportunities around the energy sector, for example. Chairman Thomas asked if there is a point person within the department who can update the committee on the status of loans and grants in targeted areas. He also discussed the importance of performance requirements, which he observed while working with the federal government for a period of time. Dunkelberger explained the performance monitoring division of the department which does nothing but oversee whether the requirements of tax credits, loans and grants are met, and clawing back any funds.

Chairman Thomas discussed the issue of diversity and said the state is strengthened when businesses reflect the larger community. Kilko confirmed DCED has adopted the governor's executive order on diversity, and with respect to businesses and DGS, said they work very closely to address the issue. She said the procurement process has undergone changes to provide more opportunity for diverse business, and they are also looking at addressing the question of diversity in state grant programs. Internally, she went on, they have made sure equal opportunity language is included in each departmental guideline. Additionally, they have gotten DCED Sec. Davin's approval for further diversity measures, she said, including training.

Chairman Thomas also requested information on how the department is helping veterans and the disabled. **Rep. Jonathan Fritz (R-Susquehanna)** asked about the budget of DCED. Dunkelberger said a lot of what they do is beyond the General Fund, with dozens of programs. Rep. Fritz said the department has a pretty amazing scope in that regard. He said the lack of focus on rural areas and on natural gas development appears to him to be glaring. Chairman Ellis said he hears over and over from colleagues not on the committee regarding the need for validation that the funds invested in DCED go on to help towns and communities. He emphasized the need for data showing outcomes, and ultimately being able to achieve more while leaving aside those programs that are not productive. Chairman Ellis said the federal tax cut established **business opportunity zones** and asked how DCED is notifying eligible areas and what will be used to select them. Dunkelberger said there are 1,200 distressed census tracts in Pennsylvania, and they can recommend 300 to the federal government. He said the "pot of gold" is preferential treatment on capital gains, and the longer the money is kept in the funds the better the treatment gets. He said they cast a "really wide net" across the state and have heard from legislators about possible zones. Dunkelberger said the trick will be identifying areas where the private sector is likely to invest. By March 22, the governor will be required to make recommendations, though there may be an extension put in place to get "every bit of input" possible, he said.

On **workforce development**, Rap Matzie said in Beaver County they are going into the school district to talk about the opportunities available, particularly related to energy and the trades. Kilko discussed the "What's Cool About Manufacturing" event, established in the Lehigh Valley by the Industrial Resource Center there, which partners with various stakeholders in a competition for middle-schoolers to go into manufacturing companies and develop a video and learn about career opportunities. She noted it is spreading across the commonwealth.

Chairman Thomas said they are discovering there needs to be a strong foundation in math to succeed in manufacturing.

EXECUTIVE ORDER: GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR PERFORMANCE THROUGH EXCELLENCE (OPE)

Gov. Tom Wolf signed an executive order that will ensure cooperation between himself and agencies, boards and commissions to identify opportunities for collaboration with external entities to bring new ideas into the state government. The order went into effect immediately after being signed.

<https://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol48/48-8/283.html>

EXECUTIVE ORDER: GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF TRANSFORMATION, INNOVATION, MANAGEMENT AND EFFICIENCY

Gov. Tom Wolf signed an executive order that will deliver cost savings to Pennsylvania residents through multiagency efficiencies, productivity improvements and cost-saving innovations. The order took effect immediately and rescinded Executive Order 2012-04 immediately.

<https://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol48/48-8/284.html>

Legislative Activity

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

Budget Related Bills

[HB 2070](#) RE: [Budget Procedure Reform Legislation](#) (by Rep. Jason Ortity, et al)

Amends the Administrative Code, in Commonwealth budget procedures, further providing for fiscal notes, providing for adoption of expenditure limitations and for form of appropriation acts and further providing for revenue estimates; and, in Independent Fiscal Office, further providing for revenue estimates. The bill establishes that no later than June 1 of each year, the General Assembly shall adopt expenditure limitations for the ensuing fiscal year by concurrent resolution. Prior to signing an appropriations bill, the governor shall sign the concurrent resolution adopting expenditure limitations.

Introduced and referred to House State Government Committee, 2/12/2018

[SB 980](#) RE: General Appropriation Act of 2018 (by Sen. Vincent Hughes, et al)
Senate Democrats FY 2018-19 Budget bill. Mirrors Governor Wolf's budget proposal.

Introduced and referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 2/22/2018

[SB 995](#) RE: Capital Budget Act of 2018-2019 (by Sen. Vincent Hughes, et al)

Provides for the capital budget for the fiscal year 2018-2019 and appropriates \$1,010,000,000. Effective July 1, 2018, or immediately, whichever is later.

Introduced and referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 2/22/2018

[SB 996](#) RE: Capital Budget Project Itemization Act of 2018-2019 (by Sen. Vincent Hughes, et al)

Provides for the capital budget for fiscal year 2018-2019; itemizes public improvement projects and furniture and equipment projects leased or assisted by the Department of General Services, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation or the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, together with their estimated financial costs; authorizes the incurring of debt without the approval of the electors for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of General Services, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation or the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission; authorizes the use of current revenue for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources or the Department of Transportation stating the estimated useful life of the projects; and makes appropriations.

Introduced and referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 2/22/2018

Cosponsor memo filed

[HCO2966](#) (Rader) - Consolidates workforce development programs under DCED and shifts the Workforce Development Board (WDB) from the Dept. of Labor & Industry to the DCED.

Filed, 2/21/2018

KOZ/CRIZ/Tax Credits

[SB 234](#) RE: Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs (by Sen. John Blake, et al)

Amends Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) adding a chapter authorizing counties or municipalities to create property assessed clean energy programs, which authorize assessments for energy improvements in districts designated by municipalities. Before a real property can establish an assessment under the program and begin local financing or owner financing of a qualified project, the following shall occur: (1) Any financial institution holding a lien, mortgage or security interest in or other encumbrance of the real property that secures a current, future or contingent payment obligation must be given written notice of the real property owner's intention to participate in the program and acknowledge in writing to the property owner and municipality or county that established the program that they have received such notice; and (2) Any financial institution required to be given notice must provide written consent to the property owner and municipality or county that established the program that the property may participate in

the program. Reviews and public notice are required. An assessment and any interest or penalties on the assessment is a first and prior lien on the real property and has the same priority status as a lien for any other tax.

Discussed during Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearing with Department of Agriculture, 2/28/2018

Discussed during Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearing with DEP, 3/1/2018

[SB 799](#) RE: Pennsylvania Clean Water Procurement Program Act (By Sen. Rich Alloway, et al)

Establishes the Pennsylvania Clean Water Procurement Program to provide for the purchase of verified TMDL nutrient credits from certified nutrient credit generators through a competitive bidding process consistent with 62 Pa.C.S. Pt. I (relating to Commonwealth Procurement Code) and any other competitive process determined to be appropriate by the Department of Environmental Protection and the State Conservation Commission; provides for powers and duties of the State Conservation Commission; and establishes the Watershed Improvement Fund. The department shall transfer the nutrient reduction mandates of a permittee to a competitive bidding program to enable all certified nutrient credit entities that can generate verified TMDL nutrient credits to participate in an RFP on a voluntary basis. In return for being absolved from the TMDL nutrient reduction mandate, the aggregate number of permittees may pay into the program \$50,000,000 annually for 10 years, subject to annual adjustment. Transfer payments shall be paid into the Watershed Improvement Fund, to be used by the commission for the purchase of verified TMDL nutrient credits. Winning bids will offer 20 percent of total nutrient reduction allotment to be available for participation for 30 days by small sources that did not participate in the bidding process so that a small producer who installs a BMP can subscribe to sell their credits into this pool and receive the winning bid price absent the need to participate in the bidding process.

Discussed during Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearing with Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 2/28/2018

Partnerships/Liability

NONE

Local/State Government Regulations

NONE

Local/Property Taxes

NONE

Minimum Wage

NONE

Permitting

NONE

Procurement

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/>

MONDAY - 3/12/18

House Commerce Committee

12:00 p.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

To consider: [HB 1284](#) (Peifer) - Act providing for the Pennsylvania Business Permitting Portal within the Department of Community and Economic Development; and establishing the Pennsylvania Business Permitting Portal Advisory Board. And **HB 2124** (C. Quinn) - Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for information regarding education loans.

House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee

12:00 p.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Informational meeting with DCED's Tourism office and the PA Restaurant and Lodging Association on marketing activities and initiatives designed to attract business and leisure travelers to the state

TUESDAY - 3/13/18

House State Government Committee

9:00 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

To consider: HB 1792 (Benninghoff) - Amends the Regulatory Review Act, further providing for procedures for subsequent review of disapproved final-form or final-omitted regulations;

[HB 1959](#) (Rothman) - Act providing 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.

Commonwealth Financing Authority Meeting Schedule (Subject to Change)

Friday, March 16 - 11 AM

PUC Hearing Room #1, 2nd Floor, Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, Harrisburg

Tuesday, May 22 - 10:30 AM

Forest Room, CKB Meeting Center, 1st Floor (plaza) Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, Harrisburg

Tuesday, July 17 - 10:30 AM

Forest Room, CKB Meeting Center, 1st Floor (plaza) Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, Harrisburg

Tuesday, September 18 - 10:30 AM

Forest Room, CKB Meeting Center, 1st Floor (plaza) Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, Harrisburg

Wednesday, November 14 - 10:30 AM

Forest Room, CKB Meeting Center, 1st Floor (plaza) Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, Harrisburg

For more information:

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

2018 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

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

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>