



PAACC Pennsylvania Update

August 1, 2018

PAACC State Capitol Snap Shot

The House and Senate are currently on the summer recess.

Business & Industry

Economic Development

On Monday, July 23, 2018, Senate Republican Policy Committee Chairman David Argall met with local elected officials, brewers, and economic development leaders at the Yuengling Brewery in Pottsville to discuss the impact the brewing industry is having on Pennsylvania's economy. According to the Brewers Association, Pennsylvania has 360 separate breweries and 194 of those are members of the state chapter. The industry experiences challenges from the PA Liquor Control Board that makes contracts between brewers and beer wholesalers nearly everlasting. The Legislature is looking at addressing this issue to make the industry friendlier to small breweries, allowing for more economic development. The hearing was the first of a week-long series of hearings on the topic for the Senate Policy Committee. The committee met in Hershey at the Troegs Brewery on July 24, at Spring House Brewing in Lancaster on July 25, and Neshaminy Creek Brewing Co. in Croydon on July 26.

Workforce Development

Governor Tom Wolf designated the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board as the commonwealth's state workforce development board in accordance with Section 101 of the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The Governor stated WIOA requires state workforce development partners to work in a coordinated way to help job seekers advance their careers and help employers build their workforce. Gov. Wolf indicated WIOA outlines workforce development priorities for states including serving individuals with barriers to employment, creating career pathways, advancing sector-based strategies and using data to drive decision-making.

Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act*

On July 13, 2018, Rep. Frank Farry introduced HB 2564, which provides for the uniform, efficient, and predictable regulation of small wireless antennas to improve the provisioning and deployment of the next generation of high-speed wireless broadband throughout the Commonwealth. This does not change existing law relative to cell towers. In order to meet those ever-growing demands, the wireless industry is deploying "Small Cell" facilities in the Commonwealth. However, because decisions are made on a municipal level, wireless providers are faced with varying fees and different procedures that may slow and, in some cases, deter their ability to deploy this new and modern infrastructure. With an array of municipal ordinances governing wireless infrastructure, compliance could be burdensome, time consuming, and costly. This results in less robust services for consumers. HB 2564 preserves local government authority over zoning and land use, including the ability to approve or deny wireless infrastructure permit applications consistent with common sense limitations, in order to create a more efficient process that would enable communities to enjoy the benefits of this critical next generation technology. The House Consumer Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on the bill on August 9, 2018.

Transportation

Hyperloop Study

On July 18, 2018, Rep. Aaron D. Kaufer circulated a co-sponsorship memo regarding a resolution he intends to introduce that would direct LB&FC to conduct a feasibility study that examines the potential for a hyperloop system that would run from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia, with a stop in Harrisburg, as well as a northeast extension that would operate between Harrisburg and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. The study should identify new economic and social opportunities for Pennsylvania's companies and citizens, as the defined route previously listed could connect with the Chicago to Columbus to Pittsburgh route, or the Cleveland to Pittsburgh route, both of which are currently being studied.

Act 89 Hearing

The Senate Transportation Committee held a hearing on Tuesday, July 17, 2018 in Pittsburgh. The purpose of the hearing was to gather information regarding the state's Act 89 expenditures in the region. Both Allegheny County Chief Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Cheryl Moon-Sirianni, PennDOT's district executive for the region that includes Allegheny, Beaver and Lawrence counties, testified about the positive impact Act 89 dollars are having in the region. The funding has also helped to restart the Mon-Fayette Expressway, according to Pennsylvania Turnpike CEO Mark Compton; and has been used to fund the "Green Light-Go" program which is used to upgrade traffic signals at intersections. Jeremy Shaffer, the Republican Senate candidate from Ross Township, criticized the increased gas tax and advocated for move transportation funding to the state's general fund. Several of the leaders who testified noted that Act 89 was a great start, but that more funding is needed to continue to update the roads and bridges in the region.

*Information regarding legislation is derived the bills' co-sponsorship memos and the legislation itself.

Work Zone Cameras

The Legislature continues to make changes to Senate Bill 172, which would place speed cameras in active work zones. Sponsored by Sen. David Argall, the bill would create a five-year pilot program for automated speed enforcement in highway work zones. The cameras would record the license plate of speeders and violators would receive a ticket in the mail. The House and Senate have been debating details such as areas included in a specific pilot program in Philadelphia and how the additional revenue from the tickets is allocated. The legislature hopes to finalize the bill when they return to session in September.

Elections

30th House District

Rep. Hal English from Allegheny County announced on July 3, 2018 that he will not be seeking re-election for the 30th House of Representatives district. On Saturday, July 28, 2018, Allegheny County Republicans met in a conferee to select their nominee for Republican ticket in November's elections; they chose Shaler Township Commissioner Lori Mizgorski. Ms. Mizgorski also works in Rep. English's district office. The Democratic candidate for the seat is Betsy Monroe.