



PAACC Pennsylvania Update

September 4, 2018

PAACC State Capitol Snap Shot

The House and Senate are currently on the summer recess. The Senate is not expected to reconvene until September 24. The House is not expected to reconvene until September 12.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

September 12, 13, 24, 25, 26

October 1 (NV), 2 (NV), 9, 10, 15, 16, 17

November 13

Senate

September 24, 25, 26

October 1, 2, 3, 15, 16, 17

November 14

Gubernatorial Debate Scheduled

Governor Tom Wolf and Senator Scott Wagner have agreed on a date for one debate ahead of election day on Nov. 6. The debate will be held on Oct. 1 at the annual Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry dinner in Hershey, PA. The moderator will be Alex Trebek, the host of TV's *Jeopardy!* Game show. Pennsylvania Cable Network will air the debate live.

Workforce Development

Apprenticeship Programs

On August 16, the Wolf Administration held a press conference to provide an update on its apprenticeship programs. The Department of Labor and Industry Secretary Gerard Oleksiak stated that since 2016 the Apprenticeship and Training Office has 119

new sponsors of the apprenticeship program and 166 new apprenticeship programs. He noted as part of the most recent budget the state is committing \$30 million to the PAsmart Initiative with \$20 million going to the Department of Education for STEM and \$10 million going to the Department of Labor and Industry. Sec. Oleksiak said \$7 million will go to create new apprentice programs and expand programs that work.

Recovery-to-Work Act

On Aug. 9, Sen. Wayne Langerholc introduced SB 1224*, the Recovery-to-work Act. The bill establishes the Recovery-to-work program as a pilot program within the Department of Labor and Industry; and provides for local recovery-to-work pilot programs, for incentives to encourage business participation and for powers and duties of the Department of Labor and Industry. At least \$3,000,000 of the amount deposited into the Reemployment Fund under section 1727-E(c) of The Fiscal Code shall be used by the department for purposes of funding Recovery-to-work. Recovery-to-work shall be administered by the department to empower local workforce investment boards, business partners and participating agencies to collaboratively develop innovative local recovery-to-work pilot programs to do all the following: (1) Provide individuals in recovery with career development opportunities and exposure to high-priority occupations or in-demand occupations that have a connection to a high-priority occupation; (2) Provide individuals in recovery with interview and soft skills development and training; (3) Provide local workforce investment boards with the funding necessary to support program partners and business partners implementing innovative local pilot programs; (4) Provide program partners with informational resources to help them conduct successful local pilot programs; (5) Seek to identify other funding sources, including Federal grants, which may support local pilot programs. The bill was referred to committee on Senate Labor and Industry.

Military

Pennsylvania Military Community Enhancement Commission Report

On Aug. 9, the Pennsylvania Military Community Enhancement Commission (PMCEC) released the results of SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of Pennsylvania's twelve major military installations. The report revealed that the military installations in Pennsylvania are among the state's top economic drivers, but that efforts must be increased "to prevent those jobs from being lost to competition of other states." The commission partnered with the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Social and Urban Research on the report and found that the Department of Defense (DoD) is the 7th largest employer in the Commonwealth with more than 56,000 employees including civilians, active duty service members, reservists of all branches and Army and Air National Guard members. The report estimates that through direct, indirect and induced effects, Pennsylvania's 12 major military installations generated \$4 billion in labor income and \$11 billion in total economic output.

The report included the following recommendations for promoting Pennsylvania's military jobs:

- Ensure continued competitiveness of Pennsylvania's defense workforce;
- Boost the Local Defense Group network and its capacity;

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

- Strengthen the advocacy role of the PMCEC; and
- Build on areas of strategic competitive advantage in defense logistics and the defense industrial base

Additional information can be found [here](#).

Gaming

iLottery Lawsuit

On Aug. 22, a coalition of seven Pennsylvania casinos filed a lawsuit against the Pennsylvania Lottery's online games. The lawsuit, filed in Commonwealth Court, seeks an injunction to stop the PA Lottery from "providing illegal, simulated casino-style online games." Specifically, the lawsuit states that no one under the age of 21 is allowed to play at a physical or online casino, but the Lottery's new games allow players as young as age 18. The coalition's suit targets games that "imitate the look, sound, and feel of slot machines."

Labor

PA Supreme Court Decision on Home Care Executive Order

On Aug. 21, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court upheld Gov. Wolf's executive order from 2015 providing a process for home care workers to unionize. On a 5-2 vote, the Court determined that the executive order did not overstep its constitutional authority. The order provides a process whereby home-based workers who care for elderly and disabled people can obtain information regarding union representation. Most of the workers in question are family members of the patients who receive payment for their caregiving duties. Opponents say that the order goes too far in establishing union rights and that it is difficult for the workers to withdraw from the process. The ruling overturns a decision two years ago by Commonwealth Court, which had called the order an "invalid exercise of executive authority."

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