

MCA
Summary of Legislation
June 2018

Legislation Creates New Elevator Safety Board

The safety of Pennsylvania's elevators received a major lift this month as both the Pennsylvania Senate and House passed a bill that creates the **Elevator Safety Review Board**. The Board replaces the **Elevator Advisory Committee** which was a subcommittee of the Industrial Board under the PA Department of Labor and Industry. While that may not seem like an earth shattering change, a closer look at elevator safety reveals the critical need for a better system. The Advisory Committee has experienced stretches during which it has not met for years. In fact, it never met during the Corbett Administration. That means that the Industrial Board (which includes no elevator industry representation) made the decisions on variances and other elevator related petitions. The Department estimated that it receive roughly 50 to 70 such requests for action every month. It's also worth noting that Pennsylvania may have the oldest elevator code in the nation, not having been updated since 2002. The new Elevator Safety Board will be comprised of individuals from all aspects of the industry: trades, contractors, manufacturers, building owners, etc.

The bill, [SB 934](#), was sponsored by Senator Lisa Baker (R) of Luzerne County. Senator Baker took a keen personal interest in the issue after a close family friend was killed in an elevator accident while performing his duties at the Luzerne County Correctional Facility. Senator Baker's personal involvement helped spur the bill forward as it passed both the Senate and the House within 8 days without amendment. A number of other serious elevator accidents were also revealed during the time of the drafting of the bill. The new law takes effect upon the first meeting of the Elevator Safety Board.

Summer Arrives Early in Harrisburg – Budget Passed a Week Before Deadline

In Harrisburg, the General Assembly showed an unusual amount of unanimity this year, by passing the FY 2018-19 budget package not only on time, but 8 days EARLY. On June 20, the House passed [HB 2121](#) by a (188-10) vote, and the Senate followed suit just two days later, passing the bill without amendment, and little discussion, (47-2). Governor Wolf wasted no time signing the bill, which spends \$32,092,325,000 in General Fund money and federal augmenting appropriations totaling an additional \$27,743,772,000, in addition to other funds from dedicated revenue sources. A breakdown of the budget can be found here:
<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/BI/FN/2017/0/HB2121P3747.pdf>

In addition to the bipartisan agreement on the spending plan, the authorizing "Code" bills that describe and provide the means for the spending also passed relatively easily, unlike last year. [HB 1929](#) amends the Fiscal code, outlining how the money approved in HB 2121 will be rolled out. Areas of interest to the construction industry include:

Redevelopment Assistance Capital Projects

Section 1601-B.1 exempts projects submitted for the current RACP round (2018/19) from the 10-year itemization sunset required by section 318 of the Capital Facilities Debt Enabling Act.

Neighborhood Improvement Zones

Article XVI-B.2 is added to clarify the Neighborhood Improvement Zone master list reporting requirements to allow certain operating organizations to fulfill their reporting requirements by providing the relevant section of a contract between that organization and certain contractors. The contractors would then have to provide the reporting requirements, as defined by this section. This section only applies to certain qualified businesses who are engaged in entertainment services, such as concerts or other performances.

Transfer of CFA Funds

Section 1602-K directs the Commonwealth Financing Authority to transfer \$10 million from the First Industries Program account and \$35 million from the Building Pennsylvania Program account and place it in the Business In Our Sites Program account in 2018/19.

Section 1726-I (c) requires the Commonwealth Financing Authority to transfer \$5 million from the First Industries Program account to an account to be established by the authority for research and development, organic transition, value-added processing, and marketing grants to support the dairy industry in Pennsylvania. The authority must adopt guidelines for an application approval process that ensure that grants are made available to all geographic areas of the Commonwealth.

Water and Sewer Projects

Similar to last year, Section 1774.1-A:

- For 2018/19, the bill makes available \$14,504,399 from funds transferred to the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) from the Marcellus Legacy Fund for distribution or reimbursement for water and sewer projects with a cost ranging from \$30,000 to \$500,000.
- For 2018/19, the bill also makes \$10 million of funds transferred to the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) from First Industries Program account for distribution or reimbursement for water and sewer projects with a cost ranging from \$30,000 to \$500,000.

Reemployment Fund

Section 1727-E (c) reauthorizes the Reemployment Fund through 2022. The Reemployment Fund is a restricted account that receives 5 percent of employee contributions to the Unemployment Compensation Fund, which the Department of Labor and Industry can use to support job training and other related activities to promote employment.

In addition to the budget-related bills, Gov. Tom Wolf also received from the General Assembly approximately two dozen other bills, including “Clean Slate” legislation, and a bill to ensure Pennsylvania businesses can take advantage of the federal tax changes regarding bonus depreciation.

Having accomplished their most important constitutional duty, the House and Senate are now in recess for the summer. The House has not announced its Fall schedule as of yet, while the Senate has announced it will return September 24, with a total of nine voting session days prior to the November election, and one day after, to vote on a temporary President Pro Tempore (presumably Joe Scarnati), and to reorganize the caucus leadership teams.

Pennsylvania Approves C-PACE Program

On June 12, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf signed a new, bipartisan bill that will help commercial and industrial property owners finance upgrades for energy efficiency, water conservation, and renewable energy systems. Under the legislation, this bill will enable Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE).

Similar to the 33 other states who already run the program, it will be voluntary and will allow municipal governments to set up energy improvement districts, where private lenders can give money to commercial, industrial, or agricultural property owners for eligible improvements to buildings. C-PACE programs are growing in success, as last year these commercial and industrial properties accounted for over a quarter of U.S. energy consumption and about \$521 million in investment through these programs, [according to a 2017 Department of Energy report](#). C-PACE, however, can be time-consuming and complex for local governments to administer, especially in states like Pennsylvania, which is fragmented with 67 counties and 2,562 municipalities. The new legislation does not prescribe how the program will be administered.

The bill, [SB 234](#) moved through Pennsylvania’s legislature with broad support this year -- getting the approval of the state Senate (42-8) in January and House (163-28) at the end of May. While Pennsylvania’s Department of Labor and Industry does not track clean energy jobs, the Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance found that the state’s clean energy sector is growing, and most jobs (about 55,000) were in fact related to energy efficiency.

Evankovich to Resign Seat in August

After eight years in the House, **Rep. Eli Evankovich (R-Westmoreland)** is stepping down in August. Evankovich, who already announced after his reelection in 2016 that he wasn’t running again, is retiring a few months early to join a Western Pennsylvania manufacturing company. The company was not specified.

First elected in 2010, the 36-year old legislator previously worked in the manufacturing sector, a focus that continued in the General Assembly where he chaired the House Manufacturing Caucus. There will not be a special election to fill the seat for the limited duration of this session. To fill his seat in the November general, Republican and local mayor **Bob Brooks** will face off against Democrat **Jon McCabe**.

Legislative Activity

The following bills of interest to the construction industry have been introduced and/or acted upon in the past month.

Bidding / Contracting

[HB 566](#) RE: Contractor and Subcontractor Payment (by Rep James Santora, et al)

Amends the Contractor and Subcontractor Payment Act further providing for owner's payment obligations and for contractors' and subcontractors' payment obligations. If payment is not received by a contractor or subcontractor as required, the contractor shall have the right to suspend performance of any work, without penalty, until payment is received in full. Stipulates that the provisions of the act cannot be waived in a contract. Requires a written explanation of a good-faith reason to be given when the payment is retained for a deficiency item. Provides that a contractor or subcontractor to facilitate the release of retainage on its contract before final completion of the project by posting a maintenance bond with approved surety for 120 percent of the amount of retainage being held; and provides that if the withholding of retainage is longer than 30 days after the acceptance of the work, a written explanation must be provided.

Approved by the Governor, 6/12/2018. Act No. [27](#) of 2018

Budget Related Bills

[HB 1929](#) RE: Fiscal Code Amendments (by Rep. Ron Marsico, et al)

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, implementing the 2018-2019 Commonwealth budget and instituting future budget implementation: Further providing for title of act; in cigarette sales and licensing; further providing for preemption; In Treasury Department: providing for Keystone Scholars Grant Program; In disposition of abandoned and unclaimed property: further providing for property held by business associations; In procedure for the disbursement of money from the State **Treasury: further providing for settlement agreements and enforcement**; In capital facilities: further providing for applications; providing for entertainment business financial management firms; In tax credits: further providing for Department of Community and Economic Development; In Business in Our Sites Program Account: further providing for transfers of funds; providing for private dam financial assurance; In special funds: further providing for Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund funding and for other grants relating to Pennsylvania Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund; In additional special funds: **further providing for use of Tobacco Settlement Fund**, for distributions from Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund and for drug and alcohol programs; providing for Natural Gas Infrastructure Development Fund grant agreements; and further providing for use of First Chance Trust Fund; In general budget implementation: providing for Independent Fiscal Office revenue estimates; further providing for Attorney General, for Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, for Department of Health, for Department of Labor and Industry, for Department of Revenue and for surcharges; providing for deposit into School Safety and Security Fund and further providing for Multimodal Transportation Fund; In school district debt refinancing bonds: further providing for sinking fund charges for school building; providing for reinstatement of item vetoes; repealing provisions relating to 2013-2014 budget implementation and 2013-2014 restrictions on appropriations for funds and accounts; providing for 2018-2019 budget implementation and 2018-2019 restrictions on appropriations for funds and accounts; and making related repeals.

Reported as amended from Senate Judiciary Committee, and read first time, 6/18/2018

Read second time, and rereferred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 6/19/2018

Reported as amended from Senate Appropriations Committee, read third time, and passed Senate, 6/22/2018 ([44-5](#))

Received as amended in House and rereferred House Rules Committee, re-reported on concurrence as committed from House Rules Committee, and House concurred in Senate amendments, 6/22/2018 ([171-22](#))

Signed in the House and in the Senate, 6/22/2018

Approved by the Governor, 6/22/2018 (Act No. [42](#) of 2018)

[HB 2121](#) RE: General Appropriation Act of 2018 (by Rep. Stan Saylor, et al)

Provides from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive and Judicial Departments, the State Government Support Agencies and the General Assembly of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, for certain institutions and organizations and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018; to provide appropriations from the State Lottery Fund, the Tobacco Settlement Fund, the Aviation Restricted Account, the Hazardous Material Response Fund, The State Stores Fund, the Milk Marketing Fund, the Home Investment Trust Fund, the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund, the Tuition Account Guaranteed Savings Program Fund, the Banking Fund, the Firearm Records Check Fund, the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority Fund, the Oil and Gas Lease Fund, the Home Improvement Account, the Cigarette Fire Safety and Firefighter Protection Act Enforcement Fund, the Insurance Regulation and Oversight Fund, the Pennsylvania Racehorse Development Restricted Receipt Account, the Justice Reinvestment Fund, the Multimodal Transportation Fund, the State Racing Fund and the ABLE Savings Program Fund to the Executive Department; to provide appropriations from the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account to the Judicial Department for the fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019; to provide appropriations from the Motor License Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, for the proper operation of several departments of the Commonwealth and the Pennsylvania State Police authorized to spend Motor License Fund money; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018; to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds from the General Fund, the State Lottery Fund and the Tobacco Settlement Fund for the Executive and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth for the fiscal year July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017; and providing for augmentation from additional funding source.

Reported as amended from House Appropriations Committee, 6/19/2018

Read third time, and passed House, 6/20/2018 ([188-10](#))

Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, re-reported as committed from Senate Appropriations Committee, and read first time, 6/20/2018

Read second time, 6/21/2018

Read third time, and passed Senate, 6/22/2018 ([47-2](#))

Signed in the House and in the Senate, 6/22/2018

Approved by the Governor, 6/22/2018 (Act No. [1A](#) of 2018)

Environmental Building Standards

NONE

Liability

[SB 652](#) RE: [Critical Infrastructure Protection Act \(CIPA\)](#) (by Sen. Mike Regan, et al)

Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in burglary and other criminal intrusion, further providing for the offense of criminal trespass by establishing an offense for critical infrastructure facility trespass. Provides differing grading for the offense depending whether it is a first offense, whether the defendant is a minor, and whether there is an intent to damage or obstruct the operation of the facility.

Received in the House and referred to House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, 6/13/2018

Local/State Government/Regulations

[HB 298](#) RE: Training Of Inspectors (by Rep. Sheryl Delozier, et al)

Amends the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, in training and certification of inspectors, further providing for training of inspectors. The bill states that the department may by regulation establish a separate trainee classification for each certification category. The trainee classification shall be considered optional for all individuals seeking certification under this act. An applicant for trainee classification shall secure the sponsorship of an individual certified in each category for which the trainee seeks certification. A trainee classification is nonrenewable and shall be limited. Individuals with trainee classifications may perform all the duties of a certified individual while under the supervision of a sponsor. The department may establish fees and applications and registration procedures to

establish the trainee classification system. Individuals with trainee classifications shall be listed on the department's website.

Reported as amended from Senate Labor and Industry Committee, and read first time, 6/21/2018

[HB 1469](#) RE: [Amending PA Uniform Construction Code Act](#) (by Rep. Doyle Heffley, et al)

Amends the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, in adoption and enforcement by municipalities, further providing for administration and enforcement by third party agencies by establishing duties for the municipality related to notification of applicants if the municipality contracts with one or more third party agencies for the administration and enforcement of the act. Also requires the Department of Labor and Industry to have a complaint form on its website. In training and certification of inspectors, further provides for training of inspectors by establishing the department shall accept and review a complaint submitted by a building permit applicant about a code administrator and the secretary shall have the discretion to enforce remedial actions if necessary. Also allows municipalities to utilize and enter into contracts with third-party agencies to perform plan review and inspection services and supplement the municipal code enforcement program's plan review and inspection services.

Reported as amended from Senate Labor and Industry Committee, and read first time, 6/21/2018

[HB 1531](#) RE: [Sunshine Act Reform](#) (by Rep. Jim Christiana, et al)

Amends Title 65 (Public Officers) requiring notification of agency business to be made available to the public, as specified, prior to taking official action on a matter. The bill provides an exception.

Reported as amended from House State Government Committee, read first time, and rereferred to House Rules Committee, 6/11/2018

[HB 2459](#) RE: Stucco (by Rep. Warren Kampf, et al)

Amends the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, in uniform construction code, further providing for adoption by regulations. The bill establishes that for a new residential building, where exterior plaster is used as an exterior wall covering, the regulations shall include a provision requiring an inspection by a code administrator of the required water resistive barrier and flashings prior to the installation of the lath or cement board substrate.

Introduced and referred to House Labor and Industry Committee, 6/5/2018

Reported as amended from House Labor and Industry Committee, read first time, and rereferred to House Rules Committee, 6/18/2018

[SB 595](#) RE: Electronic Notarization (by Sen. Mike Folmer, et al)

Amends Title 57 (Notaries Public) adding a new section to permit the electronic notarization of documents by notaries located in the Commonwealth. Provides for the electronic notarization of documents using any electronic device that allows a notary and a remotely located individual to communicate with each other simultaneously by sight and sound. Requires all notarial certificates to indicate the individual was remotely located. Further provides for a process and conditions for notarizing documents electronically when an individual is located outside the United States. Also requires a notary, prior to performing their first electronic notarization, to notify the Department of State of their intent and identify the technology the notary will be using. Requires the department to promulgate the appropriate regulations to carry out the provisions of the new section. Sections 304 (c) relating to certification of tangible copies; 314.1 (h) and (j) relating to regulations and definitions; and 320 (c) relating to certification of tangible copies shall take effect immediately and the remainder shall take effect January 1, 2020.

Reported as committed from Senate Appropriations Committee, 6/19/2018

Read third time, and passed Senate, 6/22/2018 (49-0)

Received in the House and referred to House State Government Committee, 6/25/2018

[SB 934](#) RE: Elevator Advisory Board (By Sen. Lisa Baker, et al)

Amends the Administrative Code, in powers and duties of the Department of Labor and Industry, its departmental administrative and advisory boards and departmental administrative officers, eliminating the **Elevator Advisory Board** and establishing the Elevator Safety Board to recommend regulations to the Secretary of Labor and Industry relating to construction, maintenance and inspection of elevators and safe operation of elevators, review any International Code Council code being reviewed by the Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council, and grant exceptions and variances from the requirements of applicable codes and standards.

Reported as amended from Senate Labor and Industry Committee, and read first time, 6/5/2018

Read second time, and rereferred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 6/6/2018

Reported as committed from Senate Appropriations Committee, read third time, and passed Senate, 6/13/2018 (49-0)
Received in the House and referred to House Labor and Industry Committee, 6/15/2018
Reported as committed from House Labor and Industry Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 6/18/2018
Removed from the table, 6/19/2018
Read second time, and rereferred to House Appropriations Committee, 6/20/2018
Reported as committed from House Appropriations Committee, read third time, and passed House, 6/21/2018 (173-22)
Signed in the Senate and in the House, 6/22/2018
In the hands of the Governor, 6/22/2018. Last day for Governor's action, 7/2/2018

[SB 1005](#) RE: County Code Updates (by Sen. John Eichelberger, et al)

Amends the County Code making extensive revisions relating to preliminary provisions; names and corporate powers, classification of counties; fixing and relocating lines and boundaries; county officers; county commissioners and chief clerks; controller; auditors; treasurer; county solicitor; engineer; sheriff and coroner; prothonotary, clerks of court, clerk of orphan's court, register of wills, recorder of deeds; district attorney, assistants and detectives; salaries of county officers; fees of salaried county officers, salary boards, payment of solicitors appointed by county officers; fiscal affairs; contracts and special powers and duties of counties; public health; aeronautics; grounds and buildings; eminent domain and injury to property; recreation places; bridges, viaducts and culverts and roads. Allows the chief ranking deputy that remains in the office of the sheriff in the event of a vacancy to petition the court to designate someone in that office to carry out the functions of the sheriff. Provides for military and veterans affairs; and making editorial changes.

Read third time, and passed Senate, 6/4/2018 (50-0)

Received in the House and referred to House Local Government Committee, 6/6/2018

Reported as amended House Local Government Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 6/20/2018

Removed from the table, 6/22/2018

Local/Property Tax Reform

[SB 234](#) RE: Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) 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.

Approved by the Governor, 6/12/2018 (Act No. [30](#) of 2018)

Mandate Waivers

NONE

Mechanic's Lien

NONE

Permitting

NONE

Prevailing Wage

NONE

Professional Licensure

NONE

Sales/Use Tax

NONE

School Construction

[SB 700](#) RE: Grant Program for Maintenance Projects (by Patrick Browne, et al)

Amends the Public School Code providing for construction & renovation of buildings by school entities; and establishing a grant program for maintenance projects. The bill establishes that to be eligible to receive reimbursement from the Commonwealth for costs of a project, a school entity must receive appropriate approval from the department. It also establishes that the department shall establish a maintenance project grant program to support school entity maintenance projects. The program shall be funded from a set-aside equal to 25 percent of the appropriation for school building projects annually under this article. No less than 20 percent of the funds allocated to the program shall be awarded to projects that enhance school building safety and security; and in any fiscal year when funds are available for grants the department shall allocate 50 percent of the set-aside for grants by December 31 and the other 50 percent of the set-aside for grants not later than June 30 of that fiscal year. School construction and renovation approval process effective immediately. Remainder of the act effective July 1, 2019.

Introduced and referred to Senate Education Committee, 6/22/2018

Transportation

NONE

Worker's Comp

[HB 1840](#) RE: Impairment Rating Evaluations (by Rep. Rob Kauffman, et al)

Amends the Workers' Compensation Act allowing employers to request an Impairment Rating Evaluation after an employee has received total disability compensation for a period of 104 weeks. Requires the employee to submit to a medical evaluation which shall be requested by the insurer within 60 days upon the expiration of the 104 weeks to determine the degree of impairment due to compensable injury. Further provides for physical examination or expert interview.

Reported as amended from House Labor and Industry Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 6/4/2018

Removed from the table, 6/11/2018

Amended on House floor, read second time, and rereferred to House Appropriations Committee, 6/21/2018

Reported as committed from House Appropriations Committee, read third time, and passed House, 6/22/2018
[\(115-80\)](#)

Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Labor and Industry Committee, 6/22/2018

[HR 981](#) RE: Construction Opioids Awareness Week (by Rep. Jason Ortity, et al)

A Resolution designating the week of July 22 through July 28, 2018, as "Construction Opioids Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

Introduced as noncontroversial resolution, 6/18/2018

Adopted, 6/19/2018 (197-0)

[SB 676](#) RE: Uninsured Employers Guarantee Fund (by Sen. John Gordner, et al)

Amends Workers' Compensation Act relating to the Uninsured Employers Guarantee Fund. Provides if an employee alleges an injury that is incurred with an employer which is domiciled in another state and which has not secured the payment of compensate as required by the act, the employee is required to provide the fund and to any worker's compensation judge hearing a petition against the fund, a written notice, denial, citation of law or court or

administrative ruling from such other state or an insurer licensed to write insurance in that state as to that employer, indicating that the employee is not entitled to workers' compensation benefits in that state. No compensation shall be payable from the fund until the employee submits the required information. Requires a claim petition to be filed within 180 days after notice of the claim is made to the fund. Requires an employee to provide proof of wages before filing a claim of lost wages under the act. Adds language allowing the fund to establish lists of at least six designated health care providers that are accessible in each county in specialties relevant to the treatment of work injuries in the Commonwealth. Transfers \$4 million from the Workers' Compensation Administrative Fund to the Uninsured Employers Guaranty Fund. Also provides for uninsured employer obligations and for administrative penalties and stop-work orders. Requires the Department of Labor and Industry to annually submit a report to the House and Senate Labor and Industry committees outlining the department's efforts to identify and prosecute uninsured employers, any penalties resulting from that activity, the status of claims and operations, including the number of claims filed, pending and paid in the past year and an analysis of the administrative expenses of the fund. Increases the Uninsured Employers Guaranty Fund assessment from 0.1 percent to 0.25 percent. Requires the department to reduce the current year UEGF assessment if prior year assessment exceeds 130 percent of prior year expenditures. Reduces the cap on the excess amount that may be maintained in the Workmen's Compensation Administration Fund from 133 percent to 120 percent. Adds a limitation on wage loss payments if a judge accepts credible testimony by establishing the wage loss payment rate shall be sixty-six and two-thirds per centum of the average weekly wage for the claimant's occupation, with adjustments allowed from evidence of a lesser wage amount or based on the claimant's length of employment.

Amended in committee and held in House Labor and Industry Committee, 6/4/2018

SB 963 RE: Impairment Rating Evaluations (by Sen. Kim Ward, et al)

Amends the Workers' Compensation Act allowing employers to request an Impairment Rating Evaluation after an employee has received total disability compensation for a period of 104 weeks. Requires the employee to submit to a medical evaluation which shall be requested by the insurer within 60 days upon the expiration of the 104 weeks to determine the degree of impairment due to compensable injury. Further provides for physical examination or expert interview.

Laid on the table, removed from the table, 6/21/2018

SB 1187 RE: Prescription Drugs and The Treatment Of Work-Related Injuries (by Sen. Don White, et al)

Amends the Workers' Compensation Act, in liability and compensation, further providing for prescription drugs and the treatment of work-related injuries; and, in procedure, further providing for peer review. The bill provides that all prescriptions of compounded drugs, reimbursement shall be limited to 110 percent of the average wholesale price of each ingredient in the compounded drug. Further, the department shall develop evidence-based prescription guidelines appropriate to the prescription of pain medication drugs prescribed for or related to the treatment of work-related injuries and the department shall develop a program for educating and explaining its evidence-based prescription guidelines. The stated intent of the bill is to reduce the over prescription of pain medication in the Worker's Compensation System.

Introduced and referred to Senate Labor and Industry Committee, 6/1/2018

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/>

The House and Senate are recessed to the call of the chairs.

L&I PREVAILING WAGE APPEALS BOARD PUBLIC MEETING

The Prevailing Wage Appeals Board will hold a public meeting on Friday, July 20, 2018, at 10 a.m. at 1171 South Cameron Street, Conference Room 326, 3rd Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17104.

The Americans with Disability Act contact is Gina Meckley, (717) 783-9276.

2018 FALL SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

September 24, 25, 26
October 1, 2, 3, 15, 16, 17
November 14

2018 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

September 12, 13, 24, 25, & 26
October 1 (NV), 2 (NV), 9, 10, 15, 16, & 17
November 13

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

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