Capitol Quiet During Summer Recess, Still Issues to Arise in Fall

The state capitol has been relatively quiet this past month, as the House and Senate have gone home for the post-budget recess. As the update below reflects, there has been little legislative activity, even at the committee level, this past month. The lull is expected to continue through August, then things will heat up as the fall session resumes in September. As is the case in June, legislative leaders in the House and Senate will be developing a “trade list” of bills to be acted on in the waning months of the session, which officially ends November 30, but by recent tradition effectively will be done from a legislative standpoint at the end of October, as no voting days are scheduled after the November election. Although it appears quiet, your lobbyists are working to keep tabs on what may or may not be considered in those last few weeks, and will bring issues to your attention as appropriate.

Wolf Designates Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board Under WIOA

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. 

https://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol48/48-30/1162.html

DCED Publishes INDUSTRIALIZED HOUSING; ADOPTION OF 2015 CODES

The Department of Community and Economic Development promulgated rules and regulations to interpret and make specific provisions of the Industrialized Housing Act to assure the health, safety and welfare of residents of Pennsylvania by requiring safe and sanitary industrialized housing. DCED adopted the following codes:

- The 2015 International Building Code
- The 2015 International Energy Conservation Code
- The 2015 International Fire Code (without amendment)
- The 2015 International Fuel Gas Code
- The 2015 International Mechanical Code
- The 2015 International Plumbing Code

DCED indicated automatic fire sprinklers are not required in one-family and two-family dwellings. DCED stated all new industrialized homes entering the first stage of production on or after April 1, 2019, must be constructed in accordance with the applicable 2015 codes including the 2014 National Electric Code. For questions, contact Michael Moglia, Housing Standards Division, Office of Community Enhancement, Department of Community and Economic Development at (717) 720-7416 or mmoglia@pa.gov.

https://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol48/48-30/1172.html

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

Bidding / Contracting
NONE
Budget Related Bills
NONE

Environmental Building Standards
NONE

Liability
NONE

Local/State Government/Regulations

Amends the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, in adoption and enforcement by municipalities, further providing for administration and enforcement. The bill establishes that in municipalities which have opted to retain the services of one third-party agency to enforce this act, the following shall apply: a permit applicant shall have the right to utilize any code official certified in the appropriate category of certification to conduct required inspections; the third-party agency shall accept a report submitted, except if the third-party agency files a complaint with the department; the third-party agency shall be immune from any civil liability associated with reports submitted by certified code officials not employed or contracted by the third-party agency; and a professional services contract between a municipality and the third-party agency for the exclusive administration and enforcement of the act shall remain in effect and the provisions of this subsection shall apply upon the expiration of the original terms of the professional services contract.
Introduced and referred to House Labor and Industry Committee, 7/10/2018

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.
Approved by the Governor, 6/28/2018 (Act No. 68 of 2018)

Local/Property Tax Reform
NONE

Mandate Waivers
NONE

Mechanic’s Lien
NONE

Permitting
NONE

Prevailing Wage
NONE

Professional Licensure
NONE
Sales/Use Tax
NONE

School Construction
NONE

Transportation
NONE

Worker’s Comp
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/
The House and Senate are recessed to the call of the chairs.

MONDAY - 8/6/18
House Democratic Policy Committee
2:00 p.m., Neumann University, John J. Mullen Communication Center, Student Multi-Purpose Hall, 1 Neumann Drive, Ashton
Public Hearing with Rep. Leanne Krueger-Braneky on Connecting Workers to Real Jobs

THURSDAY - 8/16/18
House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee
9:00 a.m., Room 140 Main Capitol
Informational meeting on: SB 799 (Alloway) - Amends Title 27 (Environmental Resources), in environmental stewardship & watershed protection, providing for legislative findings, for Environmental Stewardship Fund, est. Clean Water Procurement Program & Watershed Innovation Fund.

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