

# 2017 Legislative Accomplishments

A brief summary of bills voted upon by the state House during the first year of the 2017-18 Legislative Session

December 2017

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## #ReinventPA – Making Government Changes to better Work for You

### **#ReinventPA**

**Pension Reform (Act 5 of 2017):** Aims to slow the growth of pension liabilities, shift risk away from taxpayers and ensure the Commonwealth can meet its future pension obligations. The law establishes three new public pension plans from which state employees and teachers hired in 2019 or later can choose. Each offers a defined contribution component, similar to a 401(k) commonly offered to workers in the private sector. The plans provide future employees with retirement security and portability while also protecting taxpayers. Current employees will have the opportunity to opt in to a new plan or continue in their current plan, and retirees would not see any changes to their plans.

**Performance-Based Budgeting Act (Act 48 of 2017) –** Establishes performance-based budget recommendations and reviews by the Independent Fiscal Office and an independent board to enhance and improve budget development and decision making associated with the annual budget process. The reviews will look at state agencies and make recommendations to make operations and programs more transparent, effective and efficient.

**Budget Reforms (House Bills 1940-1945 – awaiting Senate action):** The bills aim to bring more accountability and transparency to state government and rein in excessive government spending. The bill package includes:

- **House Bill 1940**, which would close a loophole that has allowed out-of-balance budgets to become law because the governor has failed to sign an official revenue estimate indicating whether sufficient funds exist to pay for it.
- **House Bill 1941**, which would set reasonable time limits on budgetary waivers before unused funds are returned to the State Treasury. Currently, funds can lapse indefinitely.
- **House Bill 1942**, which would require the Secretary of the Budget in December of a fiscal year to determine if revenues will fall short of the official estimate, and if so, by how much. That amount of funding would then have to be placed in budgetary reserve to avoid ending the fiscal year with a deficit.
- **House Bill 1943**, which would make special funds – those funds with a dedicated source of revenue to be used for a specific purpose – more transparent, open and accountable.
- **House Bill 1944**, which would require annual reports to show the cost of state and federal mandates by the administration, including funds used as federal matching funds, and which are entitlements. This legislation would also require the governor to present legislative language in the annual budget proposal process.

- **House Bill 1945**, which would require the administration to submit a statement of the need for supplemental appropriation and recommendations for cost-savings or other reforms which address the cause of the need for the supplemental appropriation.

**Spending Cap (HB 110 – awaiting Senate action):** Proposes a state constitutional amendment to limit state spending by imposing a cap based on recent increases in the Consumer Price Index and state population growth. A constitutional amendment must be approved in two consecutive legislative sessions and then by the state’s voters.

### **Liquor Sales Reforms**

**Streamlined Licensing (Act 75 of 2017):** Amends the Liquor Code to modernize interlocking business prohibitions.

**Spirits Sales (HB 438 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes a Spirit Expanded Permit, allowing restaurant and hotel liquor license holders to sell up to four unopened bottles of spirits in a single transaction for off-premise consumption.

**Free the Wine (HB 975 – awaiting Senate action):** Divests the wholesale system of wine by allowing retailers to negotiate pricing on products and allowing those products to be delivered directly to retail markets; provides additional retail outlets to sell wine; allows wine to be sold in grocery store aisles and be purchased at the point of sale with other goods; and increases the amount of wine that can be sold in a single transaction.

**Private Wine and Spirits Sales (HB 991 – awaiting Senate action):** Creates wine and spirit retail store licenses, allowing private entrepreneurs to sell wine and liquor through a new class of state-awarded retail licenses designed to boost customer convenience and choices.

**Wine and Spirits Sales (HB 1033 – awaiting Senate action):** Creates a Wine Enhanced Permit and a Spirits Enhanced Permit to allow a permit holder to sell unlimited quantities of wine and/or spirits for consumption off the premises.

**Wholesale Divestiture (HB 1075 – awaiting Senate action):** Divests the wholesale system for both wine and spirits and creates a State Stores Operating Fund.

**Alcoholic Hard Cider (HB 1497 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires alcoholic cider be primarily derived from apples, apple juice concentrate and water or from pears or pear juice concentrate and water; expands the definition of a public venue under the law; amends eligibility for wine and spirits auction permits to include any community-based voluntary health organization committed to fighting cancer; prohibits placement of a ballot question on a special election ballot; and allows performing arts facilities to serve liquor and malt brewed beverages from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sundays.

### **Taxpayer Protection**

**Unemployment Compensation System Funding (Act 1 of 2017):** Amends the Unemployment Compensation Law to provide \$15 million in funding to the Service and Infrastructure Improvement Fund (SIIF) in 2017; allocates the funding and requires monthly reports on expenditures; and requires the Department of Labor and Industry to submit a report on ending reliance on SIIF and submit a funding request for upgrades to the Unemployment Compensation benefit delivery system.

**Office of Inspector General (Act 29 of 2017):** Makes the Office of Inspector General a permanent part of state government, grants the office subpoena power for its internal investigations, and authorizes the office to investigate and file criminal charges for certain welfare fraud crimes.

**Payments to Local Tax Collectors (Act 38 of 2017):** Amends the Local Tax Collection Law to prohibit tax payments to an account in the name of an individual and requires the creation of a separate account to be used solely for tax payments.

**Managing Capital Debt (Act 45 of 2017):** While enacting the 2017-18 Capital Budget, the new law reduces the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) borrowing capacity – with an immediate lessening of the maximum borrowing amount by \$100 million and then reducing the figure further, annually, by \$50 million annually over the next four years.

**Performance-Based Budgeting (Act 48 of 2017):** Establishes a Performance-Based Budget Board to enhance and improve budget development and decision-making.

**UC Funding Fix (Act 60 of 2017):** Provides funding for Unemployment Compensation operations/technological upgrades and requires the Department of Labor to end its reliance on the Service and Infrastructure Improvement Fund.

**Debt Amortization Guidelines (HB 83 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Capital Facilities Debt Enabling Act to require that, except in cases of refunding bond issuance, all debt amortization must be done using an equal annual maturities plan (level principal payments over the life of the bonds).

**PSERS Limitations (HB 205 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Public School Employees' Retirement Code to make future Pennsylvania School Boards Association employees ineligible to be members of the Public School Employees' Retirement System.

**Inheritance Tax Exemption (HB 291 – awaiting Senate action):** Eliminates Pennsylvania's inheritance tax for property transfers from a natural parent, adoptive parent or step-parent to or for the use of their child, if the child is 21 years of age or younger.

**Results First in Budgeting (HB 599 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes the Results First Project and requires the Independent Fiscal Office to implement and maintain a multidimensional data analyzing system.

**Lottery Winnings and Delinquent Taxes (HB 674 – awaiting Senate action):** Allows for a Pennsylvania Lottery winnings intercept for state delinquent taxes and outstanding court costs, and requires a determination as to whether a winner receiving public assistance remains eligible.

**SRBC Pension Program (HB 922 – awaiting Senate action):** Removes future employees of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission from the State Employees' Retirement System.

**Pension Forfeiture (HB 939 – awaiting Senate action):** Holds state, county and municipal government officials, state employees, judges, teachers and other school district employees accountable for crimes related to their official duties by requiring them to forfeit their government pension and pay appropriate restitution when they plead guilty or no contest to any crime related to their official government position or any felony offense related to their office or employment.

**Proof of Citizenship Public Benefits (HB 1095 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes the Proof of Citizenship for Receipt of Public Benefits Act.

**Lobbying Disclosure Changes (HB 1175 – awaiting Senate action):** Increases fines and penalties for violations of the Lobbying Disclosure Act. Specifically, it would increase the maximum penalty imposed by the Ethics Commission from the current fine of \$2,000 to \$4,000, and it would increase the maximum administrative penalty that may be imposed for negligent failure to report under current law from \$50 per day, to \$50 for the first 10 days, \$100 for each late day after the first 10 late days and \$200 for each late day after the initial 20-day period.

**No Welfare Benefits for Deceased People (HB 1588 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires the Department of Aging to cross reference its list of beneficiaries with death records maintained by the Department of Health on a monthly basis.

### **Property Tax Reform**

**Homestead Exclusion (HB 1285 – approved by voters, November 2017):** Makes a change to the Pennsylvania Constitution to allow local taxing authorities to exclude from taxation up to 100 percent of the assessed value of the homestead property receiving the exclusion.

## Standing Up for Taxpayers... the State Budget

### **The General Fund**

**2017-18 Budget (Act 1A of 2017 – without the governor’s signature):** General Fund budget for fiscal year 2017-18. The budget would spend \$32 billion, an increase of less than 1 percent over the 2016-17 fiscal year. It includes no new or increased taxes while investing in education at record levels, as well as public safety and human services. It begins the process of government reinvention in calling for mergers of some government departments, as well as by reducing or eliminating outdated programs and expenditures.

**Non-Preferred Appropriations (Acts 11A to 15A of 2017):** Appropriates funding to the following state-related institutions:

- University of Pennsylvania for veterinary activities and the Center for Infectious Diseases: \$30.416 million. (Act 11A)
- Pennsylvania State University: \$252.51 million. (Act 12A)
- University of Pittsburgh: \$146.973 million. (Act 13A)
- Temple University: \$150.586 million. (Act 14A)
- Lincoln University: \$14.436 million. (Act 15A)

**Administrative Code (Act 40 of 2017):** Outlines implementation of the 2017-18 General Fund Budget.

**Tax Reform Code (Act 43 of 2017):** Outlines a means of closing the gap in funding the 2017-18 budget, including securitizing the Tobacco Settlement Fund, ensuring third-party online sellers remit the sales tax, and legalizing and applying a sales tax to fireworks. The bill DOES NOT include any broad-based sales or income tax increases, or taxes on consumer utility bills.

**Fiscal Code (Act 44 of 2017):** Outlines implementation of the 2017-18 General Fund Budget, including various fund transfers from underused accounts to balance the budget.

**Managing Capital Debt (Act 45 of 2017):** Reduces Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project (RACP) debt by \$300 million over four years, adjusts the Commonwealth’s debt issuance procedures and outlines the capital budget for 2017-18.

**Capital Budget Projects (Act 52 of 2017):** Capital Budget Project Itemization for fiscal year 2017-18.

**2017-18 School Code Bill (Act 55 of 2017):** Increases funding for basic, special and early childhood education, setting a record high \$11.86 billion in funding for PreK-12 education; protects excellent teachers by ending the practice of seniority-based layoffs and instead requiring teacher performance to guide furlough and reinstatement decisions; expands student learning options through increases in the Educational Improvement and Opportunity

Scholarship tax credit programs; and enhancing drug abuse prevention at agriculture education opportunities.

**2017-18 Human Services Code (HB 59 – VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR):** *Makes a variety of changes to the state’s Human Services Code to help implement the 2017-18 state budget. Among the changes is a requirement that the Department of Human Services seek a waiver from the federal government to require reasonable work requirements for those who are physically and mentally able to do so in order to receive benefits. The original bill allowed parents who adopt a child or children to appeal to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services the amount of an adoption subsidy provided by local authorities.*

## **GAMING**

**Gaming Expansion (Act 42 of 2017):** Expands gaming opportunities in the Commonwealth by authorizing iLottery, legalizing iGaming, authorizing the auction of 10 Category 4 slot machine licenses, permitting VGTs at truck stops and regulating fantasy sports.

**Airport 50/50 Raffles (HB 864 – awaiting Senate action):** Authorizes designated international airports to conduct 50/50 raffles.

## Improving Our Schools, Investing in Our Kids

### Education

**Civil Immunity for Epinephrine Administration (Act 2 of 2017):** Applies civil immunities to school bus drivers or crossing guards who administer an epinephrine auto-injector to a student.

**Alternatives to Keystone Exam (Act 6 of 2017):** Creates an alternative pathway for career and technical education (CTE) students to demonstrate readiness for high school graduation and removes the statutory requirement for the development and implementation of additional Keystone Exams.

**2017-18 School Code Bill (Act 55 of 2017):** Increases funding for basic, special and early childhood education, setting a record high \$11.86 billion in funding for PreK-12 education. The law includes several changes beneficial to schools, students and teachers, including:

- **Protects Excellent Teachers:** Ends the practice of seniority-based layoffs and instead requires teacher performance to guide furlough and reinstatement decisions. It also allows economic-based furloughs.
- **EITC Expansion/OSTC Preservation:** Expands student learning options through increases in the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program and preserves the successful Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit program.
- **Strengthening Agriculture Education:** Creates a uniform agriculture curriculum based on high priority occupations, and provides support with state and local FFA programs.
- **College Credits:** Expands the Transfer and Articulation Program to include credits for matriculating freshmen who have taken Advanced Placement (AP) exams in high school with scores that qualify them for college course credits.
- **Enhances Drug Abuse Education:** Creates a drug and alcohol abuse recovery high school program and requires further instruction in the prevention of opioid abuse through a model curriculum.
- **Teacher Education (HB 399 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires a teacher preparation program to recommend applicants for certification who meet certain grade point average standards and prohibits teacher preparation programs from requiring education students to obtain a passing score on certain assessments in order to graduate and from including a student's scores on these assessments as a component of a student's course grade.

**Charter, Cyber Charter School Reform (HB 97 – awaiting further House action):** Makes several changes to the state's laws regarding charter schools, including creating a Charter School Funding Advisory Commission to address funding concerns and requiring charter schools use an academic performance matrix and teacher evaluations, similar to traditional public schools.

**Financial Literacy (HB 429 – awaiting Senate action):** Permits the award of course credit for successful completion of coursework in personal financial literacy during grades 9 through 12.

**Online Course Database (HB 679 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education to establish a central online clearinghouse which includes an online database of online courses for students in grades 6-12 and to make the clearinghouse accessible to school entities, nonpublic schools, home education programs and the general public.

**Licensure of Online Schools (HB 857 – awaiting Senate action):** Defines an “online school,” amends the definition of a “private academic school” to include online schools and permits the licensure of online schools.

**Transition Services (HB 1305 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires professional educators providing secondary transition services to special education students to complete training developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

**Instructional Certificates (HB 1386 – awaiting Senate action):** Revises the grade levels and age spans for educator instructional certificates.

**College and Career Planning (HB 1448 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education to make information available on its website about the College Navigator Website and High Priority Occupations; requires school entities to annually provide this information to high school students; and directs creation of a comparison search tool for institutions of higher education if the College Navigator Website is discontinued.

**Grants for Online Education (HB 1653 – awaiting Senate action):** Allow students enrolled in distance or online education programs to be eligible for Pennsylvania state grants.



## Supporting Business, Growing Jobs

### **Supporting Private Sector Business, Job Creation**

**Commerce Courts (HB 401 – awaiting Senate action):** Authorizes establishment of a “Commerce Court” program within the Superior Court to decide business-related appeals and authorizes the creation of similar “Commerce Court” programs within the Courts of Common Pleas.

**Subcontractor Payment (HB 566 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Contractor and Subcontractor Payment Act to allow a contractor or subcontract to suspend work if payment is not received in accordance with their contract.

**Redeveloping Blighted Properties (HB 758 – awaiting Senate action):** Allows developers and property owners to receive a tax abatement incentive once they apply and are approved to rebuild upon an abandoned or blighted property or in a deteriorated area.

**Employment First (HB 1641 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes the Employment First Program to promote the employment of people with disabilities at competitive wages by Pennsylvania employers.

### **Agriculture**

**Good Neighbor Agreement (Act 25 of 2017):** Allows the Commonwealth to enter into federal cooperative agreements for the harvest and sale of timber and other activities to improve forest habitats.

**Roadside Farm Stands (Act 35 of 2017):** Amends the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act to exclude roadside farm stands, maple sugar houses and loading/unloading structures at livestock auction facilities from the Uniform Construction Code.

**Noxious Weeds (Act 46 of 2017):** Updates the current list of noxious weeds to include several new weeds that are having an adverse impact on agriculture and wildlife species, as well as the use of water and land in Pennsylvania.

**Wind Power on Preserved Farmland (HB 187 – awaiting Senate action):** Provides a preserved farmland owner with at least 50 acres the ability to grant a right-of-way to install a wind-power generation system.

**Agricultural Education (HB 944 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes the Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence to develop a statewide plan for agricultural education and coordinate the implementation of related agricultural education programming with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education.

**High Tunnels (HB 1486 – awaiting Senate action):** Exempts high tunnels from the requirements of the Storm Water Management Act.

**Ag Lands Condemnation (HB 1518 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires the governor, with the consent of the Senate, to appoint two alternate farmer members to the Agricultural Lands Condemnation Approval Board.

**Residential Structure on Preserved Farmland (HB 1550 – awaiting Senate action):** Permits a preserved farmland owner to voluntarily relinquish the right to construct an additional residential structure on the farmland, which could further reduce the value of the property and make it easier to pass on to the next generation. The bill also clarifies that a subdivision for the purpose of a residence is permitted, regardless of whether the residence already exists or needs to be constructed.

### **Environmental Resources and Energy**

**On-Lot Sewage Systems (Act 26 of 2017):** Allows for the use of alternative on-lot sewage systems for planning purposes throughout the Commonwealth.

**Planned Subsidence (Act 32 of 2017):** Exempts planned subsidence caused by bituminous coal mining operations as a source of pollution to waterways if the mining operation has a DEP-approved plan for the restoration of the pre-mining range of flows and biological communities, as well as the pre-mining designated uses of the waterway.

**Liability Protections for Land Owners (HB 544 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the state’s recreational use of land liability law to clarify and expand its protections for landowners and ensure that legal fees are covered for property owners who are found not liable for injuries to recreational users.

**Surface Mining Cessation (HB 1333 – awaiting Senate action):** Clarifies conditions for temporary cessation of surface mining operations to better align them with federal law.

**Emergency Response (HB 1341 – awaiting Senate action):** Allows emergency medical responders (EMRs) to be employed at underground coal mines.

### **Transportation**

**Steer Clear Law (Act 20 of 2017):** Increases the fines and suspends the licenses of repeat offenders of Pennsylvania’s “Steer Clear” law, which requires drivers to move into a nonadjacent lane to pass an emergency response area, or if that is not possible, to pass the area at a careful and prudent speed reasonable for passing safely.

**Truck Loads (Act 24 of 2017):** Allows trucks to continue to haul certain heavier loads during holiday periods, while keeping the current restriction regarding inclement weather.

**DUI Laws (Act 30 of 2017):** Eliminates the requirement of a person whose operating privileges have been suspended to surrender their driver's license or acknowledge the suspension in order to begin serving a suspension, establishes civil penalties for refusing a chemical test, and makes corrections to ignition interlock provisions.

**Commercial Natural Gas Vehicles (Act 31 of 2017):** Increases the maximum allowable gross weight for commercial vehicles powered by natural gas.

**Drivers with Disabilities (Act 37 of 2017):** Amends the Vehicle Code to add optometrists to the list of medical providers who may certify an application for a disability placard or registration plate.

**Golf Carts (Act 57 of 2017):** Defines the term “golf cart,” authorizes the designation of golf-cart crossings and establishes rules of operation for person ages 12 to 16.

**Motorcycle Plates (HB 26 – awaiting Senate action):** Permits organizational license plates for use on motorcycles and allows for abbreviated portions of an organization’s name on special plates.

**Emission Inspection Alternative (HB 86 – awaiting Senate action):** Proposes to replace emission inspection requirements for certain older model vehicles in the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia regions.

**Recreational Trailer Registration (HB 229 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes an annual registration fee for recreational trailers based on registered gross weight and provides an exemption from registering in combination with the towing vehicle.

**Pediatric Cancer Contribution (HB 407 – awaiting Senate action):** Allows a person renewing a driver’s license, identification card or vehicle registration electronically the opportunity to contribute \$5 to pediatric cancer research.

**Historic Military Vehicle Plates (HB 580 – awaiting Senate action):** Creates a Historic Military Vehicle license plate to be made available from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

**Alternative Fuel Vehicles (HB 603 – awaiting Senate action):** Allows for a vehicle that is operated by an engine fueled primarily by compressed or liquefied natural gas to exceed the gross vehicle weight limits and any axle weight limits, not to exceed a maximum of 2,000 pounds.

**Motorcycle Processions (HB 831 – awaiting Senate action):** Outlines rights and responsibilities of people participating in organized motorcycle processions.

**Improper License (HB 1239 – awaiting Senate action):** Enhances the penalty for drivers operating a vehicle or motorcycle without the proper class of license.

**Purple Heart Motorcycle Plates (HB 1294 – awaiting Senate action):** Allows motorcycles to be equipped with a special registration plate for Purple Heart recipients.

**Hauling Permit Fees (HB 1444 – awaiting Senate action):** Assesses an annual hauling permit fee of \$900 for overweight vehicles less than 100,000 pounds with a hauling distance greater than 50 miles, and also allows for the transportation of multiple hot ingots a distance of up to 125 miles.

**Vulnerable Highway Users (HB 1646 – awaiting Senate action):** Defines “vulnerable highway user” and establishes penalties for a person convicted of careless driving that results in the death, serious bodily injury, or bodily harm of a vulnerable highway user (including, but not limited to, a pedestrian; a person on roller skates, inline skates, a skateboard or pedalcycle; a person on an animal or an animal drawn vehicle; a person in a wheelchair).

**Parking Near Bike Lanes (HB 1657 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires vehicles parking along an on-street pedestrian plaza or a curbside bike lane to park parallel with their right-hand wheels or left-hand wheels within 12 inches of the outside line of the buffer area between the bike lane and parking in the direction of traffic flow.

**ATV Updates (HB 1936 – awaiting Senate action):** Makes editorial and reference changes to the Vehicle Code that apply to all-terrain vehicles.

## Better Health, Safety and Quality

### **Opioids – The Crisis of Addiction**

**Civil Immunity for Epinephrine Administration (Act 2 of 2017):** Applies civil immunities to school bus drivers or crossing guards who administer an epinephrine auto-injector to a student.

**Opioid Abuse Prevention Education (HB 121, included in Act 55 of 2017):** Updates alcohol, chemical and tobacco abuse curricula to include opioid abuse prevention education.

**Certification of Recovery Houses (Act 59 of 2017):** Amends the Administrative Code to require the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to license or certify drug and alcohol recovery houses which receive public funding.

**ABC-MAP Changes (Act 79 of 2017):** Amends the Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions Program to exempt prescribers from the requirement to query the database when non-narcotic Schedule V drugs are prescribed to treat epilepsy or a seizure disorder.

**Consent to Treatment (HB 17 – awaiting Senate action):** Clarifies that a parent or legal guardian can provide consent, over the objection of a minor, to providing medical care or counseling related to diagnosis or treatment of substance abuse.

**Drug and Alcohol Programs (HB 119 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to certify drug and alcohol recovery houses which receive public funding.

**Project Lazarus Commission (HB 122 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes the Project Lazarus Commission consisting of legislators and administration officials charged with developing a best practice model to help counties build comprehensive programs to address the opioid crisis.

**Impact on Infants, Children (HB 235 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes a task force to examine the opioid abuse epidemic's impact on infants and children.

**Electronic Prescriptions (HB 353 – awaiting Senate action):** Aims to reduce the diversion of controlled substance into the wrong hands by requiring electronic prescriptions of Schedule II, III and IV controlled substances.

### **Protecting Children**

**Endangering Welfare of Children (Act 12 of 2017):** Increases the grading of offenses related to endangering the welfare of children to reflect the degree of risk and the age of the child victim.

**Newborn Protection Act (Act 68 of 2017):** Allows a parent to leave a newborn with an emergency services provider and also allows a parent to leave a newborn in an incubator

located at a hospital, a police station, or on the grounds of an entity employing or providing access to an emergency services provider.

**Abortion Control Act Updates (SB 3 – vetoed by the governor):** Amends the Abortion Control Act regarding abortion regulations, including changing the upper limit of when an elective abortion is available and prohibiting the practice of dismemberment abortions.

**Child Abuse Investigations (Act 67 of 2017):** Eliminates the sunset provision in the Crimes Code regarding issuance of administrative subpoenas in investigations involving child sexual exploitation or abuse.

**Indecent Exposure (HB 489 – awaiting Senate action):** Directs the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing to provide a sentence enhancement for committing the offense of indecent exposure when a person under the age of 16 is present.

**Children in Hot Cars (HB 1152 – waiting Senate action):** Offers civil immunity for damages that result from entry into a motor vehicle for the purpose of rescuing a child. For such immunity to apply, the person must have a reasonable belief the child is in imminent danger, determine that the child is unable to get out of the vehicle without help, and attempt to locate the driver and contact law enforcement or other emergency responders prior to entering the vehicle.

**ChildLine Number Display (HB 1232 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires public and nonpublic schools, as well as hospitals, to display a poster with the statewide toll-free telephone number for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect (ChildLine).

### **Public Safety/Public Protection**

**Metal Theft (Act 8 of 2017):** Adds the offense of theft of secondary metal, which includes wire, pipe or cable commonly used by communications, gas and electrical utilities, and railroads and mass transit or commuter rail agencies, as well as copper, aluminum or other metal, or combination of metals, that is valuable for recycling or reuse as raw material. The offense is graded based on the value of secondary metal stolen.

**Libre’s Law (Act 10 of 2017):** Updates and clarifies the existing animal abuse statute and increases the penalties for abusing any animal. The bill would apply criminal penalties based on the severity of the offense and divide the types of abuse into three categories: neglect, which would include failure to provide food, water or shelter; cruelty, which would include recklessly overloading, beating or abandonment; and aggravated cruelty, which would include intentionally torturing an animal to the point where it causes bodily injury or death.

**Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform (Act 13 of 2017):** Reforms the state’s civil asset forfeiture process by imposing a higher burden of proof on the Commonwealth to take property, bolstering protections for third-party property owners, improving auditing and recording transparency of

collected property, prohibiting the pre-forfeiture seizure of real property without a hearing, and adding an extra level of protection for those who are trying to collect their property after an acquittal.

**Police Body Cameras (Act 22 of 2017):** Removes barriers to the use of body cameras by law enforcement officers, including the previous requirement that an officer must announce to everyone in a public space they are being recorded. The measure also outlines the process by which recordings would be made available to the public.

**Additional Judges (Act 49 of 2017 SB 222):** Increases the number of judges of the Courts of Common Pleas in seven separate judicial districts within the Commonwealth.

**One Call Law (Act 50 of 2017 - SB 242):** Extends and updates the Underground Utility Line Protection Law, also known as PA One Call, and transfers enforcement authority from the Department of Labor and Industry to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC).

**Crime Victim Representation (Act 51 of 2017):** Increases the number of members appointed by the governor to the Victims' Services Advisory Committee and ensures broader representation of crime victims on the committee.

**Identification of Law Enforcement Officer (HB 27 – awaiting Senate action):** Prohibits releasing the name and identifying information of a law enforcement officer involved in a discharge of a firearm or use of force during the performance of official duties before an investigation is complete or before 30 days after the incident has occurred, whichever occurs first.

**Officer Down Advisory System (HB 31 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes the Pennsylvania Officer Down Advisory System to assist, by prompt notification to the public, in the apprehension of those suspected of causing serious injury or death to a law enforcement officer.

**Precious Metal Sales (HB 41 – awaiting Senate action):** Enhances requirements for precious metal dealers regarding transaction records, item retention and licensing status, purchases from minors and penalties.

**Improving PFA Orders (HB 44 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Protection from Abuse Act in order to provide the court with information regarding whether the defendant has been involved with a child abuse investigation.

**Trafficking of Infants (HB 128 – awaiting Senate action):** Increases the penalty for the offense of trafficking of infants to a first-degree felony.

**Recording Court Proceedings (HB 149 – awaiting Senate action):** Prohibits the use of devices to record video or audio or take photographs in a courtroom or hearing room without the permission of the presiding officer or as permitted by the rules of court.

**Jurisdiction in Juvenile Cases (HB 159 – awaiting Senate action):** Clarifies that a minor’s failure to comply with a summary offense sentence constitutes a “delinquent act.” This clarification ensures that the juvenile courts retain jurisdiction over enforcement of such cases.

**Collecting Restitution (House Bills 234, 236, 280, 285 – awaiting Senate action):** The following bills aim to help ensure payment of restitution:

- **House Bill 234** requires each county to establish an internal unit dedicated to the collection of restitution, fines, fees and other court-imposed obligations unless the county chooses to outsource collections.
- **House Bill 236** authorizes wage attachment for the satisfaction of restitution, costs and fines, and authorizes additional payment options for the same.
- **House Bill 280** requires that any money posted as bail, which would otherwise be returnable, shall first be applied to the payment of any outstanding restitution, fees, fines or costs owed by the defendant in any criminal or delinquency case.
- **House Bill 285** requires that correctional facilities make minimum deductions from the wages and personal accounts of inmates who have outstanding restitution or other court-ordered obligations.

**Megan’s Law Requirements (HB 508 – awaiting Senate action):** Prevents convicted sex offenders who are non-compliant in their Megan’s Law registry requirements from receiving welfare benefits.

**No ARD for Sex Offenders (HB 594 – awaiting Senate action):** Prohibits Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition for certain sex offenses against children.

**Adam Walsh Act Changes (HB 631 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires the court to impose a mandatory three-year probation period consecutive to and in addition to any other lawful sentence imposed by the court for a person convicted of a Tier III sex offense under Pennsylvania’s Adam Walsh Act.

**Protecting Health Care Workers (HB 646 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the aggravated assault law to add health care practitioners to the protected class, which outlines a higher grade of offense and penalty if the health care practitioner is assaulted while in the performance of his or her duties.

**Firearms Preemption (HB 671 – awaiting Senate action):** Outlines better enforcement of the state’s preemption of local firearms and ammunition regulations by stating that any party who successfully challenges one of these illegal local firearm ordinances will be entitled to



reimbursement from the offending jurisdiction for reasonable attorneys fees and costs to bring the lawsuit, and any loss of income suffered because of the illegal ordinance.

**Access to Justice Program (HB 741 – awaiting Senate concurrence):** Increases the amount of judicial fees from \$10 to \$12 and directs the additional \$2 be deposited into the Access to Justice Account. The bill also removes the sunset provision of the Access to Justice Act and exempts penalty money collected for Dog Law violations from being diverted to the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account, thereby retaining it in the Dog Law Restricted Account (DLRA) for use in Dog Law enforcement.

**DUI and Driving Without a License (HB 1049 – awaiting Senate action):** Creates a tiered penalty system for driving on a suspended or revoked license as a result of DUI-related offenses and establishes sentencing enhancements for homicide by vehicle and homicide by vehicle while DUI as a result of driving without a license or on a suspended license.

**Neglect of Care-Dependent Person (HB 1124 – awaiting Senate action):** Expands the offense of neglect of a care-dependent person that results in death and creates the offense of abuse of a care-dependent person.

**Concussion Protocol (HB 1176 – awaiting Senate action):** Creates the Law Enforcement Concussion Safety Act which directs the Pennsylvania State Police to develop a concussion protocol to be used by all police departments in the state.

**Pets in Hot Vehicles (HB 1216 – awaiting Senate action):** Offers civil immunity for a person entering a vehicle to rescue a dog or cat. The immunity would apply to law enforcement officers, animal control officers, human society police officers and emergency responders for property damage resulting from the effort to enter the dog or cat. For such immunity to apply, the person must have a reasonable belief the pet is in imminent danger, attempt to locate the driver, take reasonable steps to restore or ensure the animal’s well-being, use no more force than necessary and leave notice on or in the vehicle.

**Drone Regulations (HB 1346 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes the crime of “unlawful use of unmanned aircraft” to better regulate the use of drones in the Commonwealth.

**DNA Collection (HB 1523 – awaiting Senate action):** Outlines new standards for the collection, analysis and use of DNA samples, and storage of DNA profiles in the State DNA Database for comparison with DNA profiles collected during criminal investigations. It also makes changes to the law to reflect current DNA testing terminology and techniques.

**Non-Municipal Police Response (HB 1738 – awaiting Senate action):** Allows certain officers of non-municipal police departments to respond to emergencies outside their jurisdiction.

**Restitution for Entities, Organizations (HB 1806 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the definition of “victim” in the Crime Victims law to include all crime victims, not just individuals.

The bill is in response to a recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling, which vacated a former representative's restitution order for using state resources to run campaigns. The court found that the Commonwealth cannot be a victim as the definition of victim under law only refers to individuals and their family members. The law could also aid other government entities and organizations.

**Rape Kit Testing (HB 1821 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Sexual Assault Testing and Evidence Collection Act regarding timeframes for the submission of sexual assault evidence.

**First Chance Fund (HB 1929 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the First Chance Fund to benefit children who are the victims of violent crime or whose parents or guardians are the victims of violent crime.

**Protection Against Sex Offenders (HB 1952 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Judicial Code regarding the registration of sexual offenders to ensure all offenders must continue registering their location with the Pennsylvania State Police.

### **Health Care and Health Care Access**

**Civil Immunity for Epinephrine Administration (Act 2 of 2017):** Applies civil immunities to school bus drivers or crossing guards who administer an epinephrine auto-injector to a student.

**Improving Care for Stroke Victims (Act 4 of 2017):** Adds acute stroke-ready hospitals and comprehensive stroke center designations to the state's Stroke System of Care Act. The system is designed to improve health outcomes for stroke victims.

**Fighting Rare Diseases (Act 14 of 2017):** Establishes a Rare Disease Advisory Council within the Pennsylvania Department of Health to study the incidence and prevalence of rare diseases in Pennsylvania.

**Death Certificates (Act 17 of 2017):** Allows a physician assistant (PA) to sign a death certificate for a patient under his or her care.

**Right to Try (Act 33 of 2017):** Allows eligible, terminally ill patients to request and use investigational drugs, biological products and medical devices not yet approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

**Supporting Pediatric Cancer Research (Act 39 of 2017):** Creates an opportunity for taxpayers to donate to pediatric cancer research via their Pennsylvania tax returns.

**CHIP Extension (Act 58 of 2017):** Reauthorizes the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) until Dec. 31, 2019. CHIP provides insurance coverage to uninsured children and teens (up to age 19) whose families earn too much to qualify for Medical Assistance, but who cannot afford to purchase private insurance.

**Ambulatory Surgery Center (Act 70 of 2017):** Amends the Health Care Facilities Act to change the length of stay in a licensed Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) to comport with that of other states and federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines.

**Health Insurance for Children (HB 114 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires the non-custodial parent of children for whom Medical Assistance is sought to enroll the children in their own health insurance plan.

**Credentialing (HB 125 – awaiting Senate action):** Creates the Health Care Practitioner Credentialing Act to outline the use of certain credentialing applications and credentialing requirements for health insurers.

**Access to Epinephrine (HB 126 – awaiting Senate action):** Permits authorized entities with properly trained employees to maintain a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors and provide or administer them.

**Lyme Disease Treatment (HB 174 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires health insurers to cover treatment plans for Lyme disease or related tick-borne illnesses as prescribed by a patient's health care practitioner, regardless if the treatment plan includes short-term or long-term antibiotic treatment.

**Health Services for Minors (HB 381 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires the Department of Human Services to issue guidelines and clarify regulations regarding when a minor's consent is needed for mental health examinations or other services.

**ABC-MAP Update (HB 395 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions Program Act to exempt prescribers from the requirement to query the database when Schedule V drugs are prescribed to treat epilepsy or a seizure disorder.

**Social Worker Licensure (HB 445 – awaiting Senate action):** Updates license requirements to include individuals who engage in the independent practice of clinical social work with the goal of ensuring better treatment for patients in need of the service.

**Pharmacy Tech Registration (HB 454 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires pharmacy technicians to be registered with the State Board of Pharmacy.

**Psychiatric Supervision (HB 478 – awaiting Senate action):** Changes the number of hours of psychiatric supervision required at outpatient psychiatric clinics to help meet growing demand and address the shortage of psychiatric time in Pennsylvania. The legislation will allow licensed prescribing professionals to work within their scope of practice as is the case in the physical health care arena.

**Federally Qualified Health Centers (HB 644 – awaiting Senate action):** Removes the cap on funds that may be obtained by federally qualified health centers through the Community Based Health Care Act.

**Patients' Rights (HB 835 – awaiting Senate action):** Specifies that Pennsylvanians receiving mental health treatment have the right to be free from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

**Treatment, No Transport (HB 1013 – awaiting Senate action):** To help ease the funding crisis for local ambulance service organizations, insurance companies would be required to reimburse ambulance organization for providing medical treatment, even when a patient is not transported to a hospital.

**Pain Clinic Registration (HB 1043 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires pain management clinics to register with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and be subject to specific regulations.

**Mental Health Treatment (HB 1233 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes a new standard for assisted outpatient mental health treatment for seriously mentally ill individuals.

**Access to Treatment (HB 1280 – awaiting Senate action):** Grants Stage IV metastatic cancer patients access to the medication and treatments prescribed by their doctors rather than having to first try a series of insurance-mandated medications.

**Office of Independent Medical Assistance Director (HB 1354 – awaiting Senate action):** Creates the Office of Independent Medical Assistance Director within the Department of Human Services (DHS) for budgetary purposes.

**Prescription Drug Database Access (HB 1532 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions program to allow Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MA MCOs) to query the system for individuals who are served by the MA MCO. The query may include both dispensing and prescribing information to help better identify potential prescription drug abuse among individuals enrolled in the state's Medicaid program.

**PA Health Care Cost Containment Council (HB 1613 – awaiting Senate action):** Reauthorizes and modernizes the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4).

**Medical Service Agreement Act (HB 1739 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes the Medical Service Agreement Act to allow for direct primary care services through a written subscription agreement.

**Program Eligibility (HB 1829 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes a deemed eligibility program for home care and home health care services and older adult daily living center services.

**Maternal Mortality Review (HB 1869 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes the Maternal Mortality Review Committee within the Department of Health to review maternal deaths in the Commonwealth and to develop strategies for the prevention of maternal deaths.

### **Senior Citizens**

**PACE/PACENET Eligibility (Act 62 of 2017):** Ensures senior citizens receiving PACE and PACENET prescription drug benefits do not lose eligibility due to a Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). The current law addressing the COLA is due to expire at the end of this year.

**Reduced-Fee Vehicle Registration (HB 188 – awaiting Senate action):** Increases the annual income limit for retired persons receiving Social Security or other pension to qualify for the discounted \$10 vehicle registration fee.

**Prescription Assistance (HB 296 – awaiting Senate action):** Excludes from the definition of “income,” the principal and any interest accrued from a savings bond in determination of eligibility for PACE and PACENET.

**Protecting Against Scams (HB 448 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General to establish ongoing communication with the Pennsylvania Department of Aging in an effort to further identify potential patterns of financial exploitation of seniors.

### **Military and Veterans Affairs**

**Stolen Valor (Act 9 of 2017):** Establishes the crime of “misrepresentation of military service or honors” for anyone fraudulently presenting oneself as a member or veteran of any branch of the armed forces, or as the recipient of a service medal or other military decoration, when it is done with the intention of obtaining money, property or other benefits.

**Elective Office for Active Duty Military (Act 54 of 2017):** Establishes uniform residential qualifications for election/appointment to municipal elected office for active duty military personnel.

**Recognizing PA Veterans (Act 56 of 2017):** Creates and adds the Pennsylvania Medal of Achievement and the Pennsylvania Veterans Service Award to the list of existing medals, badges and awards that are authorized and presented by the governor in the name of the Commonwealth.

**Veterans Registry (Act 69 of 2017):** Requires the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to enhance its veterans registry for outreach purposes.

**Civil Air Patrol Expenditures (HB 204 – awaiting Senate action):** Authorizes the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to operate as liaison for the Civil Air Patrol and supervise the

expenditures of state funding as well as the maintenance and use of Commonwealth facilities by the Civil Air Patrol.

**Honoring Women Veterans (HB 215 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes the “Honoring Our Women Veterans” special license plate to display on passenger cars or trucks.

**Veterans Trust Fund (HB 247 – awaiting Senate action):** Changes the “Pennsylvania Veterans’ Memorial Trust Fund” to the “Pennsylvania Veterans’ Monuments and Memorial Trust Fund” and allows the money in the fund to be used to promote, administer, operate, maintain and complete various monuments and memorials dedicated to Pennsylvania’s veterans and military units.

**Military Training Consideration (HB 302 – awaiting Senate action):** Adds the Department of Health to the list of agencies required to consider a service member’s military education and training for the purpose of fulfilling requirements for licensure/certification in the Commonwealth.

**Prescription Drug Assistance for Veterans (HB 673 – awaiting Senate action):** Eliminates veterans’ benefits from the definition of “income” when determining an individual’s eligibility for the PACE and PACENET programs.

**National Guard Youth Challenge (HB 824 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to establish in Pennsylvania the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, a dropout recovery program that helps at-risk young people earn a high school diploma or its equivalent and hopefully move on to higher education, employment or military service.

**Veterans Compensation Exclusion (HB 980 – awaiting Senate action):** Excludes veterans’ compensation benefits from income calculations for Commonwealth programs.

**Military Family Relief Funding (HB 984 – awaiting Senate action):** Extends the income tax check-off for the Military Family Relief Fund in perpetuity. The fund provides financial assistance to armed forces personnel and their families, including the National Guard and the Reserve components. The assistance available under this program is immediate and can be used for food, shelter, clothing and necessary medical care that is due to a member’s active duty status, such as deployment overseas.

**Elected Official Qualifications (HB 1363 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes uniform residential qualifications for election/appointment to municipal elected office for active military duty personnel.

## **Sportsmen**

**Accidental Taking (HB 359 – awaiting Senate action):** Includes bear and elk in the law allowing hunters who mistakenly take an animal to turn themselves in to the Pennsylvania Game Commission and pay a small fine but avoid revocation of their hunting licenses.

**Hunter Education Courses (HB 397 – awaiting Senate action):** Expands the availability of certified hunter education courses in public schools.

**Mentored Hunting Programs (HB 485 – awaiting Senate action):** Expands Pennsylvania’s mentored hunting programs to include youth ages 12-17. The program is currently available to children under 12 and to adults ages 18 and older.

**Discount for HTE Instructors (HB 582 – awaiting Senate action):** Creates a “Volunteer Instructor License” to provide a discounted hunting license for volunteer Hunter Trapper Education instructors.

**Use of Tracking Dogs (HB 602 – awaiting Senate action):** Allows the use of leashed blood-tracking dogs to recover white-tailed deer, black bear and elk.

**Supporting Therapeutic Recreation (HB 675 – awaiting Senate action):** Provides an exemption from fishing license requirements for therapeutic recreation programs.

**Military Fishing/Hunting Licenses (HB 1153 – awaiting Senate action):** Authorizes the Pennsylvania attorney general to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states allowing active duty military fishing and hunting licenses and grants recognition of licenses issued by other states.

### **Consumer Protection**

**Household Movers (Act 77 of 2017):** Establishes administrative penalties for persons or companies, operating without Public Utility Commission certification, that transport household property between residential dwellings in the Commonwealth for compensation.

**Motorcycle Lemons (HB 74 – awaiting Senate action):** Includes motorcycles on the list of vehicles covered under the Automobile Lemon Law.

**Do-Not-Call List (HB 105 – awaiting Senate action):** Allows subscribers to remain on the “do-not-call” list permanently, prohibits telemarketing on legal holidays, and requires a telemarketer using a robocall system to have an opt-out provision during the phone call.

**Protection of Pension Funds (HB 324 – awaiting Senate action):** Protects pensioners whose pensions are sold to insurance companies, when the Employment Retirement Income Security Act no longer applies.

**Plumber Licensure (HB 442 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes the State Board of Plumbing Contractors within the Department of Labor and Industry and requires licensure for those who hold themselves out to the public as a “master plumber,” journeyman plumber,” “apprentice plumber” or a “licensed plumbing contractor.”

**Community Dispute Resolution (HB 595 – awaiting Senate action):** Grants the power to investigate and mediate disputes in planned communities, cooperatives and condominiums to the Bureau of Consumer Protection in the Office of Attorney General.

**Credit Report Security (HB 1094 – awaiting Senate action):** Eliminates the automatic expiration of security freezes on consumer credit reports and provides for security freezes for “protected persons.”

**Fraudulent Credit Card Devices (HB 1918 – awaiting Senate action):** Updates Pennsylvania law regarding prevention, elimination and punishment of the use of fraudulent credit card devices.

### **Stronger Communities and Local Government**

**Township Vacancy Procedures (Acts 16 and 23 of 2017):** Amends the First Class Township Code and Second Class Township Code to address vacancies created as a result of the resignation of an elected official.

**Construction Extension (Act 19 of 2017):** Grants municipal authorities which serve five or more municipalities an additional five years to begin certain construction projects.

**Second Class Township Code (Act 28 of 2017):** Amends the Second Class Township Code to allow township supervisors to hold certain appointed positions.

**Cemetery Access (Act 64 of 2017):** Ensures reasonable access to cemeteries to anyone for the purpose of visitation, and establishes procedures for the sale and purchase of a cemetery, and continuation of honoring purchased burial plots.

**Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (Act 65 of 2017):** Places the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority under the oversight of the Public Utility Commission.

**Bingo Law Updates (Act 66 of 2017):** Makes several updates to the Bingo Law, including allowing increased bingo prize limits, daily operation of bingo and advertisement of prize amounts) to help maximize opportunities for fundraising for community nonprofit organizations.

**Emergency Contracts (HB 99 – awaiting Senate action):** Allows boroughs to make contracts or purchases without requiring advertising, bidding or price quotations in situations deemed emergencies.



**Transfer of Water/Sewer Infrastructure (HB 104 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires a municipal authority to publicly discuss all acquisitions and the sale or transfer of authority-owned water and sewer infrastructure and how the acquisition or sale will benefit the authority's existing ratepayers and requires annual reports within 180 days of the end of an authority's fiscal year.

**Charity Fundraising (HB 144 – awaiting Senate action):** Aims to ease some regulatory burdens placed on community nonprofit organizations in their fundraising activities.

**Pennsylvania Building Codes (HB 162 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act to give the Department of Labor and Industry the authority to contract with the International Codes Council to create a Pennsylvania-specific set of code books and require that such code books be available online in "read only" format to the general public.

**2-1-1 Grant Program (HB 211 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes the Statewide 2-1-1 System Grant Program within the Department of Human Services to facilitate dissemination of health and human service information.

**Municipal Boards of Appeals (HB 266 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Pennsylvania Construction Code regarding the number and qualifications of persons serving on municipal boards of appeals.

**Selling Municipal Water, Sewer Systems (HB 477 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires municipalities to host publicly noticed meetings when considering selling or leasing a sewer or water system.

**Storm Water Management (HBs 913-916 – awaiting Senate action):** Gives boroughs, townships, cities of the third class and the Town of Bloomsburg the authority to implement storm water management ordinances and to assess a fee to fund the planning, management, implementation, construction and maintenance of storm water facilities.

**Leaf Waste Exemption (HB 927 – awaiting Senate action):** Exempts municipalities meeting a population density threshold from establishing a leaf waste collection program.

**Municipal Authority Collections (HB 1034 – awaiting Senate action):** Adds additional fiscal procedures for the collection of money by municipal authorities.

**Appointment of Wards (HB 1362 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes a statutory mechanism for the initial and subsequent apportionment of wards in a home rule charter or optional plan municipality without a mayor.

**Bids for Services (HB 1364 – awaiting Senate action):** Authorizes political subdivisions and authorities to enter into contracts for services when two consecutive advertisements fail to induce bids.

### **Supporting Adoption**

**Access to Adoption Counseling (HB 56 – awaiting Senate action):** Ensures that birth parents, if they so desire, have access to adoption-related counseling services when they are considering relinquishing parental rights and placing a child for adoption, or when they have relinquished parental rights and have consented to place their child for adoption.

**Termination of Parental Rights (HB 57 – awaiting Senate action):** Streamlines and expedites the procedures for terminating parental rights in the course of the legal process to adopt a child in Pennsylvania.

**Revoking Consent to Adoption (HB 58 – awaiting Senate action):** Shortens the period in which a birth mother, birth father or putative father can revoke his or her consent to an adoption from 30 days to 14 days.

**Witnessing Consent to Adoption (HB 61 – awaiting Senate action):** Clarifies that an employee of a correctional facility may serve as a signed witness to the execution of a consent to adoption by a birth parent who is incarcerated.

**No Required Hearing (HB 62 – awaiting Senate action):** Eliminates the requirement of holding a hearing to confirm a consent to an adoption when the birth parent or parents of the child being placed for adoption have executed valid consents to an adoption.

**Defining Intermediary (HB 63 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the definition of the term “intermediary” in adoption law to include licensed attorneys or licensed social workers who are acting in that capacity.

**Reimbursable Expenses (HB 289 – awaiting Senate action):** Adds reasonable living expenses incurred by a birth mother of a child being placed for adoption to the list of expenses currently permitted to be reimbursed in an adoption process and paid by the adoptive parents; eliminates a report of intermediary; and requires the inclusion of specific documents as exhibits to the petition for adoption.

## Miscellaneous

**REAL ID Compliance (Act 3 of 2017):** Adopts policies to bring Pennsylvania into compliance with the federal REAL ID Act. When the REAL ID components are fully implemented, which is expected to take a year or more, residents will have the option of choosing a REAL ID-compliant form of identification or the standard form. The REAL ID will require more documentation to obtain, such as a birth certificate with a raised seal and proof of legal residency, and will likely cost more than the standard form.

**PIDA Project Inspections (Act 7 of 2017):** Amends the Commerce and Trade law to define the term “agent” to include the Department of Community and Economic Development, giving it and its employees the ability to conduct required inspections and monitoring programs managed by the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority. The measure also transfers the Concert Facility Tax Credit to Commerce and Trade.

**Personal Property Sale (Act 21 of 2017):** Increases the threshold for the sale of personal property without public notice or the acceptance of bids from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

**Uniform Construction Code Updates (Act 36 of 2017):** Makes comprehensive changes to the process used by the Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council to evaluate and adopt building code updates.

**Payment to Decedent’s Family (Act 41 of 2017):** Increases the amount of wages, salary or employee benefits that may be paid directly by an employer to the family of a decedent from \$5,000 to \$10,000 without requiring letters of administration.

**Apportionment of Wards (Act 53 of 2017):** Establishes a statutory mechanism for the initial and subsequent apportionment of wards in a home rule charter or optional plan municipality without a mayor.

**Underground Storage Tanks (Act 61 of 2017):** Amends the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act to address a vacancy on the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Board; adjusts allocations for different types of grants and extends the program sunset dates by five years.

**Pittsburgh Parking Authority (Act 76 of 2017):** Authorizes the Pittsburgh Parking Authority to designate certain parking areas for residential and commercial use.

**Uniform Voidable Transactions (Act 78 of 2017):** Establishes the Pennsylvania Uniform Voidable Transactions Act to amend Pennsylvania law on fraudulent transfers.

**Parking Authority Powers (Act 80):** Delegates powers to parking authorities of cities of second class A and third class.

**Non-Bank Mortgage Entities (Act 81 of 2017):** Amends the Banks and Banking law regarding the licensure and regulation of non-bank mortgage servicing entities.

**Soliciting Funds for Charities (Acts 71 and 72 of 2017):** Amends the Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act to align the audit requirements for financial reports with federal law (HB 1420) and to make technical changes that will assist organizations filing a registration statement with the Department of State's Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations (HB 1421).

**Plastic Bag Surcharges (HB 1071 – VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR):** Prohibits a political subdivision *from imposing a ban, fee, surcharge or tax on a recyclable plastic bag supplied by a retail establishment to a purchaser of consumer goods at the point of sale.*

**Life Insurance Database (HB 152 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes a searchable electronic database, maintained by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department or its designee, containing contact information for each life insurer that has life insurance policies in force in Pennsylvania.

**Updating PA History Code (HB 157 – awaiting Senate action):** Modernizes the History Code with regard to the administration of the State Archives, archival records and other matters.

**Election Watcher (HB 171 – awaiting Senate action):** Permits a registered voter of the Commonwealth to be appointed as a watcher in any election district located in Pennsylvania.

**Architects Continuing Education (HB 223 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes a continuing education requirement for architects.

**Building Code Official Certification (HB 298 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Pennsylvania Construction Code to allow the Department of Labor and Industry to create a separate "on-the-job" trainee classification for each building code official certification.

**Acquisition of Title (HB 352 – awaiting Senate action):** Reduces the standard period from 21 years to 10 years for bringing an action for the acquisition of title to real property through adverse possession under certain circumstances.

**MPOETC Makeup (HB 360 – awaiting Senate action):** Changes the composition of the membership of the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission by eliminating the seat occupied by a Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent in charge and replacing it with a member of the Pennsylvania Lodge Fraternal Order of Police.

**School Director Nominating Petitions (HB 444 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Pennsylvania Election Code to establish the number of signatures that candidates for school director must collect on their nomination petitions.

**Assessor Certification (HB 539 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Assessors Certification Act to remove the exemption for counties of the first class (Philadelphia) from requirements regarding assessor certification.

**BPOA Licensee Convictions (HB 548 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires all licensees under the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs to report convictions to their licensing board within 30 days.

**CDLs for Firefighters (HB 558 – awaiting Senate action):** Authorizes volunteer fire relief associations to use relief money to pay the cost of obtaining CDL licenses for firefighters to drive fire apparatus.

**Property Foreclosure (HB 653 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes an accelerated foreclosure process for vacant and abandoned properties.

**Mortgage Servicers (HB 780 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes licensure and regulation of mortgage servicers.

**Businesses Serving Casinos (HB 782 – awaiting Senate action):** Expedites Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board approval requirements for businesses that provide non-gaming-related goods and services to casinos.

**Real Estate Licensing (HB 863 – awaiting Senate action):** Updates the Real Estate Licensing and Registration Act to increase the educational requirements for the salesperson license and to authorize brokers and salespersons to prepare Broker Price Opinions.

**Tax Certification for Manufactured Homes (HB 783 – awaiting Senate action):** Exempts manufactured homes not previously titled in Pennsylvania from the tax certification requirement.

**Residual Waste Definition (HB 938 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Solid Waste Management Act to exempt iron and steel slag from the definition of “residual waste.”

**Alimony Pendente Lite (HB 983 – awaiting Senate action):** Prohibits the award of alimony pendente lite to a spouse who has been convicted of a personal injury crime against the other spouse.

**Home Inspector Licensing (HB 1001 – awaiting Senate action):** Creates the Home Inspector Licensing Act to establish the Home Inspector Licensing Board within the Department of Labor and Industry and require licensure in order to practice home inspection and use the title “Home Inspector.”

**Officiate Weddings (HB 1008 – awaiting Senate action):** Allows certain public officials to preside at weddings, including former mayors who have resigned the office without completing

a full term, and former or retired justices, judges or magisterial district judges who are not serving in a senior capacity. The bill also eliminates the three-day waiting period for issuance of a marriage license.

**Savings Promotion Raffles (HB 1039 – awaiting Senate action):** Creates the Savings Promotion Raffle Authorization Act to authorize and permit financial institutions to conduct savings promotion raffles.

**Engineer/Land Surveyor Registration (HB 1106 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law to clarify provisions and update the law to reflect current practice.

**Regulatory Cost Report (HB 1335 – awaiting Senate action):** Requires the Insurance Department to annually report to the General Assembly on the regulatory costs incurred by Pennsylvania’s domiciled insurers.

**Real Estate Appraisers (HB 1361 – awaiting Senate action):** Adds two certified Pennsylvania evaluators to the State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers.

**Barber Services (HB 1452 – awaiting Senate action):** Allows licensed barbers to provide free services outside of a licensed barber shop.

**Pension Management Fee Reporting (HB 1460 – awaiting Senate action):** Establishes standardized management fee reporting for SERS and PSERS developed by the Institutional Limited Partners Association’s (ILPA) Fee Transparency Initiative.

**Building Inspector Options (HB 1469 – awaiting Senate action):** Allows building permit applicants to use an alternative third-party agency in municipalities which have only one third-party agency enforcing the Uniform Construction Code (UCC), provided that the alternative third-party agency remits a surcharge to the municipality; requires that building permit applications, in municipalities using one or more third-party agencies to enforce the UCC, contain a written notice on where complaints can be directed about the performance of such agencies; and establishes a process for the Department of Labor and Industry to investigate and remedy complaints about code officials.

**Planned Communities, Condos and Cooperatives (HB 1499 – awaiting Senate action):** Clarifies and updates provisions relating to planned communities, condominiums and cooperatives.

**Smart Meter Data Access (HB 1563 – awaiting Senate action):** Adds “government agencies” to the list of specific third parties for which customer consent is required prior to gaining direct access to customer meter data and meters.

**Certified Pennsylvania Evaluators (HB 1594 – awaiting Senate action):** Clarifies the qualifications and training of revaluation company personnel and Certified Pennsylvania Evaluators.

**Unemployment Comp Appeals (HB 1597 – awaiting Senate action):** Increases the period of time allotted for parties to appeal the determination of an Unemployment Compensation (UC) Service Center and the decision of a UC referee from 15 days to 21 days.

**Collaborative Law (HB 1644 – awaiting Senate action):** Creates a uniform standard of practice for collaborative law in Pennsylvania. Collaborative law is a voluntary alternative dispute resolution process for parties who seek resolution of their legal matter outside of the courtroom. The use of collaborative law to settle a dispute is entirely voluntary and cannot be court ordered.

**Child Care (HB 1677 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Human Services Code to update references of “child day care” or “day care” with “child care.”

**Iran-Free Procurement (HB 1692 – awaiting Senate action):** Amends the Iran-Free Procurement Law to state that it may not expire until the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 is repealed by Congress.

**United States Semiquincentennial Celebration (HB 1793 – awaiting Senate action):** Creates the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial.

**Disciplinary Actions Against Licensed Professionals (SB 354 – awaiting further Senate action):** Requires licensees of all boards within the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) to report any disciplinary actions taken by another licensing agency, and any felony, misdemeanor and drug- or alcohol-related summary convictions, to their licensing board within 30 days. The bill also gives all boards and commissions under BPOA temporary and automatic license suspension authority and authorizes the Commissioner of the BPOA to expunge minor disciplinary records.