



Pennsylvania
**House
Republican
Caucus**

2013-14 Legislative Session
End of Session Report





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The hallmark of the 2013-14 Legislative Session of the House of Representatives was supporting employers, holding the line on taxes and reducing the size and scope of government.

A historic vote occurred on March 21, 2013, when the House passed legislation to privatize the sale of wine and spirits. However, the measure did not make it out of the Senate, leaving many Pennsylvanians wondering why they are still unable to buy wine and beer at grocery stores.

And for the second session in a row, the House took up legislation to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to reduce the size of both chambers of the General Assembly. Those bills also did not make it out of the Senate.

Both chambers of the General Assembly did come together to eliminate the Philadelphia Traffic Court, which had been a hotbed of corruption.

The session also saw major new laws to help create private sector jobs, improve transportation infrastructure, support education, and strengthen child protection laws – among many other accomplishments.

As fiscal stewards, the House Republican Caucus led by example. Since taking the Majority in 2011, House Member reimbursement expenses (per diems) have been cut by more than 40 percent due to reforms implemented. We also adopted legislation making a \$600 million reduction in the debt ceiling as part of accountability reforms made to the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP).

Appropriate funding for education, public safety and social services was ensured through the state budgets for FY 2013-14 and FY 2014-15, while also modernizing our business tax structure.

Employers responded: Pennsylvania's unemployment rate has fallen dramatically over the past four years, from 8.2 percent in January 2011 to just 5.7 percent as 2014 draws to a close. That rate is better than the national average and most of our neighboring states.

Among the economic development measures authorized during the past two years were business tax reforms to help employers lower their costs of doing business in Pennsylvania. In fact, one of the last votes this session was a reform to the workers' compensation system dealing with physician dispensing. Furthermore, we eliminated the death tax on family-owned businesses (which followed the elimination of the death tax on family farms in the previous session), increased the Net Operating Loss Cap, created a tax deduction for

small business start-ups, and are poised to finally eliminate the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax.

Modernizing our infrastructure was crucial to our communities and businesses. Building on the success of the public utility infrastructure modernization bill from the previous session, the new transportation funding plan provides vital funding to help rebuild Pennsylvania's aging highways and bridges. A good infrastructure will help attract and keep attracting businesses, and this plan ensures that our roads and bridges will help our state's economic growth.



Continuing the General Assembly's commitment to excellence in education, measures becoming law have been aimed to ensure children will learn today and earn tomorrow. While investing \$10.5 billion in K-12 education this fiscal year, more than ever before, work done by two statewide commissions – the Special Education Funding Commission, which issued its recommendations in December 2013, and the Basic Education Funding Commission, which has a report due by June 2015 – will help shape Pennsylvania's education funding policy decisions for many years to come.

Parents and students will have expanded school choices through greater access to our innovative educational programs. The new "open door" between the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs allows tax credits that were not used for one of the two programs to be applied to the other. A total of \$150 million annually is funding these two programs.

Strengthening another parental option while maintaining quality, Pennsylvania's home education law was reformed to provide legitimacy to high school diplomas for students in home education.

Pennsylvania students also will benefit from a law ending the practice known as "passing the trash" in which teachers who have been investigated and even dismissed for abuse or sexual misconduct find jobs in new schools. New laws made Safe Schools grants available to address school violence and established a requirement that school nurses be certified in CPR.

One of the most notable packages of legislation was a near total re-write of the state's child protection laws. Working to address the way Pennsylvania identifies, prevents and prosecutes child abuse in the wake of the Jerry Sandusky child sexual abuse scandal, the General Assembly created the Task Force on Child Protection. The task force held hearings throughout the state and issued a 427-page report that included specific recommendations for how to improve Pennsylvania law and keep children safe.

During the 2013-14 legislative session, we enacted many of the recommendations made by the task force, including updating the definition of child abuse, expanding the list of those required to report suspected child abuse, providing better training for mandated reporters, and increasing the penalties for causing bodily injury to children under the age of 13.

The legislature acted to ensure the NCAA's \$60 million fine of Penn State will be used for child protection programs within the Commonwealth.

Both state budgets for this session included a \$3 million increase for the Attorney General's Child Predator Interceptor Unit and \$2.5 million to create a new Mobile Street Crimes Unit to combat gang-related activity.

The legislature took aim at human trafficking in Pennsylvania and enacted a comprehensive new law which created the Pennsylvania Council for the Prevention of Human Trafficking, increased training for first responders, and added penalties for business entities involved in this horrific crime.

Improving health care in Pennsylvania was another strong focus in the legislative session. A new law will fight prescription drug abuse by expanding the state's prescription drug database to include more controlled substances, while the Community-Based Health Care Program is already providing funding for local clinics, including nurse-managed clinics, volunteer clinics and hospital-based clinics, all of which play a vital role in our health care system.

Laws were enacted to allow doctors to apologize for errors without fear of reprisal, to prohibit the use of taxpayer dollars for elective abortions under the federal Affordable Care Act, to better fight Lyme disease in Pennsylvania, and to require facilities offering mammograms to provide patients with information about breast density.

The Children's Health Insurance Program was extended and improved to eliminate the six-month waiting period for eligibility, and newborns in Pennsylvania will now be screened for Krabbe disease and five other Lysosomal Storage Disorders.



Bystanders who call for help in the case of a drug overdose will be immune from prosecution for certain drug crimes under a new Good Samaritan Law, which also included provisions making the anti-overdose drug Narcan more widely available.

Other public safety measures included the Revictimization Relief Act, giving crime victims a new tool against criminals who perpetuate the effects of their crime, and laws which created the crime of aggravated arson with enhanced penalties, increased the penalty for hit-and-run accidents resulting in death, allowed crime victims or their families to testify before the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole when a perpetrator is up for parole, and upgraded the

crime of torturing or killing a K-9 police officer to a felony of the second degree.

Whistleblower protections were extended to employees of the General Assembly, as well as to employees of nonprofits and private companies that receive public funds.

New laws ended the practice of “triple-dipping” (state employees collecting unemployment, a pension and a state paycheck after retiring), stabilized the Allegheny County Public Pension system, restructured the Allegheny County Port Authority Board to provide stronger oversight, and allowed counties to abolish the office of jury commissioner.

As unwavering supporters of our great military, and those Pennsylvanians returning from service, we strengthened medical care, job creation and educational opportunities for veterans, and consistently continued our duty to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. The eligibility guidelines for grants from the state’s Military Family Relief Assistance Program were expanded, the Paralyzed Veterans’ Pension program was updated to include amputees, the Military Physician Incentive Program was created to help the Pennsylvania National Guard recruit and train military resident physicians, hunting and fishing licenses were made available for a nominal fee for disabled Pennsylvania veterans, and veterans in personal care homes will benefit from a law allowing medicine from the Veterans’ Administration to be repackaged into single doses.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission was authorized to expand its successful Mentored Youth Hunting Program to all ages; private landowners who allow hunting on their property now benefit from limited liability; wild boar preserves are being regulated effectively; hunters can use crossbows during archery deer, bear and turkey seasons; and Game Commission officers are now re-authorized to use body cameras, a change that will benefit both the officers and the public.



Act 47, the law governing fiscally distressed municipalities, was given a much-needed update.

In total, more than 300 substantive bills became law in the 2013-14 Legislative Session. The following are some of the highlights.



GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION, THE STATE BUDGET



Act 1A of 2014, the FY 2014-15 state budget, provides funding for education, public safety and essential social and health services while improving Pennsylvania's tax climate.

- For the fourth year in a row, the General Assembly adopted a fiscally responsible budget that includes no new or increased taxes.
- The \$29.1 billion spending plan represents a modest increase of \$502 million, or 1.8 percent, over the 2013-14 fiscal year.
- The budget invests \$10.5 billion in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade education, the most state dollars ever dedicated to our schools.
 - Increases special education funding by \$20 million, with the new funding to be distributed using a new needs-based formula.
 - Provides \$200 million for the Ready to Learn Block Grant program (\$100 million of which comes from the Accountability Block Grant program). The grants provide greater flexibility to school districts to invest the funds where they see the greatest need.
 - Increases Pre-K Counts early learning programs by \$10 million, or 11.5 percent, to help serve 1,450 new children.
 - Includes a new \$5 million Ready to Succeed Scholarship through the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) for middle-income students.
 - Maintains level funding for the majority of the state-owned and state-related higher education institutions in the Commonwealth. Community colleges will receive an additional \$4.7 million.
- It includes an additional \$13.28 million to provide home and community-based services for an additional 1,250 individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- It includes funding for four new Pennsylvania State Police cadet classes.

Act 1A of 2013, the FY 2013-14 state budget, holds the line on spending and taxes while providing key investments in areas like education, public safety, economic development and job creation.

- For the third year in a row, the General Assembly adopted a fiscally responsible budget that includes no new or increased taxes.
- The \$28.376 billion spending plan represented a modest increase (\$645 million or 2.3 percent) over the 2012-13 budget. The rate of growth falls below what would be allowed under TABOR (Taxpayer Bill of Rights) by about \$59 million.
- The budget made record investments in education funding, directing more than \$10.8 billion (or 41 percent) of the state budget to K-12 and higher education.

- o \$122 million increase in basic education funding.
- o \$100 million to continue the Accountability Block Grant program.
- o \$22.5 million for distressed school districts.
- o Increased funding for Head Start and Pre-K Counts early childhood programs by \$6.4 million.
- o Added \$5 million for early intervention services to children ages 3-5 with developmental disabilities.
- o Created a new initiative to provide \$3 million in grants to career and technical schools for the purchase of new equipment to help expand career opportunities for students.
- o Increased safe schools funding to \$8.5 million.
- o Provided level funding to State System of Higher Education schools and modest increases to state-related universities.
- o Provided \$1 million in additional revenue for the Community College Capital Fund.
- It maintained state investments in research support for a number of diseases, such as lupus, ALS and cystic fibrosis, and it continued the effort to reduce the waiting list for services for people with intellectual disabilities by investing \$20 million.
- Public safety was also a priority in the budget, with investments in the Pennsylvania State Police to support training for 290 new state troopers and the Office of Attorney General to expand programs such as drug task forces and child predator interception units.
- Significant investments were also made in the state's environment with general fund dollars supplemented by revenues from the Marcellus Shale impact fee. For example, county conservation districts received \$8.4 million in funding, an increase of \$2 million over the prior budget year.



SUPPORTING PRIVATE SECTOR JOB CREATION-

Making PA Open For Business

Tax Reforms: Net Operating Loss (NOL) Cap Increase, Small Business Start-Up Deduction, Delaware Loophole Elimination and more (Act 52 of 2013, Tax Code, formerly HB 465) – To promote business investment in new small start-up businesses in Pennsylvania, the NOL deduction cap will be increased for two years and a new \$5,000 deduction for new start-up small businesses has been included. The new Tax Code bill also closes the so-called “Delaware Loophole.” The goal is to make the state more competitive and provide a more level playing field for businesses operating in the Commonwealth.

Inheritance Tax Elimination (Act 52 of 2013, Tax Code, formerly HB 48 and included in HB 465) – Exempts all assets of family-owned Pennsylvania businesses being transferred between family members from inheritance tax.

Workers Compensation Act Updates (Act 63 of 2014, formerly HB 2081) – Amends the Workers Compensation Act to exclude from the act workers who are covered by the federal Longshore and Harbor Workers’ Compensation Act and the federal Merchant Marine Act.

Lawsuit Abuse Reform/Benevolent Gesture (Act 79 of 2013, formerly SB 379) – Allows doctors and health care providers to apologize or offer expressions of grief without fear their words will be used against them in court. This is another important step toward preventing abuse in the state’s civil justice system.

Investing in Roads, Bridges and Mass Transit (Act 89 of 2013, formerly HB 1060) – Increases funding for the state’s transportation infrastructure by \$2.3 billion annually to address maintenance and repair of the 41,158-mile highway system and 6,536 structurally deficient bridges, and to invest in mass transit. The law eliminates the 12-cent flat tax on gasoline paid at the pump and recovers the revenue by changing the millage rate of the Oil Company Franchise Tax (OCFT), which is paid for by oil companies at the wholesale level. The law phases out the cap on the OCFT through 2017 and also implements a number of fee increases, including driver’s licenses and vehicle registrations.



Barring Double-Taxation on PA Job Creators (Act 42 of 2014, formerly HB 1513) – Prohibits municipalities, cities and other local governments from arbitrarily or excessively applying local business taxes to any company or employer that performs work within their boundaries for 15 days or less within the calendar year. The measure also protects businesses from being charged the gross receipts tax twice by separate municipalities for the same earnings.

Asbestos Liability (Act 112 of 2014, formerly SB 1422) – Limits liability in cases where the asbestos-related liability of a business entity results from a merger or consolidation with another, primarily liable company.

Vehicle Sales (Act 125 of 2014, formerly SB 1409) – Allows a manufacturer of electric cars (Tesla) to sell directly to the consumer through up to five manufacturer-owned dealerships.

Business Loan Programs (Act 161 of 2014, formerly HB 1550) - Consolidates several business loan programs under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority and codifies the existing Pennsylvania Military Community Protection Commission into law.

Business Entity Modernization Act (Act 172 of 2014, formerly HB 2234) – Modernizes Pennsylvania’s business entity laws to enable business entities to change their organizational forms as businesses grow and change over time. Now, businesses wishing to change their entity status will no longer be required to completely wind down their current business and dissolve before starting anew in the new entity form or merging with another entity.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION-

Responsible stewardship of your money



State Tax Equalization Board (STEB) Reforms (Act 2 of 2013, formerly SB 66)

– Moves STEB to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). STEB has suffered from a variety of problems in the past, but the new home should not only provide the necessary oversight to avoid those issues, but also additional support that was not available to STEB as an independent board. The reforms will help to standardize reassessment processes that vary widely among Pennsylvania's 67 counties, all in an effort to ensure that municipalities get the most accurate and reliable information possible from STEB. Some of those improvements include the creation of a new property valuation databases, reassessment manuals, property valuation training programs and contracting standards that supporters say will streamline the reassessment process and make it fairer and accountable to taxpayers.

No Tax Dollars for Abortion (Act 13 of 2013, formerly HB 818)

– Prohibits health insurance carriers that participate in an Affordable Care Act exchange from offering coverage for elective abortions within the exchanges. Exceptions are made for the life of the mother, rape or incest.

Eliminating Philadelphia Traffic Court (Act 17 of 2013, formerly HB 334, and SB 333, filed in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth)

– Proposes an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution to eliminate the troubled Philadelphia Traffic Court and transfers responsibilities of the court to the Philadelphia Municipal Court.

Inheritance Tax Exemption (Act 52 of 2013, formerly HB 48 and included in HB 465) – Exempts all assets of family-owned Pennsylvania businesses being transferred between family members from inheritance tax.

Port Authority of Allegheny County (Act 72 of 2013, formerly SB 700)

– Restructures the composition of the Board of the Port Authority of Allegheny County and directs the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to study transit regionalization and privatization.

No Triple Dipping (Act 75 of 2013, formerly HB 421) – Establishes that a person who quits or is laid off from a position in order to maintain eligibility for benefits under a retirement plan, annuity or other similar periodic payment plan after returning to work after retirement is ineligible for unemployment compensation.

Debt Reform (Act 77 of 2013, formerly HB 493) – Redefines the

Redevelopment Assistance Capital Project (RACP) program to enhance accountability and immediately reduces the RACP debt ceiling by \$600 million to \$3.45 billion.

Whistleblower Protection Expansion (Acts 87 and 88 of 2014, formerly HBs 118 and 185) – Expands coverage of the Pennsylvania Whistleblower Law to include protections to employees of nonprofits/private companies who report waste of public money obtained by their employer for services or work, and to employees of the General Assembly and its agencies who report waste, or a violation of local, state or federal law.

PEAL Repeal (Act 102 of 2014, formerly HB 1980) – Repeals the Pennsylvania Employment Agency Law because it is outdated, along with resources to be directed elsewhere in the Department of Labor and Industry.

Electronic Legal Materials (Act 133 of 2014, formerly SB 601) – Establishes the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act to ensure the state's practices reflect the shift in communication and record storage from print to electronic media. The law will modernize publication of the Commonwealth's legal materials and save money.

Tax Collector Education (Act 164 of 2014, formerly HB 1590) – Requires a criminal history check for anyone running for the office of tax collector and expands the current tax collector education program by making it mandatory to become certified by the Department of Community and Economic Development before taking the oath of office.

No More Pay-to-Play (Act 149 of 2014, formerly HB 201) – Prohibits any state employee from evaluating a state contract proposal submitted by a former employer less than two years following the date of the employee's separation with the employer. The measure also prohibits any individual or organization engaged in investment activities with Iran from entering into state contracts for goods or services.

State Supplemental Payments Contracting (Act 204 of 2014, formerly HB 2481) – Authorizes the Pennsylvania Treasury Department to enter into contracts with other states to process their State Supplemental Payments. The measure is designed to help save money for other states that contract with the federal Social Security Administration to process their payments, and to generate revenue for the Commonwealth.

Special Education Funding (Act 3 of 2013, formerly HB 2) – Creates a legislative commission to recommend a formula for distributing state funding for special education.

Safe Schools Grant Program (Act 70 of 2013, formerly SB 10) – Expands and enhances the Safe Schools Grant Program to provide targeted grants to school entities for school safety expenses.

Military Science (Act 10 of 2014, formerly SB 437) – Creates a military science teaching certificate.

AEDs in Schools (Act 35 of 2014, formerly HB 974) – Establishes a new automatic external defibrillator (AED) program within the Pennsylvania Department of Education to assist school entities and nonpublic schools in making AEDs available in school buildings to protect students and others from sudden cardiac arrest.

Educational Excused Absence (Act 40 of 2014, formerly SB 267) – Adds an educational tour or trip to the list of acceptable excuses for a child’s absence from school.

Basic Education Funding Commission (Act 51 of 2014, formerly HB 1738) – Establishes a commission to review and make recommendations concerning basic education funding and how it is distributed to the state’s school districts.

University Designation (Act 67 of 2014, formerly SB 1205) – Simplifies the process a college must follow in order to become a university.

Dyslexia Intervention (Act 69 of 2014, formerly HB 198) – Establishes a Dyslexia and Early Literacy Intervention Program with the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Holocaust Education (Act 70 of 2014, formerly HB 1424) – Allows public schools to offer Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations instruction.

Suicide and Child Exploitation Awareness Education (Act 71 of 2014, formerly HB 1559) – Requires school entities to adopt a youth suicide awareness and prevention policy and provide professional development on the subject. The law also requires the Department of Education to develop a model curriculum for students for both youth suicide prevention and child exploitation awareness.

School Safety (Act 122 of 2014, formerly SB 1194) – Allows schools located in municipalities where no local police department exists to enter into cooperative police service agreements with adjacent municipalities.

School Safety (HR 53) – Establishes a select committee on school safety and security to review and make recommendations regarding security policies and procedures in the state’s public and non-public schools and institutions of higher education; state laws related to school safety; early detection of potentially violent perpetrators; and any potential budgetary or revenue reforms necessary to address security matters.

Philadelphia School Funding, The Optional Cigarette Tax (Act 131 of 2014, formerly HB 1177) – Creates a charter school appeals process for the School District of Philadelphia and a local option cigarette tax for the City of Philadelphia, the proceeds of which will be used to support public education in the city.

Educational Tax Credit Program Expansion (Act 194 of 2014, formerly HB 91) – Creates an “open door” between the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs, allowing tax credits that were not used for one of the two programs to be applied to the other. Both programs are designed to expand parental choice and improved educational opportunities. The bill also makes career and technical schools eligible for EITC program funding in the same manner as other public schools.

EpiPens in School (Act 195 of 2014, formerly HB 803) – Permits a school to obtain a prescription from a physician for a supply of epinephrine auto injectors, or “EpiPens,” to be maintained and administered in a secure setting in the school. Proper training in administering the EpiPens is also required.



Home School Diplomas (Act 196 of 2014, formerly HB 1013) – Amends the Public School Code regarding high school diplomas awarded by home education supervisors and approved diploma-granting organizations, home education supervisor responsibilities, superintendent oversight of home education programs, and hearing proceedings.

CHILD SAFETY-

Protecting children, ensuring justice



NCAA Fine Endowment (Act 1 of 2013, formerly SB 187) – Directs that monetary penalties placed on Commonwealth-supported institutions of higher education be deposited into an endowment fund in the State Treasury. Funds from the endowment will be appropriated by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to child abuse causes within the Commonwealth.

Family Finding (Act 55 of 2013, formerly HB 1075) – Requires counties to conduct a family-finding process for children who receive services from a county children and youth agency in an effort to keep them connected with their biological families, as long as it is in the best interest of the child.

Protecting Newborns (Act 4 of 2014, formerly SB 29) – Requires health care providers to immediately report to the county agency newborns identified as being affected by an illegal substance and requires the county agency, upon receiving the report, to do a safety or risk assessment to determine whether the child is in need of protective services.

Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act (Act 5 of 2014, formerly SB 689) – Provides courts with guidelines to follow during custody disputes and divorce proceedings to help the courts identify families at risk for abduction and to provide methods to prevent the interstate or foreign abduction of children. These guidelines also allow a party to a child custody order to seek, through the petition process, a supplemental order establishing anti-child abduction measures as long as the moving party can demonstrate a heightened probability that abduction is possible.

Task Force on Child Protection Recommendations and Related Measures – The General Assembly has taken up several bills aimed at protecting children, including many that are based on recommendations from the Task Force on Child Protection created in response to the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse scandal. The following measures have been signed into law:

- **Act 105 of 2013, formerly HB 321**, establishes a sentencing enhancement for the offense of child pornography.
- **Act 107 of 2013, formerly HB 414**, requires that a court, in a child custody matter, has information with respect to whether the child has been identified as a victim of child abuse by a party or a member of the party's household.
- **Act 108 of 2013, formerly HB 726**, amends the definitions of child abuse and related terms in the Child Protective Services Law to, among other things, lower the injury threshold for what is considered physical

abuse, allow certain grooming activities to be considered sexual abuse, and include a variety of abusive behaviors that cannot be substantiated as “child abuse” under current law. The bill also includes a list of exceptions to exempt non-abusive conduct and puts in place a number of safeguards and due process protection in child abuse cases.

- **Act 109 of 2013, formerly HB 1201**, prevents the records and name of minor victims of sexual or physical abuse from being available for public review.
- **Act 116 of 2013, formerly HB 1594**, increases penalties for luring a child into a motor vehicle or structure.
- **Act 117 of 2013, formerly SB 23**, broadens the definition of perpetrator to include employees or volunteers that have regular contact, school teachers and employees, and individuals related to a child.
- **Act 118 of 2013, formerly SB 28**, makes it a crime to falsely report child abuse, punishable by a maximum penalty of two years in jail or a \$5,000 fine, and makes it a crime to intimidate, retaliate or obstruct child abuse cases.
- **Act 119 of 2013, formerly SB 30**, establishes a timeframe for expedited appeals of indicated child abuse reports.
- **Act 120 of 2013, formerly SB 34**, makes changes to the Professional Educator Discipline Act to expand the basis for disciplinary action against teachers to include findings of child abuse.
- **Act 123 of 2013, formerly SB 1116**, clarifies and encourages joint child abuse investigations between county children and youth agencies and law enforcement.
- **Act 31 of 2014, formerly HB 431**, requires child abuse recognition and reporting training for professional licensees who are mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and for operators and employees of facilities and agencies regulated or supervised by the Department of Public Welfare who are mandated reporters of suspected child abuse.
- **Acts 44 and 45 of 2014, formerly SB 31 and HB 434**, amend the Child Protective Services Law to eliminate separate standards for school employees with regard to child abuse investigations and background clearances. The measures also require suspected child abuse to be reported directly to the Department of Public Welfare’s Child Line and to the school’s administrator.
- **Act 151 of 2014, formerly HB 90**, gives administrative subpoena power to the attorney general and district attorneys, which allows them to identify computers that are transmitting child pornography.
- **Act 153 of 2014, formerly HB 435**, expands and clarifies background clearance requirements for employees and volunteers who work directly with children or are responsible for a child’s welfare. The law also requires a study to analyze and make recommendations on employment bans for those having contact with children.

Child Protective Services (Act 29 of 2014, formerly SB 24) – Establishes a statewide database of protective services within the Department of Public Welfare and allows for the electronic reporting of child abuse, cross-reporting and the responsibility for child abuse investigations.

Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse (Act 32 of 2014, formerly HB 436) – Upgrades the penalties for mandated reporters who fail to report, including a felony charge for mandated reporters who witness the most serious child abuse and still fail to report.



Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse (Act 33 of 2014, formerly SB 21) – Expands the list of mandated reporters of child abuse and the basis on which they are required to report suspected abuse. The legislation also makes changes to several provisions of the reporting procedure (such as chain-of-command reporting) and specifies it can be done electronically.

Child Abuse Reporting and Protection (Act 34 of 2014, formerly SB 33) – Provides protection from employment discrimination and employment termination for individuals who report suspected child abuse in good faith.

Sexual Assault by Sports Official (Act 56 of 2014, formerly HB 112) – Establishes the offense of sexual assault by a sports official, which would carry a maximum penalty of up to seven years in prison and a fine of up to \$15,000. The third-degree felony would be applied when that person engages in sexual intercourse, deviate sexual intercourse or indecent contact with a child who is participating in a sports program of the nonprofit or for-profit association.

Safe Haven Law Expansion (Act 91 of 2014, formerly HB 1090) – Adds police stations to the Pennsylvania Safe Haven Law, allowing a police officer to accept a newborn from a parent who wishes to relinquish the infant.

CPR for School Nurses (Act 107 of 2014, formerly SB 193) – Requires school nurses to be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and provides a timeline for CPR certification.

Child Abuse Information Exchange (Act 176 of 2014, formerly SB 27) – Allows for the exchange of information in suspected child abuse cases between licensed medical practitioners and county children and youth agencies.

Don't Pass the Trash, Keeping Abusers Out of Schools (Act 168 of 2014, formerly HB 1816) – Requires public and private schools in Pennsylvania and

their independent contractors to conduct a thorough employment history review prior to offering employment to any applicant for a position involving direct contact with children. The measure also requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education to obtain and monitor public safety and criminal justice information for educators and use such information for certification and discipline services. Finally, the measure addresses continuing professional development, Pennsylvania school leadership standards, and a baccalaureate certification skills assessment.



PUBLIC SAFETY/PUBLIC PROTECTION- *Always a Priority*



Giving Victims a Voice (Act 14 of 2013, formerly HB 492) – Ensures crime victims or representatives of crime victims the right to speak directly to the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole before a decision is made to grant parole.

Targeting Synthetic Drugs (Act 40 of 2013, formerly HB 1217) – Aims to keep state laws up-to-date with the constantly changing compounds used to create “bath salts” and synthetic marijuana.

Drug Tracking (Act 53 of 2013, formerly HB 602) – Requires the tracking of sales of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine through the use of an electronic system that monitors sales in real time to prevent purchases from exceeding legal limits.

Harassment Offenses (Act 91 of 2013, formerly HB 27) – Enhances the offense of harassment by one degree if the defendant is in violation of a protection from abuse order.

Identity Theft of a Minor (Act 97 of 2013; formerly HB 714) – Increases the grading of the offense of identity theft by one degree if the victim is under 18 years of age. According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity thieves deliberately capture and use a child’s Social Security number or fabricate a Social Security number that has been assigned to a child in order to obtain employment, apply for government benefits, open new accounts or apply for a loan or mortgage. Such thefts are often not detected until the child becomes an adult and seeks employment or applies for a car or student loan.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms (Act 121 of 2013, formerly SB 607) – Establishes the Carbon Monoxide Alarm Standards Act guiding the placement of carbon monoxide alarms in homes and rental properties.



Motorcycle Safety (Act 126 of 2013, formerly HB 892) – Establishes time limitations on motorcycle learners’ permits to ensure drivers complete the process necessary to obtain a full license.

Audio/Video Recording (Act 9 of 2014, formerly SB 57) – Permits audio recording on school buses for disciplinary and security purposes, and extends authorization for local police officers and state police to use audio and video cameras other than those mounted on the dashboard of a patrol car.

Arson Penalties (Act 16 of 2014, formerly SB 1024) – Creates an offense of “aggravated arson” as a first-degree felony and adds explosives or incendiary devices to the definition of “dangerous weapons” prohibited in a courthouse.

Registration of Sex Offenders (Act 19 of 2014, formerly HB 1985) – Makes technical changes to tighten possible loopholes in the state’s Megan’s Law.

Protection Orders for Victims of Sexual Violence (Act 25 of 2014, formerly SB 681) – Allows victims of sexual assault to petition the court for a protective order against their alleged attacker, regardless of whether they seek criminal prosecution.

Regulation of Tanning Facilities (Act 41 of 2014, formerly HB 1259) – Requires licensing and inspection of indoor tanning facilities; prohibits minors age 16 and under from using tanning facilities and requires minors at age 17 to obtain parental consent; and requires the posting of notifications that ultraviolet light has a carcinogenic effect on skin.

Protecting Against Lead (Act 55 of 2014, formerly SB 1254) – Updates the definition of “lead free” in the state’s Plumbing System Lead Ban Notification Act to comply with federal law. The change is expected to further reduce the amount of lead in plumbing fixtures and reduce exposure to lead in tap water.



Police Dog Protections (Act 75 of 2014, formerly HB 2026) – Elevates the penalty for willfully or maliciously torturing, mutilating, injuring, disabling, poisoning or killing a police dog to a second-degree felony.

Funding PA’s 911 Emergency System (Act 84 of 2014, formerly HB 2275) – Extends the state’s current 911 law, including surcharges to fund the system, through June 30, 2015, as lawmakers work to modernize the system to ensure public safety.

Hit-and-Run Crashes (Act 85 of 2014, formerly SB 1312) – Increases penalties for a hit-and-run driver who flees the scene of a fatal accident by mandating a minimum three-year prison sentence upon conviction. The law also extends the permissible length of school buses; addresses transportation of manufactured housing; establishes definitions and penalties for texting or use of handheld mobile devices while driving a commercial vehicle or motor carrier vehicle; and provides for the transfer of ownership of vehicles used for human habitation.

Human Trafficking Laws (Act 105 of 2014, formerly SB 75) – Makes comprehensive revisions to laws relating to human trafficking and its victims.

Harming a Police Dog (Act 110 of 2014, formerly SB 1261) – Increases penalties against those who kill or injure police dogs. Also known as Rocco’s Law in honor of a Pittsburgh police dog killed in the line of duty.

Access to Justice (Act 113 of 2014, formerly HB 1337) – Provides an additional dollar from a surcharge on court filings to the Access to Justice Account, which dedicates money to the PA Legal Aid Network (PLAN) to ensure legal help to people who need it.

Revenge Porn (Act 115 of 2014, formerly HB 2107) – Establishes the offense of Unlawful Dissemination of Intimate Image and allows a victim to bring a civil cause of action in order to recover damages.

Juvenile Justice Act Changes (Act 138 of 2014, formerly SB 1197) – Makes various changes and clarifications to the way juvenile offenders are treated by the juvenile justice system.

Preventing Drug Overdose Deaths (Act 139 of 2014, formerly SB 1164) – Provides immunity from prosecution on minor drug-related offenses to someone who reports a drug overdose and makes the potentially life-saving opioid overdose reversal drug, naloxone, available to emergency services personnel, law enforcement and even family or friends of someone who is at risk of an opioid overdose.

Combatting Blight (Act 157 of 2014, formerly HB 1363) – Encourages investment in efforts to remediate blight.

Cell Phone Ping (Act 181 of 2014, formerly SB 1290) – Requires wireless providers to “ping” a potential victim’s cell phone at the request of law enforcement officials to help locate the missing person when there is sufficient information to believe there is a risk or threat of death or serious physical harm.

Fight Against Blight (Act 171 of 2014, formerly HB 2120) – Clarifies who is held responsible for code enforcement violations under the act and to provide where violation notices shall be sent.

Nuclear Facility Fees (Act 190 of 2014, formerly SB 1355) – Increases annual nuclear facility fees by \$100,000 to \$650,000. The fees are used to ensure public safety in the areas surrounding the facilities.

Revictimization Relief Act (Act 150 of 2014, formerly SB 508) – Establishes the Revictimization Relief Act which allows crime victims to file a civil action seeking a court order to enjoin their offender’s conduct if their offender engages in conduct which perpetuates the continuing effect of the crime on the victim.

Arrest Powers (Act 187 of 2014, formerly SB 720) – Creates the Disaster Emergency Assistance Act and extends the powers of arrest for out-of-state law enforcement personnel.

DUI Laws (Act 189 of 2014, formerly SB 1239) – Corrects language in the Vehicle Code regarding sentencing for certain repeat DUI offenders to ensure that appropriate penalties will apply to such offenders.



Protecting Crime Victims (Act 200 of 2014, formerly HB 1796) – Prohibits municipal ordinances from penalizing a resident or landlord for needing police or emergency assistance at their property.

Gun Laws, Mental Health Data and Theft of Secondary Metals (Act 192 of 2014, formerly HB 80) – Gives legal standing to any person who has been adversely affected by firearms regulations put forth by local governments in violation of the Commonwealth’s prohibition of local gun laws. The law also requires the Pennsylvania State Police to provide mental health or other records relevant to a determination of whether a person is disqualified from possessing or receiving a firearm to the National Instant Check System (NICS) and require ongoing submissions of this data to NICS within 72 hours of receiving it. Additionally, the bill creates the offense of “theft of secondary metals” and outlines penalties.



EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Tax Exemption for Volunteer Fire/Rescue (Act 52 of 2013, formerly HB 465)

– Exempts volunteer fire companies and volunteer rescue companies from the realty transfer tax when merging or consolidating or conducting a normal sale or acquisition of real estate.

Loans for Volunteer Organizations (Act 129 of 2013, formerly HB 1706) –

Increases the Volunteer Loan Assistance Program loan amounts for volunteer fire and emergency medical services departments.

Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Funds (Acts 1 and 65 of 2014, formerly HB 807 and SB 707) –

Act 1 allows two or more fire companies that share a single Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association to send a duly elected delegate from each fire company to a convention or meeting, and to pay for their attendance with association funds. Act 65 allows association funds to be used to pay for expenses incurred for emergency medical service training.



Emergency Medical Services Memorial Flag (Act 57 of 2014, formerly HB 119) –

Establishes an "Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Memorial Flag" to honor EMS personnel who have died in the line of duty.

Fire Department Vehicles (Act 140 of 2014, formerly HB 241) – Expands the definition of "fire department vehicle" to include a vehicle owned or leased by a fire relief association and used by an organized paid or volunteer fire department; and includes state emergency management vehicles in the definition of "emergency vehicles."

CHIP Extension (Act 74 of 2013, formerly HB 108) – Extends the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) through Dec. 31, 2015.

Mammography Requirements (Act 86 of 2013, formerly SB 358) – Requires mammography facilities certified by the Food and Drug Administration to provide patients with information regarding their breast density.

Breast Cancer Treatment (Act 3 of 2014, formerly HB 1656) – Aims to ease anxiety for breast cancer patients by repealing Act 213 of 1984, which mandates an additional medical consent form from patients for treatment of breast disease.

Dental Volunteers (Act 7 of 2014, formerly HB 1056) – Creates a temporary volunteer dental license for out-of-state dentists to volunteer at charitable dental clinics.

Mental Health Procedures Act (Act 21 of 2014, formerly HB 21) – Updates the Mental Health Procedures Act to permit the court to appoint a licensed psychologist to conduct an incompetency examination ordered for an individual charged with a crime; permit a licensed psychologist retained by the defendant or the Commonwealth to witness and participate in the examination; and permit the court to appoint a licensed psychologist for a defendant who is financially unable to retain one if the defendant has a substantial objection to the conclusions reached by the court’s appointed expert.

Lyme Disease Task Force (Act 83 of 2014, formerly SB 177) – Directs the Department of Health to establish a task force that will investigate and make recommendations to the department regarding the education, prevention and treatment of Lyme disease and related tick-borne diseases.

Dental School Instructors (Act 89 of 2014, formerly HB 272) – Allows licensed dentists from other states to obtain a restricted faculty license to teach in dental schools in Pennsylvania.

Infant Screenings (Act 94 of 2014, formerly HB 1420) – Requires a pulse oximetry screening for each newborn baby born in a hospital or freestanding birthing center.

Access to Diabetic Shoes (Act 104 of 2014, formerly HB 2242) – Exempts pharmacists, podiatrists and physicians from licensure with respect to dispensing durable medical equipment and allows persons currently selling/

dispensing diabetic shoes and inserts to receive a prosthetic, orthotic, pedorthotic, or orthotic fitter license without examination.

Audiology Updates (Act 106 of 2014, formerly SB 137) – Updates the provisions regulating audiologists and speech-language pathologists, and eliminates the licensure requirement for teachers of the hearing impaired.

Down Syndrome Diagnosis (Act 130 of 2014, formerly HB 2111) – Requires health care practitioners to provide complete information to women who receive a prenatal diagnosis for Down Syndrome.

Department of Human Services (Act 131 of 2014, formerly HB 993) – Changes the name of the Department of Public Welfare to the Department of Human Services.

Acupuncture Treatment Access (Act 134 of 2014, formerly SB 990) – Enables acupuncturists to treat patients seeking routine wellness treatments without the requirement of a physician's diagnosis.

Newborn Screenings (Act 148 of 2014, formerly HB 1654) – Adds Krabbe, Fabry, Pompe, Niemann-Pick, Gaucher and Hurler Syndrome to the list of genetic diseases that hospitals must screen newborns for in Pennsylvania.

Coverage for Infant Formula (Act 158 of 2014, formerly HB 1436) – Requires health insurance carriers in Pennsylvania to cover the cost of medically necessary amino acid-based elemental formulas for infants and children.



Prescription Drug Monitoring (Act 191 of 2014, formerly SB 1180) – Creates the Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions Program in the Pennsylvania Department of Health in an effort to address prescription drug abuse. The measure includes an electronic data system listing certain controlled substances that are prescribed and dispensed in the Commonwealth.

Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Advisory Council (Act 198 of 2014, formerly HB 1655) – Creates a PCMH Advisory Council for the state's Medicaid program to improve care and reduce health care costs. The PCMH model basically has a primary care physician or nurse practitioner as the primary point of contact for all medical care having to do with an individual patient. This model of care is especially effective for those who have chronic diseases that require one or more specialists. Doctors, nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists and others are all communicating to ensure the patient is receiving coordinated care, which includes making sure the patient does not

undergo duplicative testing, receives important routine exams, and is alerted when immunizations are needed.

Physician Dispensing (Act 184 of 2014, formerly HB 1846) – Places limits on the amount of drugs that can be dispensed and the price that can be charged by a physician under the Workers' Compensation program.

Pertussis Awareness (Act 163 of 2014, formerly HB 1567) – Allows health care facilities to provide parents of newborns with educational information about pertussis disease and the availability of a vaccine to protect against pertussis.

Protecting Against Surprise Medical Bills (Act 169 of 2014, formerly HB 1907) – Requires hospitals to notify patients of their outpatient status, as well as the billing and insurance implications of that designation, in order to bring transparency to patients and their families.

Organ Donation Tax Credit (Act 193 of 2014, formerly HB 46) – Permanently extends the organ and bone marrow donation tax credit benefits. The tax credit is available to businesses that grant paid leaves of absence to employees for the purpose of bone marrow or organ donation.





SENIOR CITIZENS

PACE/PACENET Eligibility (Act 12 of 2014, formerly HB 777) – Creates a moratorium on increases in income due to a Social Security cost-of-living adjustment for certain individuals enrolled in PACE and PACENET and also changes the definition of “income” to exclude Medicare Part B premiums, which further expands program eligibility.

Respite Services (Act 166 of 2014, formerly HB 1702) – Establishes a licensing program under the Department of Aging for community respite services programs in the Commonwealth.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Eligibility (Act 156 of 2014, formerly HB 1067) – Applies a Social Security cost-of-living adjustment moratorium to the Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program to help ensure people who need it may continue to qualify for rebates.





VETERANS

National Guard Leave (Act 80 of 2013; formerly HB 88) – Clarifies the current law regarding leaves of absence for members of the Pennsylvania National Guard by stating that the 15-day leave of absence is to be applied to a 24-hour day and prohibits an officer or employee from being required to return to duty within 18 hours of being relieved of federal or state active duty.

Recognizing Veterans' Experiences (Act 82 of 2013, formerly SB 277) – Allows the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to waive certain testing requirements for commercial driver's license applicants who are either active members or veterans of the United States Armed Forces and who have operated an appropriate vehicle for at least two years prior to the application.

Higher Education Accessibility (Act 46 of 2014, formerly HB 1164) – Requires colleges, universities and institutions of higher learning in Pennsylvania to provide current military service personnel and honorably discharged veterans with priority registration.

Transcript Acknowledgement (Act 59 of 2014, formerly HB 1460) – Requires educational institutions to place an "M" on the grade transcript of military members or spouses for classes they were unable to complete due to military duty and requires the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to provide public access to a searchable database of Medal of Honor recipients.

Military Family Relief Assistance Program (Act 66 of 2014, formerly SB 923) – Preserves and expands the Military Family Relief Assistance Program by extending the sunset date until June 30, 2020; allowing for greater flexibility in providing aid to service members under circumstances unrelated to the member's military service; and extending the time limit during which service members can apply for aid under the program.

National Guard Health Officer (Act 78 of 2014, formerly SB 403) – Establishes the Medical Officer or Health Officer Incentive Program to assist the Pennsylvania National Guard in its efforts to recruit and retain military resident physicians.

Discounted Hunting/Fishing Licenses for Disabled Veterans (Acts 80 and 81, formerly SBs 1090 and 1102) – Allows military veterans considered between 60 percent and 99 percent disabled as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to receive a resident hunting or fishing license for \$1 plus issuing agent fees.

Tuition Assistance for Veterans (Act 82 of 2014, formerly SB 1115) – Requires approved institutions of higher learning to consider any federal tuition assistance received by an eligible service member before a state Educational Assistance Program (EAP) grant is awarded to a PA National Guard member. The law also allows any excess EAP funds to be used for books, room and board, and travel expenses.

Volunteer Mental Health Services (Act 86 of 2014, formerly HB 43) – Allows psychiatrists, psychologists and counselors the ability to obtain a volunteer license to provide free mental health services to military personnel and their families outside of an approved clinic setting via programs such as “Give an Hour.”

Pharmaceutical Cost Savings (Act 147 of 2014, formerly SB 1224) – Extends pharmaceutical cost-saving measures to veterans residing in assisted living residences and personal care homes.

Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans’ Pension (Act 180 of 2014, formerly SB 1129) – Changes the name of the “Paralyzed Veterans’ Pension” program to “Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans’ Pension” program and makes a technical change revising the definition of “paralyzed veteran” to “amputee and paralyzed veteran.”

Housing Preference (Act 188 of 2014, formerly SB 1135) – Requires that local housing authorities give preference to veterans and to families of active duty military when leasing public housing.





Mentored Hunting (Act 7 of 2013, formerly SB 623) – Aims to encourage more participation in hunting by allowing the Game Commission to offer mentored hunting programs to people of various ages, rather than only youths under age 12. A person could participate as a mentored hunter in no more than three licensing years.

Wild Boars (Act 25 of 2013, formerly SB 644) – Clarifies that wild boars and other swine kept behind fences on game farms or hunting preserves are not defined as “wild animals” under the Game Code and not under the regulatory purview of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Electronic Trap Monitoring (Act 29 of 2013, formerly HB 891) – Allows properly permitted Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators to check traps remotely by electronic means.

Liability Protections (Act 83 of 2013, formerly SB 648) – Protects private property rights by ensuring landowners who allow hunting on their property are not subject to prosecution for violations committed by hunters on their land.

Inspection Rosters (Act 103 of 2013, formerly SB 763) – Removes the required keeping and inspection of rosters of big game hunting parties by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Conservation Officer Duties (Act 8 of 2014, formerly HB 1584) – Clarifies the discretion of Wildlife and Waterways Conservation Officers to issue written or verbal warnings, when appropriate, in lieu of arrests or citations for violations of the Game Code and Fish and Boat Code.

Terms of Service for Fish/Boat and Game Commissioners (Acts 24 and 26 of 2014, formerly HBs 798 and 895) – Reduces the length of terms of service for members of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission’s Board of Commissioners and the Pennsylvania Game Commission’s Board of Commissioners from eight years to four years while allowing for multiple terms of continued service.

Definition of Bow (Act 92 of 2014, formerly HB 1144) – Clarifies the definition of “bow” to include crossbows and removes outdated language providing for a disabled permit to hunt with a crossbow to reflect permanent regulatory changes made by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

ATV Definition (Act 111 of 2014, formerly SB 1287) – Updates the definition of “all-terrain vehicle” with regard to weight limits and tires and allows for the titling and registration of innovative all-terrain vehicle models.

Elk License (Act 116 of 2014, formerly HB 2169) – Reauthorizes the Special Elk Conservation License and auction and authorizes a second special license for the Keystone Elk Country Alliance.

Body Cameras for WCOs (Act 202 of 2014, formerly HB 2178) – Defines Wildlife Conservation Officers and Waterways Conservation Officers as law enforcement officers under the Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act to allow them to use, with required training, body cameras in the performance of their duties.





Race Horse Industry Reform (Act 30 of 2014, formerly SB 1181) – Transfers a total of \$4.2 million from the Race Horse Development Fund to the State Racing Fund to be used for enforcement of the Race Horse Industry Reform Act.

High Tunnel Tax Exemptions (Acts 114 and 130 of 2013, formerly HB 1439 and SB 638) – Amends the General County Assessment Law by exempting structures known as high tunnels from assessment as real estate.

Farm Vehicle Exemption (Act 170 of 2014, formerly HB 2092) – Updates the commercial driver's license exemption for certain farm vehicles in order to comport with federal law.





CONSUMER PROTECTION

Auto Insurance Consumer Help (Act 132 of 2013, formerly SB 1040) – Repeals the mandatory deductible for collision coverage in auto insurance policies to allow for “vanishing deductibles” and authorizes electronic issuance of insurance identification cards.

Mobile and Manufactured Home Tax Liability (Act 36 of 2014, formerly HB 1263) – Requires sellers of mobile homes or manufactured homes to obtain a tax status certification documenting that all property taxes on the home are paid in full as a condition of sale.

Summer Gas (Act 50 of 2014, formerly SB 1037) – Repeals regulations relating to Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) gasoline, commonly known as summer gas, which has driven up the cost of gasoline in portions of the state where its use has been required (western Pennsylvania).

Data Breach Notification (Act 78 of 2014, formerly HB 2167) – Establishes specific time frames for state agencies and municipalities to provide notice of data breaches involving personal information.

Mechanic’s Lien Law (Act 142 of 2014, formerly HB 473) – Amends the Mechanic’s Lien Law to establish a “Notice of Commencement” process that would allow owners to identify the universe of subcontractors working on their project. This enables the property owner to ensure all subcontractors are paid before the owner makes final payment to the general contractor.

Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act (Act 160 of 2014, formerly HB 1543) –Amends the Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act to permit the use of “time and materials” contracts and require funds in the Home Improvement Account to be appropriated to the attorney general.



Recreational Vehicle Dealers (Act 146 of 2014, formerly SB 814) – Defines out-of-state recreational vehicle dealers and clarifies requirements for such an entity to exhibit in the Commonwealth in order to protect consumers and ensure fairness for vehicle dealers.

Insurance Changes (Acts 182 and 183 of 2014, formerly SBs 1356 and 1357) – Adds the definition of “affiliated insurer” and amends the definition of “renewal” or “to renew” in the Unfair Insurance Practices Act and The Insurance

Company Law of 1921.

Public Utility Code (Act 155 of 2014, formerly HB 939) – Amends the Public Utility Code relating to responsible utility customer protection, assessment for regulatory expenses upon public utilities and requirements for natural gas suppliers and electric generation suppliers.

Disposition of Abandoned Property (Act 167 of 2014, formerly HB 1714) – Amends the Landlord and Tenant Act to clarify and simplify the process for disposing of abandoned personal property.



Release from Natural Gas Leases (Act 152 of 2014, formerly HB 402) – Creates a formal process by which a landowner can obtain a release when the landowner's natural gas lease is terminated, expired or canceled. A release is often needed before the landowner can enter into a new lease with another company.

Neighborhood Blight Reclamation and Revitalization Act (Act 171 of 2014, formerly HB 2120) – Clarifies who is held responsible for code enforcement violations and requires that violation notices involving a corporation must be sent to the address on record with the Department of State.

Gas Lease Transparency (Act 173 of 2014, formerly HB 2278) – Requires natural gas well operators to file monthly production reports with the Department of Environmental Protection. The reports would be accessible to lease holders.

On-Lot Sewage Systems (Act 41 of 2013, formerly HB 1325) – Sanctions on-lot septic systems approved by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as having met anti-degradation requirements in order to protect Pennsylvania waterways by meeting the state’s Clean Streams Law. The law is designed to ensure a balance is maintained in enabling community growth and rural homeownership while protecting Pennsylvania’s specially designated watersheds.

Stormwater Management (Act 68 of 2013, formerly SB 351) – Authorizes the creation of municipal authorities for storm water management, planning and projects.

Aggregate Advisory Board (Act 137 of 2014, formerly SB 1155) – Creates an Aggregate Advisory Board to advise the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regarding matters involving the Pennsylvania aggregate mining industry.

Improving Energy Efficiency (Act 165 of 2014, formerly HB 1672) – Authorizes the Pennsylvania Department of General Services to test and implement new, environmentally beneficial and energy-efficient technologies within state agencies, at no cost to taxpayers.



Riparian Buffers (Act 162 of 2014, formerly HB 1565) – Clarifies that riparian buffer and riparian forest buffers shall not be required but may be used as a choice among best management practices or design standards to minimize pollution from erosion and sedimentation.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions Plan (Act 175 of 2014, formerly HB 2354) – Requires the Department of Environmental Protection to receive approval from the General Assembly for a state implementation plan to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants prior to submitting the state plan to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

STRONGER COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Small Games of Chance Updates (Acts 90 and 92 of 2013, formerly HBs 1098 and 290) – Amends the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act to allow 50/50 drawings at minor league home games; permits new games; clarifies definitions and the distribution of proceeds to charity; and provides for small games of chance in taverns, restaurants and liquor-licensed clubs.

Filing of Ordinances (Acts 2 and 11 of 2014, formerly HB 1529 and SB 1081) – Allows first-class and second-class townships to maintain electronic filing for enacted ordinances.

Third-Class City Code (Act 22 of 2014, formerly SB 497) – Modernizes the Third-Class City Code.

Borough Code Updates (Act 37 of 2014, formerly HB 1719) – Makes comprehensive updates to the state’s Borough Code.

Background Checks for PA Bar (Act 43 of 2014, formerly SB 894) – Allows the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners to run a federal criminal background check on applicants requesting admission to the Pennsylvania Bar.

Scranton Pension System (Acts 58 and 64 of 2014, formerly HB 128 and SB 703) – Allows non-uniformed employees in the city of Scranton to purchase military time toward retirement and removes a three-year time limit within which members of the Scranton Police and Fire pension systems must begin working for the city in order to be eligible for purchasing credit for time spent in the armed forces.

Community Services Block Grant Program (Act 90 of 2014, formerly HB 927) – Re-enacts the program and increases the minimum funding level from \$150,000 to \$250,000. The act provides guidelines for the distribution of funds to reduce poverty and offers assistance to low-income participants in obtaining employment, education, housing, emergency assistance, transportation and other necessities.

Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (Act 154 of 2014, formerly HB 573) – Establishes regulations regarding the operation of neighborhood electric vehicles and electric assist pedal cycles.

Use of Recreational Fees (Act 135 of 2014, formerly HB 1052) – Allows communities to use recreational impact fees for acquiring, operating or

maintaining park or recreational facilities anywhere in the municipality.

Community Financial Recovery (Act 199 of 2014, formerly HB 1773) – Comprehensively amends the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act to provide procedures and options to assist financially distressed municipalities and help them return to fiscal stability.





MISCELLANEOUS

Fines for Licensed Professionals (Act 6 of 2014, formerly HB 261) – Provides the state’s 29 licensing boards and commissions within the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs with additional authority to assist in collecting unpaid fines.

Appalachian Trail License Plate (Act 23 of 2014, formerly HB 770) – Creates an Appalachian Trail Conservation special vehicle registration plate.

Pennsylvania Securities Act (Act 52 of 2014, formerly SB 1045) – Updates and modernizes the Pennsylvania Securities Act.

Credit Union Code (Act 62 of 2014, formerly HB 2009) – Makes several changes to the Credit Union Code to modernize the statute.

Official Aircraft, Firearm (Act 73 of 2014, formerly HB 1989) – Designates the Piper J-3 Cub as the official state aircraft and the Pennsylvania Long Rifle as the official state firearm.

School Board Vacancy (Act 74 of 2014, formerly HB 2013) – Authorizes a school board to fill a temporary vacancy when a board member is called to active duty in the military or naval forces of the United States.

Scrap Processors (Act 79 of 2014, formerly SB 1077) – Adds railroad materials to the list of items that may only be purchased from a commercial enterprise by a scrap processor or recycling facility and creates a statewide registry of scrap processors and recycling facilities.

Power of Attorney (Act 95 of 2014, formerly HB 1429) – Establishes civil immunity protection to third parties that accept, in good faith, a facially valid power of attorney; enumerates the process for a third party to request information proving the power of attorney; and sets forth the liability for refusal to accept an acknowledged power of attorney.

HMO Business Structure (Acts 96 and 97 of 2014, formerly HBs 1574 and 1575) – Allows a health maintenance organization (HMO) to be organized as a limited liability company.

Community College Funding (Act 108 of 2014, formerly SB 874) – Enables school districts that sponsor community colleges to negotiate more affordable funding levels (specific to Harrisburg Area Community College).

Special License Plates (Act 109 of 2014, formerly SB 1187) – Creates a Pennsylvania Hunting Heritage license plate, a Pennsylvania Monuments license plate, an In God We Trust license plate, a United States Olympic license plate and a special plate for recipients of the Combat Infantry Badge. It also expands eligibility and weight classes for military and special license plates.

Massage Therapy Practice (Act 136 of 2014, formerly HB 1558) – Allows licensed massage therapists to practice in cosmetology and esthetician salons and allows students to be eligible for licensure upon graduation from cosmetology school.

Self-Service Storage Facility Act (Act 145 of 2014, formerly SB 799) – Updates the Self-Service Storage Facility Act regarding lien enforcement, default notices and limitation of value.



Geospatial Coordinating Board (Act 178 of 2014, formerly SB 771) – Creates the State Geospatial Coordinating Board. The council will serve as an advisory board within the governor’s office to provide advice and recommendations on geospatial issues, uniform data standards and the coordination and efficiency of geospatial policy and technologies among federal, state and local government agencies, academic institutions and the private sector.

Pooled Trusts (Act 186 of 2014, formerly SB 428) – Amends the Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries law regarding pooled trusts by removing a medical assistance reimbursement requirement and making a technical change.

Lottery Law Changes (Act 201 of 2014, formerly HB 2110) – Reduces the statutorily mandated rate of return in the State Lottery Law to give the lottery additional flexibility in efforts to ensure product offerings meet consumer demand and increase profits. The bill also places restrictions on the authorization of Keno and other new games.

Tax Exemption in Emergencies (Act 203 of 2014, formerly HB 2377) – Removes a tax provision that places an unnecessary burden on out-of-state utility workers who come to Pennsylvania to help restore services following an emergency.



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