



*House Republican*

LEGISLATIVE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
2021

# ECONOMIC RECOVERY & GROWTH

**ACT 1: SB 109** (Pittman) Appropriated hundreds of millions of dollars in short-term COVID-19 relief to struggling Pennsylvanians, small businesses, and the hospitality industry.

**HB 605** (Ecker) Provides COVID-19 liability protections for Pennsylvania's businesses.

**HB 747** (Roae) Provides a way for small businesses to remain open during states of emergency.

**HB 1154** (Masser) Allows bars and restaurants, who were severely impacted by the COVID-19 emergency disaster, the ability to sell mixed drinks to go.

**HB 425** (Dowling) Helps Pennsylvania's restaurants and liquor license holders by maximizing the benefit of their liquor license.

**HB 427** (Pyle) Helps Pennsylvania's restaurants and liquor license holders by increasing the restaurant licensee discount.

**ACT 27: HB 101** (Gleim) Provides limited liability protections for agritourism operations.

**HB 186** (Causer) Ensures Milk Haulers can continue to travel on highways during emergency declarations.

**HB 1255** (Lewis) Limits how long from the purchase of a home civil action can be brought against real estate appraisers, often small businesses, aligning PA law with federal standards.

**ACT 25:** Establishes a tax exemption to incentivize companies to locate their data centers in Pennsylvania, creating capital investments and high-paying jobs. HB 952 (Oberlander)

**ACT 37: HB 827** (Gillespie) Encourages collaboration among local governments to develop micro-enterprises to fight against blight and reinvigorate down towns.

**ACT 50: HB 1621 (Marshall) Creates Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act to allow greater access to high-speed wireless.**

**ACT 96: HB 2071** (Causer) Establishes the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority to provide broadband Internet access to provide broadband Internet access to unserved and underserved residents. unserved and underserved residents.

Through budget negotiations, **Eliminated Governor Wolf's job-crushing overtime rule changes**—saving small businesses and jobs.

Budgeted **\$3 million for biotech research grants** to encourage in-state ingenuity and job growth.

Budgeted an additional **\$279 million for critical roads and bridge projects** to keep commerce and Pennsylvanians safely moving through the Commonwealth.

# HOLDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE

**HR 106** (Benninghoff) Terminated Gov. Tom Wolf's COVID-19 emergency disaster declaration, putting Pennsylvania on a path to normalcy.

**SB 2** (Ward) Amends the Pennsylvania Constitution to limit the Governor's emergency declarations to 21 days and put an end to endless emergencies.

**SB 618** (Phillips-Hill) Prohibits the requirement of vaccine passports in Pennsylvania.

**ACT 21:** HB 854 (Ecker) Requires records relating to COVID-19 are retained for the purpose of accountability and transparency.

**HB 1452** (Cutler) Provides for the electronic publication of the Pennsylvania bulletin to ensure greater flexibility and regulatory transparency.

**HR 91** (Ortitay) Establishes a select committee to investigate the failure of the Department of State to publish notice of HB 936.

**HB 48** (Grove) Improves government transparency to the public by codifying the Office of Treasurer's Transparency Portal.

**HB 607** (Emrick) Provides better oversight of the Delaware River Toll Bridge Commission.

**HB 1010** (Ortitay) Shifts the duty to publish proposed constitutional amendments away from the executive branch. This bill also shifts the responsibility of writing the related questions that go before the voters on ballots away from the executive branch and to the General Assembly.

**HB 1264** (Owlett) Requires an in-depth review of the Commonwealth's pandemic response, specifically focusing on personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as the administration of COVID-19 tests and vaccines.

**ACT 65: SB 554** (Stefano) Amends the Sunshine Act to require that agencies make their meeting agendas available to the public.

**HR 114** (Cutler) Resolution urging the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to reform their rules to promote openness, transparency, and greater confidence in the integrity of the Judiciary, judicial employees and attorneys formerly employed by government entities.

# PROTECTING TAXPAYERS

**HB 48** (Grove) Improves government transparency to the public by codifying the Office of Treasurer's Transparency Portal.

**HB 1377** (Boback) Prohibits KOZ zone-hopping to prevent businesses from taking advantage of the program and receiving multiple tax breaks.

**HB 39** (Grove) Requires recovery audits of state government programs that spend more than \$50 million. Recovery audits have been a successful and proven tool to protect taxpayer dollars, prevent fraud, and uncover government waste.

**HB 120** (Ryan) Establishes a bipartisan commission to analyze past and projected economic conditions to secure the solvency of the Commonwealth.

**HB 230** (Ryan) Ensures more accurate fiscal projections by providing for the dynamic scoring of legislation that could have a fiscal impact of more than \$50 million. Enacted in Act 70.

**HB 430** (Emrick) Protects taxpayers by waiving the non-payment penalty for new homeowners during the first year of ownership when they did not receive their property tax bill.

Through the budget process, **took steps to contain future human services costs** by requiring frequent meetings with the administration to avoid supplemental budget requests and clarified that no new programs could be created unless explicitly authorized by the General Assembly.

**HB 2058** (Mako) Will make the due date to file final local Earned Income and Net Profit Tax returns are consistent with that of the state Personal Income Tax and Federal income tax returns.

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**HR 106** (Benninghoff) Terminated Gov. Tom Wolf's COVID-19 emergency disaster declaration, putting Pennsylvania on a path to normalcy.

**SB 2** (Ward) Amends the Pennsylvania Constitution to limit the Governor's emergency declarations to 21 days and put an end to endless emergencies.

**HR 139** (Labs) extends the disaster emergency in response to the aftereffects of Hurricane Ida.

**HB 1738** (Jozwiak) Would ensure the General Assembly can voice its disapproval of presidential executive orders which infringe on the constitutional rights of Pennsylvanians.

**HB 1660** (Sonney) Gives temporary emergency powers to local school boards.

**Advanced a constitutional amendment** in SB 106 (Argall) **to limit executive orders to 21 days** unless extended by a resolution of the General Assembly. (Schemel).

# REGULATORY REFORM

Together with the standing Committee Chairmen, Leader Benninghoff **sent letters to every state agency that suspended statutes or waived regulations** during the emergency declaration to get answers and hold decision-makers accountable.

**HR 88** (Polinchock) Directs the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a comprehensive study of the regulatory waivers and suspensions issued by the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**HB 72** (Keefer) Requires legislative approval of economically significant regulations.

**HB 139** (Rothman) Provides greater transparency in the state permitting process.

**HB 288** (O'Neal) Ensures greater regulatory clarity and compliance by establishing Regulatory Compliance Officers in state agencies.

**HB 950** (Metcalf) Ensures greater checks-and-balances in our regulatory process, by giving the legislature the authority to initiate the repeal of any regulation currently in effect.

**HB 939** (Klunk) Establishes the Independent Office of the Repealer to require an independent, regular, and systematic review of existing statutes and regulations.

**HB 1232** (Silvis) Makes permitting less onerous for farmers by creating an annual overweight hauling permit for the movement of agricultural liming materials, seed and fertilizer between March and June.

**Act 73: HB 1861** (Lewis) Provides temporary regulatory flexibility, extending COVID related regulatory waivers and suspensions.

**HB 591** (Zimmerman) Would allow construction sites that result in a land disturbance of more than one but less than five acres, to apply for a waiver of an otherwise required National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

**HB 1849** (Polinchock) Allows real estate schools to provide remote education.

**Act 76: HB 1182** (Culver) Amends the Barber Law of 1931 to provide schools that offer barber programs the ability to offer up to 50% of the program through online and/or other remote instruction.

**Act 77: HB 1183** (Culver) Amends the Cosmetology Law of 1933 to provide schools that offer cosmetology programs the ability to offer up to 50% of the program through online and/or other remote instruction.

**HB 290** (Warner) Helps local volunteer fire and ambulance services with Small Games of Chance licensees to conduct fundraiser during COVID-19.

**ACT 34: HB 664** (Hershey) "Free the Lemonade Stands." Allows minors to operate lemonade stands without government interference.

**HB 1377** (Boback) Prohibits KOZ zone-hopping to prevent businesses from taking advantage of the program and receiving multiple tax breaks.

**ACT 60: SB 416** (Gordner) Officially recognizes Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) under PA law.

**HB 1588** (Mercuri) Allows mortgage brokers to work remotely.

**HB 412** (Gleim) Eliminates unnecessary requirements to help address the substitute teacher shortage in Pennsylvania.

**HB 129** (Cox) Improves the Unemployment Compensation System to provide for remote appeals hearings.

**ACT 36: HB 765** (B. Miller) Prohibits PennDOT from requiring municipalities to submit a duplicative indemnification statement as a requirement for receiving a special event permit.

**HB 336** (R. Mackenzie) Would update state law and repeal the now outdated Board to License Private Bankers.



## REGULATORY REFORM (continued)

**HB 335** (R. Mackenzie) Eliminates unnecessary government interference by making daylight saving time permanent.

Through budget code bill negotiations, **provided commonsense regulatory relief for Pennsylvania's energy industry**, saving jobs, and ensuring greater energy independence.

**Act 25: HB1303** (Ortitay) Ensured more stringent oversight and greater integrity in the administration of Pennsylvania's tax credit programs.

**Act 70:** HB1601 (Hamm, Kerwin & B. Miller) Required lobbyists to report their equity and investments in the businesses they represent, ensuring conflicts of interest are no longer hidden from public view.

**HB 1862** (Gillespie) Preserves the COVID-19 regulatory waiver that allows physicians with an institutional license in a teaching hospital to serve patients at more than just two facilities in a given health system.

**HB 1829** (Ecker) Amends the Child Labor Act to permanently suspend the requirement for minors seeking a work permit to sign the permit in the presence of the issuing officer and would allow the examination to take place via video conference.

**HB 1837** (Irvin) Amends the Workers' Compensation Act to waive the requirement that an agreement be signed in the presence of two witnesses or a notary.

**SB 869** (Tomlinson) Modernizes the BPOA State Board Meetings and Functions, including the utilization of public virtual meetings and virtual continuing education.

**HB 1842** (Zimmerman) Would establish a workable and protective spill reporting requirement under The Clean Streams Law.

**HB 1694** (Struzzi) Amends the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act to provide protections for volunteers, volunteer organizations, and those that landowners invite onto their property in order to improve the property for recreational use.

**HB 2075** (Knowles) Makes clear the California truck regulation regarding a control program for diesel emissions does not apply to Pennsylvania.

**HR 149** (Rigby) Directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the cost and methods for permit holders to comply with the proposed revisions to DEP General Permits.

**SCR-1** Concurrent resolution disapproving of the Environmental Quality Board's approval of Gov. Tom Wolf's effort to enroll Pennsylvania in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

**Advanced a constitutional amendment** in SB 106 (Argall) to **allow the General Assembly to fully disapprove of a regulation** without approval of the governor. (Nelson)

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**HB 723** (Mizgorski) Brings Pennsylvania's Workforce Development law in compliance with federal standards.

Budgeted **\$729 million for childcare stabilization grants** so parents can confidently get back to work.

**Act 78: SB 397** (Pittman) Modernizes and advances the practice of osteopathic physician assistants.

**Act 79: SB 398** (Pittman) Modernizes and advances the practice of medical physician assistants.

**HB 245** (Kaufer) Modernizes the process by which graduates of international medical schools become licensed.

**HB 192** (Topper) Breaks own barriers to becoming and remaining a doctor in Pennsylvania.

**HR 142** (Heffley) Directs the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a comprehensive study and review of the State Board of Nursing.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (continued)

**HB 889** (B. Miller) Amends the Professional Nursing Law (Act 69 of 1951) to allow the State Board of Nursing to approve graduates of international professional nursing education programs to sit for the RN licensure examination, provided such programs are determined to be equivalent to that which is required in Pennsylvania.

**HB 1868** (Mako) Removes barriers to licensing and employment for veterans, service members and spouses.

**SB 729** (J. Ward) Allows individuals participating in a state-approved nurse aide training program to complete the education portion of their instruction via online courses.

**HB 406** (Cox) Restores work search requirements for Pennsylvanians receiving unemployment compensation.

**HR 88** (Polinchock) Requires the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study of regulatory waivers issued by Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) and identify barriers to employment.

**ACT 69: SB 156** (Mensch) Reforms Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities so more people can work without the fear of losing health care benefits.

**HB 325** (Greiner) Allows licensing boards to provide advisory opinions.

**HB 192** (Topper) Breaks own barriers to becoming and remaining a doctor in Pennsylvania

**HB 723** (Mizgorski) Brings Pennsylvania's Workforce Development law in compliance with federal standards.

**HR 60** (O'Neal) Establishes the Select Committee on the Jobs of the Future to investigate, review and make findings and recommendations regarding opportunities for the development of new industries, including advanced manufacturing, in this Commonwealth.

## EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**ACT 66: SB 664** (Corman) Allows parents the option to have their child repeat a grade level because of educational opportunities lost to COVID-19.

Allocated **\$350 million in one-time funding for COVID-related learning loss**, summer enrichment and after school programs so no student would fall through the cracks.

**Allocated a record level of education funding** through the bipartisan Fair Funding formula.

- Budgeted an **additional \$44 million** for *career and technical schools*.
- Budgeted an **additional \$300 million** for *K-12 Education*, of which \$100 million was dedicated to the expansion of school grant eligibility for Pennsylvania's lowest-income districts.
- Budgeted an **additional \$30 million** for *Early Childhood Education*.
- Budgeted an **additional \$50 million** for *Special Education*.
- Budgeted an **additional \$50 million** for *PASSHE reforms* to ensure long-term stability of the system and the continuation of affordable education options for Pennsylvania students.

Through code bill changes, ensured all **higher-education funding for state-related institutions would go directly to student educational purposes** and tuition relief, only.

**HB 1332** (Lewis) Empowers parents with curriculum transparency.

## PUBLIC HEALTH – COVID RESPONSE

**ACT 21: HB 854** (Ecker) Requires records relating to COVID-19 are retained for the purpose of accountability and transparency.

**ACT 4: HB 326** (O’Neal) Got the National Guard involved in vaccine deployment. Getting a vaccine to those who need it and want it quickly is one way to ensure a robust economic recovery and swift return to normal.

**HB 63** (Lawrence) Increases the number of vaccine providers across the state.

**HB 1264** (Owlett) Requires an in-depth review of the Commonwealth’s pandemic response, specifically focusing on personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as the administration of COVID-19 tests and vaccines.

**HB 220** (Radar) Provides greater and more swift access to drug addiction treatment by specifying a positive drug test is not required for admission.

**ACT 35: HB 741** (Heffley) Justin’s Law would require recovery houses to contact the listed emergency contact of the recoverer should they leave under eviction/against medical advice.

**ACT 41: HB 944** (Nelson) Requires provided contact be notified if a person leaves treatment against medical advice. Budgeted **\$282 million for nursing homes to cover the cost of PPE, testing and other pandemic related costs** for residents and staff.

Budgeted **\$13.8 million** to provide services for people with intellectual disabilities currently on the waiting list for critical services.

**HB 2033** (Lawrence) Extends regular reporting on the status of COVID testing at the state laboratory for another year, ending Dec. 21, 2022.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION

**HB 220** (Radar) Provides greater and more swift access to drug addiction treatment by specifying a positive drug test is not required for admission.

**ACT 35: HB 741** (Heffley) Justin’s Law would require recovery houses to contact the listed emergency contact of the recoverer should they leave under eviction/against medical advice.

**ACT 41: HB 944** (Nelson) Requires provided contact be notified if a person leaves treatment against medical advice.

**HB 1561** (Farry) Amends the MHPA to align with HIPAA standards in order to permit providers, facilities and health plans to more easily share patient mental health and substance use disorder-related information.

**HB 1563** (Cutler) Amends the DAACA to align with HIPAA standards in order to permit providers, facilities and health plans to more easily share patient mental health and substance use disorder-related information.

## HONORING OUR VETERANS

**HB 164** (Staats) Requires licensed funeral directors or similar entities to notify the county veterans affairs director of a deceased serviceperson having legal residence in the county so that families of our deceased heroes are aware of the burial benefits available to them.

**HB 941** (Burns) Guarantees instate tuition for reassigned military families.

**HB 995** (Kaufer) Ensures better coordination between government entities and veterans' organizations to ensure veterans and their families are aware of available benefits, services and supports.

**HB 1057** (Hickernell) Adds the Navy Club of the United States of America to the list of 15 veterans' organizations currently represented on the State Veterans' Commission.

**HB 1421** (Thomas) Increases and expands the burial benefits provided to deceased veterans at any one of Pennsylvania's three national cemeteries.

**HB 1342** (Rader) Will provide an exemption from the Inheritance Tax for property that is transferred from the estate of a military member who has died as a result of an injury or illness suffered while serving on active duty.

## STANDING UP FOR SENIORS

**Referred an investigation** of the Wolf administration's handling of COVID-19 in nursing homes to the House Government Oversight Committee.

**HB 1428** (Masser) Allows residents or representative of a resident to place electronic monitoring devices in room with appropriate notices and consent of the facility and other residents.

**ACT 48: HB 1429** (Culver) Gives the Attorney General's office jurisdiction to investigate individuals who use their position of trust to financially exploit older adults and care-dependent people.

**ACT 49: HB 1431** (Klunk) Establishes abuse of social media by employees who post pictures of care dependent individuals without permission and categorizes the crime as a misdemeanor.

**ACT 20: HB 464** (Boback) Updates and streamlines the Family Caregiver Support Act to address the need for services to assist families and caregivers providing at-home care older adults, adults living with Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders, and adults with disabilities.

Budgeted **\$282 million for nursing homes to cover the cost of PPE, testing and other pandemic related costs** for residents and staff.



# COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**HB 231** (Mustello) Amends state law to include sexual servitude in the definition of unlawful contact with a minor.

**ACT 32: HB 246** (Mihalek) Prohibits defendants from introducing evidence of a human trafficking victim's past sexual victimization and allegations of past sexual victimization in a human trafficking prosecution.

**HB 580** (Schroeder) Strengthens the ability of prosecutors to combat sexual violence, domestic violence, and human trafficking throughout this Commonwealth by permitting expert testimony on the dynamics of victim behavior.

**HB 753** (Jozwiak) Increases the grading for the offense of "Dealing in Infant Children" from a misdemeanor of the first degree to a felony of the first degree.

**ACT 38: HB 843** (Rowe) Adds human trafficking offenses to the list of convictions affecting a child custody determination.

**HB 1130** (C. Williams) Requires sexual offender registration for those convicted of human trafficking for sexual servitude.

**ACT 45: HB 1147** (Gaydos) Requires offenders that subjected a minor to sexual servitude to undergo treatment counseling and therapy while in prison.

**HB 1096** (Kauffman) Makes it easier for human trafficking victims to bring lawsuits against their offenders.

# MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER

**HB 979** (Dowling) Strengthens state firearm preemption laws.

**HB 103** (Schmitt) Protects law enforcement by criminalizing intentionally or knowingly causing a law enforcement officer to encounter saliva or other bodily fluid by throwing, tossing or spitting.

**HB 146** (Bernstine)—Markie's Law—Prohibits the parole board from prematurely releasing an inmate at the expiration of his minimum sentence if the inmate was convicted of a violent offense while incarcerated.

**HB 185** (Struzzi) Increases penalties for those committing violent offenses against a person with a physical or intellectual disability.

**HB 521** (Stephens) Makes Pennsylvania roads safer by being tougher on repeat DUI offenders.

**HB 938** (Klunk) Protects workers by banning the requirement of nondisclosure agreements related to sexual harassment as a condition of getting a job.

Allocated **\$30 million for violence prevention initiatives** across the state.

Budgeted an **additional \$9.6 million for the Pennsylvania State Police** to provide funding for an additional 180 state troopers.

Budgeted **\$1.5 million for PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency** (PCCD) to hire gun prosecutors for Project Safe Neighborhood in Southeast Pennsylvania.

**SB 565** (Dush) Constitutional Carry of a Firearm.

# DEFENDING THE UNBORN

**HB 118** (Ryan) Establishes requirements for dignified disposition unborn child remains after a pregnancy loss.

**HB 1500** (Klunk) Prohibits abortion based solely on a diagnosis of Down Syndrome.

# PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ABUSE

**ACT 29: HB 156** (Owlett) Amends the Tender Years Hearsay Act to permit the introduction of hearsay statements, made by children 16 years of age or younger, concerning violent or sexual offenses.

**HB 163** (Statts) Dramatically increases the charges that can be brought against teachers and adults who victimize students and minors through upskirting, making the offense a felony of the third degree for a first violation and a felony of the second degree for subsequent offenses.

**ACT 42: HB 954** (Stephens) Provides greater coordination of investigations of child abuse.

**HB 14** (Gregory) Advances justice for victims of childhood sexual abuse by amending the Pennsylvania Constitution to open a two-year civil liability window for claims outside the statute of limitations.

**HB 1737** (Flood) Allows a county children and youth agency to petition the court for an order to compel drug screening when there is evidence that substance use may be a contributing cause of child abuse or neglect.

# ELECTION REFORM

The House State Government Committee held **10 comprehensive hearings** on Pennsylvania's election laws and process with the goal of advancing comprehensive election reform that makes it easy to vote and hard to cheat. As a result, the House and Senate passed:

**HB 1300 (Grove)** The Voter Rights Protection Act would make comprehensive improvements to Pennsylvania's election laws.

\* In late June, **Gov. Wolf vetoed HB 1300**, despite an overwhelming number of county and elections officials and everyday Pennsylvanians wanting election reform, enhanced voter identification and increased accessibility. Wolf also **vetoed budget funds** dedicated for the establishment/ operation of the **Bureau of Election Audits**.

**Advanced constitutional amendments** in SB 106 (Argall) to:

- Require **voters to present valid identification** prior to voting, regardless of voting method. (Wheeland)
- Require that the General Assembly pass a law to **provide for the auditing of elections**, including processes and outcomes by the state's auditor general. (Keefer)

