

Pennsylvania Legislative Update

From the Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney State Government Relations Group

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
Attorneys & Government Relations Professionals

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On-Time Budget Nears

With less than two weeks to go before the budget's June 30 deadline, legislative leaders and the Corbett administration are reportedly close to a \$27.3 billion deal that would restore some basic education and higher education funding. Restoration of state funding for hospitals remains uncertain.

While the bottom line figure may still change within Governor Corbett's requested \$27.3 billion, Harrisburg veterans say the final budget will likely represent an historic 2- to 3-percent cut from current fiscal year spending.

One figure discussed, \$27.149 billion, represent moving \$300 million in Tobacco Settlement funds to accounts separate from the general fund budget. As a result, the final budget number is expected to remain the proposed \$27.3 billion, however total spending may be slightly higher.

It is also reported that legislative budget negotiators are pushing to credit \$300 million in spending reductions to savings

as a result of welfare reforms, but the administration's budget negotiators have yet to agree upon a figure.

Still uncertain is how much, if any, of the expected \$540 million state surplus will be spent in this budget. In addition, both the House and the Senate are seeking to restore some of the governor's proposed cuts to basic education, pre K-12 block grants and higher education. The House passed a budget last month which restored \$243 million for basic education subsidies and block grants. It is reported that the Senate is seeking to restore an additional \$150 million for pre-K-12 and additional higher education funding.

The final negotiated deal is expected to be presented to the caucuses sometime this week. If passed on or before the June 30 deadline, it will be the first budget delivered on time in eight years.

Kelly Takes Oath of Office

Attorney General Linda L. Kelly took the oath of office and officially assumed the powers and duties of Pennsylvania's top law enforcement officer.

Kelly has been a prosecutor for more than 30 years, serving as both an assistant district attorney in Allegheny County and most recently as senior litigation counsel as assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Kelly was nominated by Governor Tom Corbett on February 8, 2011 to succeed him as attorney general. Her nomination was unanimously confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate on May 23rd. She will serve as attorney general through January 2013.

Professional Employee Organizations Bill Passes House

H.B. 1055, legislation to regulate and establish minimum standards for Professional Employer Organizations (PEO), unanimously passed the House and is currently being considered by the Senate.

“Just like any other job-creating industry, House Bill 1055 provides both a regulatory framework and uniformity for PEOs by requiring annual registration with the Department of Labor and Industry,” said Representative **Mark Mustio** (R-Allegheny). Mustio is the prime sponsor of the bill. “This legislation also specifically clarifies regulator relationships and responsibilities pertaining to PEOs.”

A PEO partners with existing small business to manage human resources, including healthcare, Section 125 plans, retirement services and other benefits. As a result, the small business is able to focus on its core competences to maintain and grow their businesses. H.B. 1055 provides a regulatory framework for PEOs in Pennsylvania and sets minimum standards and operational requirements.

Currently, 35 states regulate PEOs. The bill has been referred to the Senate Labor and Industry Committee.

Tort Reform Moving Through General Assembly

The Senate passed the “Fair Share Act,” which would change the state’s “joint and several liability” law, to a “comparative negligence” law. The House previously passed its tort reform bill, **H.B. 1** (Schroder, R-Chester) by a vote of 112-88.

S.B. 1131 (Greenleaf, R-Montgomery), was the final vehicle for the bill. When it moved out of House Judiciary last week, it mirrored **S.B. 2** (Corman, R-Centre), except that it requires companies less than 60 percent responsible to pay damages if others cannot in cases involving economic damages or involving minors. Several amendments however were offered on the floor to restore the bill to its previous form.

S.B. 1131 passed the Senate by a vote of 32 to 18. The House Judiciary Committee has reported the bill.

It received first consideration in the House and has been laid on the table.

Under current law, a defendant in a law suit can be held 100 percent liable for damages, even if that defendant is only partly responsible for the cause of action. S.B. 2 was drafted to change the law so that defendants in most cases would only have to pay that proportion of the total dollar amount awarded as damages in the ratio of the amount of that defendant’s liability to the amount of liability attributed to all defendants.

A similar measure has passed twice before. The first time, the law was struck down by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for technical reasons. After its second passage, former Governor Ed Rendell vetoed it.

Unemployment Comp Extended

Governor Tom Corbett signed into law **S.B. 1030**, a measure that will ensure the continuation of a federally funded, 13-week period of extended unemployment compensation benefits.

Without action by the governor and the General Assembly, approximately 45,000 claimants would have lost those benefits.

Unemployment Comp, continued on page 3

Committee Meeting Calendar

Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of the standing committee meeting schedule, please contact Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney's State Government Relations Center at 717 237 4800 or log on to <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/session.cfm>.

Tuesday, June 28

Joint Legislative Budget & Finance Committee

10 a.m., Room 461 Main Capitol

The committee will hold a meeting to discuss and release reports on Pennsylvania's Current Real Property Tax Collection System, and Summary of the Financial and Academic Status of the Duquesne City School District.

Thursday, June 30

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

10 a.m., 333 Market Street, 14th Floor Conference Room, Harrisburg

The commission will consider: Reg. No. 2743 PA Public Utility Commission #57-265: Standards and Billing Practices for Residential Utility Services.

Wednesday, July 6

House Judiciary Committee

11 a.m., South Buffalo Volunteer Fire Department, 695 Freeport Road, Freeport

The committee will hold a public hearing on: **H.B. 1289** (amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) to provide for sentencing enhancement for trafficking drugs in the presence of a minor).

Unemployment Comp Extended continued

In addition to making the changes necessary for Pennsylvania to continue participating in the federal Extended Benefits Program, the new law also implements reforms that will save Pennsylvania's unemployment compensation fund an estimated \$133 million annually.

Included in the law are provisions to:

- Slow the growth of benefit costs by capping increases in the maximum weekly benefit, requiring those with large severance packages to exhaust severance pay before receiving UC benefits, and requiring claimants to demonstrate a stronger attachment to the workforce in order to qualify for benefits;
- Create a new shared-work program similar to laws in 21 other states allowing employers to avoid layoffs by reducing the hours of their workers who would receive pro-rated UC benefits for those lost work hours; and
- Require unemployed workers to search for work in order to receive UC benefits.

Marcellus Municipal Co-op Created

Representative **Jesse White** (D-Washington) recently hosted nearly 20 local municipalities to formally organize a Marcellus Municipal Co-op program aimed at defining the role and responsibilities of local governments on issues related to natural gas drilling.

During its first meeting, the co-op established a mission statement, organized a committee structure, discussed issues and short- and long-term goals, and planned future events. The co-op currently comprises 17 local municipalities within the 46th Legislative District, spanning three counties. According to White, the Marcellus Municipal Co-op will:

- Provide a forum for municipal officials to gather and share the knowledge, skills and tools needed to protect and sustain their communities;
- Allow municipalities to function individually while working together to establish best practices for local governments on issues relating to Marcellus Shale development;
- Communicate and build positive relationships with industry stakeholders, county, state and federal governments, landowners, community groups and local businesses to achieve uniformity and consistency on Marcellus Shale-related issues;
- Focus on fact-based, non-biased community outreach and education to promote honest co-existence between the public and private sectors; and
- Serve as a model of how local governments can be informed and involved without over-regulating and overextending the boundaries of the law and still protect the health, safety and welfare of the public they serve.

Seven committees within the coalition will streamline major issue and topics. Those committees are: Municipal Best Practices; Environmental Sustainability; Public Safety and Health; Public Information, Outreach and Education; Liaisons with Federal and State Officials; Local Jobs and Workforce Development; and Industry Relations.

A public hearing will be held later this summer to solicit testimony from municipal, industry and government representatives on the impact that Marcellus Shale drilling is having on local governments.

New Website in Marcellus Debate

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) launched a new website “MarcellusFacts” (www.marcellusfacts.org), which is aimed at organizing the vast amount of information on all fronts of the Marcellus Shale discussion. The content aggregated in MarcellusFacts is drawn from a variety of sources in

the Marcellus Shale gas industry, nonprofit environmental organizations, Pennsylvania newspapers, Google News, universities, as well as PEC’s own website. PEC said it does not filter the content or provide any subjective commentary on any of the articles.

Allegheny Port Authority Changes

Legislation to allow for transit competition within Allegheny County passed the House by a vote of 116 to 81. Sponsored by House Majority Leader **Mike Turzai** (R-Allegheny) and Representative **Mark Mustio** (R-Allegheny), **H. B. 10** will permit private companies or other regional transit systems to deliver transit services within the county.

“This legislation is about transit competition,” Turzai said. “The Port Authority will continue to exist. Transit competition will promote greater efficiency and provide more options for county residents.”

Under current state law, the Port Authority of Allegheny County has the exclusive transit rights within the county. The legislation does not privatize the Port Authority of Allegheny County; rather, it promotes competition by enabling additional transit systems to operate within the county as well.

H. B. 10 promotes competition by transferring regulation of private companies and other regional transit systems to the Pennsylvania Public Utility

Commission (PUC). Once approved by the PUC, these transit agencies can operate within the county without having to go through the additional costs and time delay of waiting for additional permission from the Port Authority.

The PUC currently regulates mass transit in every county but Allegheny County. Both the PUC and the Port Authority assisted in the drafting of this legislation. The bill passed the House by a vote of 116 to 81 and has been referred to the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee.

A second piece of legislation, **H.B. 1304** (Readshaw, D-Allegheny) passed the House to expand the Allegheny County Port Authority membership from nine to 11 members. The bill also specifies that five of the 11 members of the board would be appointed by the House and Senate majority and minority leaders, as well as the governor. All appointees must be Allegheny County residents. The bill has been referred to the Senate Transportation Committee.

Charter Schools Accountability Bill Introduced

Democrat chairman of the House Education Committee, Representative James Roebuck (D-Philadelphia) introduced **H.B. 1657** to make several funding and accountability reforms to charter and cyber charter schools in Pennsylvania.

H.B. 1657 would most notably establish state responsibility for funding cyber charter schools and shift the administrative oversight

and accountability for both types of charter schools to a new Office of Charter and Cyber Charter Schools within the Department of Education.

Roebuck noted that the bill includes several provisions also found in reform bills introduced by Republican members of the House and Senate.

Charter Schools Accountability Bill Introduced continued

He also said that there are nearly 50,000 students attending 135 charter schools and 12 cyber charter schools. More than half of all charter schools are located in the Philadelphia School District.

Roebuch estimates that school districts would save an estimated \$187 million as the state assumes full cost for funding

cyber charter schools. The Pennsylvania Association for Rural and Small Schools and the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials have indicated their support for the bill.

Soda Tax Derailed

Philadelphia City Council voted to impose a temporary 3.85 percent property-tax increase to help provide the city's school district with \$53 million to help fill budget gaps. The move was considered an alternative to Mayor

Nutter's preferred plan to impose a "soda tax" in the city. That plan would have implemented a 2-cents-per-ounce tax on sugary drinks. This was the second time in two years that a soda tax proposal failed to pass City Council.

Introducing...

When the Pennsylvania General Assembly convened for its 2011-2012 session on January 4, 2011, Harrisburg welcomed one of the largest freshmen classes in recent history. The following is

the fourth in a series of articles designed to introduce Buchanan's clients and friends to the Legislature's newest members in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

James R. Brewster (D) 45th Senate District (Allegheny)



James R. Brewster

Brewster, 62, was elected in a special election to fill the remainder of the term of Senator Sean Logan (D) who retired last summer. Brewster was the mayor of McKeesport for the last 7 years. He also served as a McKeesport City Councilman for 10 years, including 9 as council president. Brewster taught briefly and also worked as vice president of operations at Mellon Bank for 27 years.

Brewster graduated from California University of Pennsylvania. He and his wife Linda have 3 daughters.

Committee Assignments: Banking and Insurance; Communications and Technology; Community, Economic and Recreational Development; Game and Fisheries; Transportation; Urban Affairs and Housing (Minority Chair).

Introducing continued

Kurt Masser (R)

107th House District (Northumberland)



Kurt Masser

graduating from Line Mountain High

Masser, 45, replaces retired representative Robert Belfanti (D). Masser grew up on his family farm in Pitman with his parents and his 5 brothers and sisters. He worked in his family's small business after

School. Masser is the owner of the Wayside Inn outside of Shamokin. He has served as a Northumberland County Commissioner since 2004.

Masser has a son, Glen, who graduated from Bloomsburg University and will attend law school.

Committee Assignments: Commerce; Game and Fisheries (Secretary); Health; and Urban Affairs.

Lynda Schlegel-Culver (R)

108th House District (Northumberland)



Lynda Schlegel-Culver

of Bloomsburg University. She served as a Republican State Committeewoman and participated in Leadership

Schlegel-Culver, 41, was elected to fill the seat of Rep. Merle Phillips (R) who chose not to seek re-election. She served as the District Director for Merele Phillips for 21 years. Schlegel-Culver is a graduate

Susquehanna Valley, a program which provides community leadership training. She is also on the Public Relations committee for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

A lifelong resident of Northumberland County, Schlegel-Culver and her husband Tom have a 9-year old son Joshua.

Committee Assignments: Aging and Older Adult Services (Secretary); Commerce; Labor and Industry; State Government.

Michael Kavulich (D)

114th House District (Lackawanna)



Michael Kavulich

Communications Specialist for the Senate Democratic Caucus. Kavulich is a graduate of Riverside High School and Williamsport Area Community College.

Kavulich, 54, was elected to fill the seat of Rep. Jim Wansacz (D) who retired. Kavulich, a former local television sports anchor, is better known by the name of "Sid Michaels." He worked as a

He served as the General Manager of St. Ann's Basilica in Scranton, bringing the broadcast of Roman Catholic mass to television.

Kavulich and his wife Linda have three children, Lori Kavulich-Loisell, Ariel and Zachary.

Committee Assignments: Aging and Older Adult Services; Agriculture and Rural Affairs; Commerce (Democratic Secretary); and Finance.

Approved by the Governor

Act 6

S.B. 1030 (Gordner, R-Columbia) which makes various amendments to the Unemployment Compensation Law,

which included allowing 45,000 Pennsylvanians to continue to collect federal unemployment compensation checks. The bill also includes provisions on shared work programs.

Legislative Actions

For the latest information regarding the status of bills and resolutions, please contact Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney's State Government Relations Center at 717 237 4800.

H.B. 139 (Godshall, R-Montgomery)

Amends the Public School Code to provide for reimbursement for mobile classroom facilities. The bill passed the House by a vote of 201 to 0 and has been referred to the Senate Education Committee.

H.B. 338 (Killion, R-Delaware)

Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations) to make it a misdemeanor of the third degree to intentionally make a false report of suspected child abuse against a school, private residential rehabilitative institution, detention facility, school employee, private residential rehabilitative institution employee or detention facility employee. The bill passed the House by a vote of 200 to 0.

H.B. 242 (Everett, R-Lycoming)

Amends the Liquor Code to further provide for distilleries. The bill passed the House by a vote of 170 to 32 and has been referred to the Senate Law and Justice Committee.

H.B. 442 (Helm, R-Dauphin)

Amends Title 68 (Real and Personal Property) to prohibit private transfer fee obligations. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 50-0. The House concurred with the Senate Amendments by a vote of 200-1 and the bill has been presented to the governor for signature.

H.B. 608 (Brooks, R-Mercer)

Amends the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act to further provide for mining permit and promote bioenergy crop bonding;

such as the planting of switchgrass or other fast-growing crops in lands affected by surface mining. The bill passed the House by a vote of 198 to 0 and has been referred to the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

H.B. 807 (Sonney, R-Erie)

Amends the Biofuel Development and In State Production Incentive Act to further provide for biodiesel content in diesel fuel sold for on-road use and for cellulosic ethanol content in gasoline. The bill passed the House by a vote of 200 to 2 and has been referred to the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

H.B. 815 (Grove, R-York)

Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to make sexting my minors a misdemeanor offense. The bill passed the House by a vote of 178 to 20 and has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

H.B. 1021 (Krieger, R-Westmoreland)

Amends Title 62 (Procurement) to further provide for sole source procurement and for competitive selection procedures for certain services. The bill passed the House by a vote of 197 to 0 and has been referred to the Senate State Government Committee.

H.B. 1164 (Godshall, R-Montgomery)

Amends the Organ and Bone Marrow Donor Act to further provide for a special leave of absence for bone marrow donors and to further provide for a tax credit. The bill passed the House by a vote of 201 to 0 and has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

Legislative Actions continued

H.B. 1441 (Ross, R-Chester)

Amends Title 45 (Legal Notices), in codification and publication of documents, to provide for electronic publication of municipal codes and make an inconsistent repeal. The bill passed the House by a vote of 197 to 0 and has been referred to the Senate Local Government Committee.

H.B. 1451 (Ross, R-Chester)

Amends the Real Estate Tax Sale Law to provide for the recovery of costs for rehabilitation and maintenance of properties subject to upset sales. The bill passed the House by a vote of 197 to 0 and has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

H.B. 1546 (Toohil, R-Luzerne)

Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) to allow the Juvenile Judges Commission to analyze additional information and to make recommendations regarding best practices to judges. The bill passed the House by a vote of 201 to 0 and has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

S.B. 9 (Scarnati, R-Jefferson)

Creates The Proof of Citizenship for Receipt of Public Benefits Act, to require identification of lawful presence in the United States as a prerequisite to the receipt of public benefits. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 40 to 9 and has been referred to the House State Government Committee.

S.B. 151 (Pileggi, R-Delaware)

Amends the Air Pollution Control Act to require 25 percent of the sum collected for fines over \$50,000 to be returned to the municipality in which the incident occurred for parks, recreation projects, trails, or open space. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 50 to 0 and has been referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

S.B. 314 (Tomlinson, R-Bucks)

Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) to prohibit texting while driving. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 41 to 8 and has been referred to the House Transportation Committee.

S.B. 389 (Brubaker, R-Lancaster)

Amends the Public School Code to further provide for the definition of "vocational agricultural education." The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 49 to 0 and has been referred to the House Education Committee.

S.B. 460 (Yaw, R-Lycoming)

Amends the act which regulates the terms and conditions of certain leases regarding natural gas and oil to provide for payment information to interest owners for accumulation of proceeds from production. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 49 to 0 and has been referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

S.B. 704 (Gordner, R-Columbia)

Amends the State Tax Equalization Board Law to further provide for three members of the public serve as board members, for the chairman's authority and duties and for quorums and hearings. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 50 to 0 and has been referred to the House Finance Committee.

S.B. 732 (Vance, R-Cumberland)

Creates the Department of Health Abortion Facility Oversight Act, to regulate certain facilities which perform abortions. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 38 to 12 and has been referred to the House Health Committee.

S.B. 800 (Waugh, R-York)

Amends the Race Horse Industry Reform Act to further provide for the composition of the State Horse Racing Commission by adding that no more than two of the three commission members may, at the time of appointment, reside in the same county. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 50 to 0 and has not yet been referred to a committee in the House.

S.B. 815 (Baker, R-Luzerne)

Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) to further provide for right to counsel for juvenile offenders. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 49 to 0 and has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

Legislative Actions, continued on page 9

Legislative Actions continued

S.B. 816 (Baker, R-Luzerne)

Amends the Crime Victims Act to further provide for the Office of Victim Advocate to include advocating and representing the interests of victims of juvenile crime. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 49 to 0 and has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

S.B. 817 (Baker, R-Luzerne)

Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in juvenile matters, to provide for the removal of restraints on children prior to the commencement of court proceedings. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 49 to 0 and has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

S.B. 818 (Baker, R-Luzerne)

Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in juvenile matters, to provide for disposition information to require the court to state the reasons for its disposition on the record in open court. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 49 to 0 and has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

S.B. 1006 (Vogel, R-Beaver)

Amends the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act to make bath salts a schedule one narcotic. The bill passed the House by a vote of 201 to 0 and has been presented to the governor for signature.

Committee Actions

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DISC

The House Consumer Affairs Committee reported **H.B. 1294** (Godshall, R-Montgomery) which would amend Title 66 (Public Utilities) to give the Pennsylvania Utility Commission the power to allow additional regulatory procedures and mechanisms proposed by a fixed utility or a city natural gas operation to accelerate infrastructure improvements and investment. The bill has received first consideration in the House and has been re-referred to the House Rules Committee.

Impact Fee Bill Amended

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee reported **S.B. 1100** (Scarnati, R-Jefferson) to impose an impact fee on natural gas drilling. Amendments to the bill offered by Senator **Mary Jo While** (R-Venango) changed the schedule of fees to a 10 year schedule that would start at \$40,000 and drop to \$10,000 by the fourth year. No fee would be imposed

after the 10th year. The amendments also eliminated the ability to spend some fee revenues on parks and open-space preservation, inserted a provision to allocate \$1 million a year to the state fire commissioner's office for first responder training and equipment, and includes a shale impact affordable-housing credit. The bill has received first consideration in the Senate.

Marcellus Shale Emergency Response

The Senate Veteran Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee reported **S.B. 995** (Baker, R-Luzerne) which amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) to require the operators of Marcellus Shale wells to create unique GPS coordinates for the well to be used by emergency services personnel in responding to an accident. The bill also requires well operators to develop an emergency response plan and provide emergency contact information for the operator. The bill has received first consideration in the Senate.

Committee Actions continued

Land Transfers, Use and Assessments

The Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee reported **S.B. 301** (Yaw, R-Lycoming) which amends the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act to further provide for split off, separation or transfer of land. The bill has received first consideration in the Senate and has been re-referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The committees also reported **H.B. 143** (Major, R-Susquehanna) which amends the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act of 1974 to allow small non-coal mining on Clean and Green program lands. The bill has received first consideration in the Senate and has been re-referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The committees also reported **H.B. 144** (Pickett, R-Bradford) which amends the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act to exempt composting facilities from payment of rollback taxes on land enrolled in the Clean and Green program. The bill has received first consideration in the Senate and has been re-referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

E-Verify

The House Labor and Industry Committee reported **H.B. 858** (Metcalf, R-Butler), the Fair Employment Act, which requires all employers, including government entities, to enroll in the federal Employment Eligibility Verification Program (E-verify). The bill was re-referred to the House State Government Committee.

Mandatory Reporting

The Senate Aging and Youth Committee reported **S.B. 549** (Fontana, D-Allegheny) which amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations) to require a staff member of a medical or other private or public school, institution, facility, or agency to be a mandated reporter when the person suspected of child abuse is the

head of the agency or their designee. The bill also adds the child's disability status to the list of mandated reporting requirements for child abuse and makes it a misdemeanor of the second degree to knowingly or intentionally make a false report of child abuse. The bill has received first consideration in the Senate and has been re-referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Still Births

The House Health Committee reported **S.B. 326** (Corman, R-Centre) which amends the Vital Statistics Law to provide for certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth. The bill has received first consideration in the House and has been laid on the table.

PACE and PACENET

The Senate Aging and Youth Committee reported **H.B. 463** (Brooks, R-Mercer) which amends the State Lottery Law, in Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Elderly, to further provide for determination of eligibility for the PACE and PACENET program. The bill has received first consideration in the Senate.

Rent Rebates

The House Consumer Affairs Committee reported **H.B. 415** (Wagner, D-Allegheny) which amends The Landlord and Tenant Act to prohibit a landlord and tenant from entering into an agreement assigning the tenant's rent rebate. The bill was re-referred to the House Urban Affairs Committee.

First Industries Program

The Senate Community and Economic Development Committee and the Senate Appropriations committee reported **S.B. 1007** (Vogel, R-Beaver) which amends Title 64 (Public Authorities and Quasi-Public Corporations), in the First Industries Program, to extend the time period under the Act and the sunset provision until July 15, 2015. The bill has received first consideration in the Senate.

Committee Actions continued

Transportation Authorities

The Senate Transportation Committee reported **H.B. 1173** (Killion, R-Delaware) which amends Title 74 (Transportation) to further provide for metropolitan transportation authority powers relating to alternative means of raising revenue or reducing expenses. The bill has received first consideration in the Senate.

Act to require the promulgating agency to submit to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission any data on which the information in the regulation is based and how that data was used. The agency has the burden of proving the acceptability of the data and the commission must consider whether the regulation is supported by acceptable data in its determination of whether to approve the regulation. The bill has received first consideration in the House and has been laid on the table.

Regulatory Review

The House State Government Committee reported **S.B. 263** (Erickson, R-Delaware) which amends the Regulatory Review

Executive Nominations

The Senate Labor and Industry Committee reported the nomination of **Julia Hearthway** for the post of secretary of the Department of Labor and Industry.

The Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee unanimously reported the nomination of former Representative **Katie True** as Commissioner of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs.

Political Grapevine

Philadelphia Mayor **Michael A. Nutter** was elected Vice President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) in Baltimore, MD. This means that Nutter,

if re-elected, is on the path to be the 70th President of the organization in 2012.

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