



**Center for Beef Excellence**  
**Beef Bytes**  
**April 16, 2010**

Dear Friends,

The full U.S. House Agriculture Committee will hold a hearing to review dairy policy this Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:30 am in the Farm Show Complex. The event is open to the public.

Know an agricultural major who would make an excellent ambassador for the industry while earning scholarship dollars? Applications for the 2010-11 National Collegiate Ag Ambassador team are now available! Applications and a frequently asked questions sheet can be found at [www.ffa.org/collegiate](http://www.ffa.org/collegiate).

Join Versant Strategies in congratulating Marcia Itle (recent PSU College of Ag Sciences grad) of Vale Wood Farms in Loretto, PA, for qualifying to race in Monday's Boston Marathon! Marcia is "Fueled by Beef" and therefore being sponsored by the Beef Council and running as part of Team Beef! Her bib number is 15053 and she will be starting at 10:30. Send her a good luck message at [www.runandfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:www.runandfarm@hotmail.com).

Have a nice weekend.

MeeCee

***Articles of Interest***

**PENNDOT: INTERSTATE MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

The Department of Transportation has adopted amendments to Chapter 229 of the Department's regulations (relating to interstate motor carrier safety requirements) relative to the minimum requirements and qualifications for drivers, vehicles and other matters relating to the interstate operation of commercial vehicles. For more information contact Daryl St. Clair, Bureau of Maintenance and Operations, 400 North Street, 6th Floor, Commonwealth Keystone Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120, (717) 787-6899.

<http://pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol40/40-16/685.html>

[HB 2260](#)

[Houghton](#)

Amends Title 3 (Agriculture) providing for the registration, licensing & use of a PA Preferred trademark; establishing the

Pennsylvania Preferred Trademark Licensing Fund; and providing for penalties & for enforcement.

**Printer Number(s):** [P3223](#)

**Bill History:** 04-22-10 H Hearing set for 10:30 a.m., Penn Twp Community Bldg. ...House Agriculture and Rural Affairs

[HB 2403](#)   [Bradford](#)   Amends Tax Reform Code providing for small business job creation tax credits.

**Printer Number(s):** [P3509](#)

**Bill History:** 04-12-10 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Finance

[HB 2419](#)   [Pickett](#)   Amends Pennsylvania Construction Code Act further providing for application.

**Printer Number(s):** [P3536](#)

**Bill History:** 04-14-10 H Filed  
04-15-10 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor Relations

## **Legislative Interests**

04-16-2010   [Ag Progress Days to be Held August 17-19, 2010](#)  
(Press Release)

04-16-2010   [Inexpensive meat is very costly](#)  
Agri-economics should vex all but, that is not always the case. The controversy over the CAFO being proposed in Derry Township has brought to attention the real costs of this type of factory farming. The environmental costs are staggering. While we are used to associating... - [BLOOM. P.E.](#)

04-15-2010   [DEP to Begin Black Fly Spray Program](#)  
(Press Release)

04-14-2010   [Depts. of Agriculture, Environmental Protection to Host Nutrient Trading Webinar](#)  
(Press Release)

- 04-14-2010 [\*\*Study Says Overuse Threatens Gains From Modified Crops\*\*](#)  
Genetically engineered crops have provided "substantial" environmental and economic benefits to American farmers, but overuse of the technology is threatening to erode the gains, a national science advisory organization said Tuesday in a report. The report is described as the first comprehensive assessment of the impact... - [NY TIMES](#)
- 04-14-2010 [\*\*Why our farmers deserve tax relief\*\*](#)  
Why should the owners of preserved farms get tax breaks from the county, townships and school districts? n Farmers use fewer government services than other residents and so should pay less in taxes. n If land is developed, we all pay more tax for the public services new... - [INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL](#)
- 04-13-2010 [\*\*Heidelberg Township dairy farmer wins top award from Berks County Conservation District\*\*](#)  
A Heidelberg Township dairy farmer was named Berks County's Outstanding Conservation Farmer on Monday night by the county conservation district. Forrest Stricker of Spring Creek Farms, which is a certified organic farm, manages a herd of 160 Jersey, Holstein and Ayshire cows. The farm sells... - [READING EAGLE](#)
- 04-13-2010 [\*\*York-area grocery prices tick up, especially dairy\*\*](#)  
Ashley Hoover has a big family, so the 25-year-old Windsor Township resident said she has taken to clipping coupons and buying generic to try to save money at the checkout. She said it seems as though prices are always going up, and depending on what's in your cart in York County, she's right.... - [YORK DISPATCH](#)
- 04-12-2010 [\*\*USDA - Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 04-12-2010 [\*\*Acorn shortage may make wildlife roam next winter\*\*](#)  
Next winter could be difficult for many wild animals because the availability of acorns seems to have dropped as much as 90 percent in some parts of Pennsylvania, those who keep any eye on the state's forests say. The shortage could push deer, turkeys, bears, squirrels and chipmunks into... - [TRIB](#)
- 04-12-2010 [\*\*Fans have faith in raw milk\*\*](#)  
Fans of raw milk believe it's more nutritious than the pasteurized kind,

and they buy it in a steady flow from two local markets. Proponents like the taste and the thicker cream, and they say raw milk doesn't bother people who are lactose intolerant.... - [BLOOM. P.E.](#)

## **Weekly Letter**

If you woke up today and haven't yet paid your taxes, you are either (a) an anti-government activist, (b) a member of a sovereign nation located in the woods of Warren County or (c) in a bit of trouble. Yesterday was Tax Day, as you may have already heard, and for anyone who believes that President Barack Obama is a socialist, you might wanna check out his income tax filling. Most socialists don't claim over \$5 million in yearly income. That income level is decidedly capitalistic in nature.

In Harrisburg, it was a fairly quiet Tax Day yesterday, with a smattering of the yearly back-and-forth protests and press releases about paying too much/too little/just about right (we just realized Tax Day is kinda like the Three Bears tale.) Then, 'round about noon, Governor Ed Rendell announced that the Commonwealth Court had sided with the state's hospitals and doctors, who claimed the state illegally raided their Medical Malpractice fund to the tune of \$800 million to balance last year's budget. (Editor's Note: We warned against this budget move in the Client Memo last May. Did anyone listen? Noooooo!) The court also ordered the state to refund the money, which is the part that is gonna leave a mark. This ruling is an example of the time-honored adage: "When it rains, somebody drops a piano on your head."

There is, of course, a silver lining to our black, foreboding budget clouds. A public interest research group found that Pennsylvania is in the top seven states nationwide for budget transparency. Apparently, our state government provides comprehensive budget information in an easily-searchable format. So cheer up! Fairly soon, we'll all have access to comprehensive information on why we are dead broke.

The proposals to fund the state's transportation infrastructure in the post-I-80 tolling world kept trickling in this week. A western Pennsylvania lawmaker has proposed a plan to legalize keno and video poker in bars and restaurants, with the proceeds going to the Motor License Fund. This would be roughly the 7,000th time a lawmaker has proposed legalizing video poker in bars, a prime example of another time-honored adage: "If at first you don't succeed, try 6,999 more times."

As a side note, we understand the difficulty some elected officials have discussing things like "gas taxes" and "tolls" and "license fees" when it comes to this issue. We have therefore decided to re-brand all of these efforts under one name: the more-palatable "Asphalt User Assessment."

In other transportation news, Auditor General and Gubernatorial candidate Jack Wagner took dead aim at the Pennsylvania Turnpike this week, calling it out on the use of financial transactions known as rate swaps. We would like to explain what rate swaps are, but we know you don't have seven or eight hours to kill today. Wagner says the Pike has about \$146 million in financial exposure from these swaps. If the swaps go south, it will cost you about \$80 bucks in tolls to drive a car from Breezewood to Harrisburg .

In the beginning, there was the federal stimulus package (the Stim.) Then, the follow-up act, the Son of Stim. Perhaps coming soon will be the Son of the Son of the Stim, as Congress is proposing a \$23 billion bailout for public schools facing state budget axes. This is welcomed news for schools facing larger class sizes and teacher layoffs as a result of state budget shortfalls. Hey, if Bank of America can get emergency federal lucre, why not the schools?

Lest we believe that teachers do not get laid off, we need look no further than the Garden State (we love us some New Jersey dysfunction!) where teachers, police officers and other emergency personnel are finding themselves in the unemployment line. There was a time when education and public safety were sort of sacrosanct. Ah, the quaint days of yesteryear. "Grandpa, tell us a story about 2009 again!"

Pennsylvania's most famous noodle-brains, John and Kate Gosselin, made headlines this week, as the PA Department of Labor and Industry ruled the parents were not breaking labor laws by parading their eight children around in front of a camera for years. The children did no real "work," said L and I, other than working really hard not to run away from home. On a much more serious note, since even we can't be snarky about child labor, the situation has sparked a new debate about child labor laws.

A group of math-heads from Manhattan came out with a report this week, sharply criticizing the PA School Employees Retirement System for not calculating its pension liability correctly (their words, not ours). PSERS has funded itself at about 86%, while the Manhattan project has that number at 54%. It might be just us, but those two numbers aren't really in the same zip code as each other.

State Senator John Wozniak this week threw some more gas onto the Foxwoods fire by floating the idea of moving the star-crossed Philly casino license to Johnstown, home of the Chiefs, floods and a need for new jobs. We really do not see a downside, other than the fact that moving the license is against the law currently.

Out in the Steel City, the fight for the right to party, or at least the right to lease the parking garages, is down to the Magnificent 7. Some heavy hitters are expected to toss some serious cash at Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, with the goal of shoring up his city's pension fund up before year-end.

Also in Pittsburgh this week, it was union time, as the AFL-CIO convention bid adieu to departing President Bill George, and welcomed new head honcho, Rick Bloomingdale. Also of note was the failure of the union to endorse a Democratic candidate for governor, as no candidate was able to muster the necessary two-thirds vote (which also means, we assume, that it cannot break a U.S. Senate filibuster either.)

Harrisburg Mayor Linda Thompson this week delivered her State of the City address, a rousing speech that was hailed as being "well-delivered" by those in attendance. While we are all for proper diction and good enunciation, we were perhaps expecting to hear a few solutions to the crippling debt problem that has the Cap City on its way to Bankruptcyland. No such luck, Jack.

Democratic Governor candidate Dan Onorato put some distance between himself and his three rivals this week, according to a new Susquehanna Research poll. Dan-O has opened up a 32%-13% over his closest rival, Joe Hoeffel, after two weeks of relentless network TV advertising.

A top State Senate GOP member this week reiterated that he and his friends are not too thrilled about a tax on natural gas extraction. While not completely, 100% ruling the levy out, he did mention something about his upcoming expedition to find ice cubes in Hades.

Hidden in all of the rancor over health care reform in Washington, there was a point of agreement between Democrats and Republicans. Both sides strongly supported the provision that would ban insurers from denying coverage for pre-existing conditions. We believe we may have identified the driving force behind that particular provision, right here in Pennsylvania. It seems Geisinger Health Systems recently denied health care coverage to the celebrity spokesperson for Geisinger Health Systems, due to his recent stroke. Yes, that is not a misprint. "Hey pal, when you are done cutting that commercial, get off our property!"

Finally this week, Krispy Kreme announced that it will make its triumphant return to Philadelphia. For a city that regularly ranks among the nation's...um...portliest...you can expect the jokes to start flying any minute now. But not here, because we have way too much Love for the City of Brotherly Stuff That We Have Way Too Much Of!

That's all for this week!

### ***Around the Capitol***

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**THREE OF SIX GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES BACK LEGALIZING MEDICAL MARIJUANA-** Half of the candidates currently running for governor say they would support legalizing the use of marijuana for medicinal reasons. Of those three candidates in support,

two are Democrats - Auditor General Jack Wagner and Montgomery County Commissioner Joe Hoeffel - and one is Republican, state Rep. Sam Rohrer, R-Berks. A poll from 2006 showed 76 percent of Pennsylvania voters also would support legalizing the drug to help manage pain and other side effects of some chronic illnesses. Pollster Terry Madonna of Franklin & Marshall College said that support is a safe position for candidates, but one on which they likely will not be tested.

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**REGIONAL UNION ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSE WAGNER** -Democratic gubernatorial candidate and Auditor General Jack Wagner issued a [press release](#) Tuesday announcing several regional labor union endorsements of his campaign. The six organizations supplying their endorsement to Wagner are: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 29; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 201; United Mine Workers District 3; American Federation of Government Employees 3rd District; United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1776 and District 1199c of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, AFSCME, AFL-CIO. Wagner is part of a field of four Democratic candidates seeking their party's gubernatorial nomination in the May 18th primary election. The three other candidates are Allegheny county Executive Dan Onorato, Montgomery County Commissioner Joe Hoeffel and state Sen. Anthony Hardy Williams of Philadelphia. Onorato has won major statewide labor endorsements, including the Pennsylvania State Education Association, United Steelworkers and the Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters, as well as several local unions. Three locals in the Philadelphia area have endorsed Hoeffel, while Williams has yet to get a union endorsement. The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO has not made an endorsement in the governor's race. Wagner announced the endorsements during a press conference at the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO's 39th Constitutional Convention in Pittsburgh.

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**SENATE APPROVED NOMINATIONS OF DCNR, REVENUE SECRETARIES** - The state Senate on Wednesday voted unanimously to approve Gov. Ed Rendell's nominations of John Quigley as secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and C. Daniel Hassell as secretary of the Department of Revenue. Quigley, who has worked for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources since 2005, initially was nominated to lead the department last April. The Senate committee [recommended his confirmation in June](#), but the full Senate did not take up his nomination and Gov. Ed Rendell recalled the nomination. Rendell later re-submitted Quigley's appointment. Hassell would replace former Revenue Secretary Steve Stetler, who stepped down late last year, just before he was charged with misuse of his office as a state lawmaker from York. Hassell was the Deputy Secretary for Tax Policy in the department, a post he has held under Rendell since 2003. Hassell also worked for the department from 1981 to 1985. During the period between those two stints, he worked as a budget specialist for the Senate Appropriations Committee Republican staff. Hassell was Deputy Revenue Secretary for fiscal policy and planning from 1995 to 2003 for Republican Govs. Tom Ridge and Mark Schweiker. When Rendell took office, Hassell was promoted to his present post.

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**SPECTER TO BE GUEST SPEAKER AT MONDAY'S PENNSYLVANIA PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON** - U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, D-Pa., will be the featured speaker for Monday's Pennsylvania Press Club luncheon. He's getting a Democratic primary challenge from U.S.

Rep. Joe Sestak, D-Delaware, for one of Pennsylvania's two U.S. Senate seats. Former U.S. Rep. Pat Toomey, R-Lehigh, and conservative activist Peg Luksik of Johnstown, are vying for the Republican U.S. Senate nomination. Specter will speak at the Hilton Harrisburg & Towers on Monday starting at 12:30 p.m., then answer questions submitted by the audience. The Pennsylvania Press Club hosts monthly luncheons with prominent newsmakers and statewide candidates. The cost is \$25 per person.

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### **Legislative Developments**

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#### **House Session Schedule**

April	19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28
May	3, 4, 5, 24, 25, 26
June	7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

**The House** stands in recess until Monday, April 19, at 1:00 p.m. or to the call of the Chair.

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House Commerce will hold a meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 19, 2010 in Room 205 Ryan Office Building to consider **HB 1498 (Hanna)** Amends PA Fair Dealership Law further providing for definitions, termination of dealer agreement, death or incapacitation of dealer & for repurchase of unused specialized repair tools; repealing provisions; providing for remedies & enforcement; **HB 60 (Daley)** Amends the Housing Finance Agency Law providing for the Pennsylvania Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Program; & est. the Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund; **HB 2394 (Mirabito)** Amends Small Business Incubators Act for def., providing for creation of program, incubator grants, loans & responsibilities of local sponsors; repealing provisions; powers & duties of board & indicators of program impact; for funding; **HB 2399 (Bradford)** Amends Title 64 (Public Authorities and Quasi-Public Corporations) further providing for powers of the Commonwealth Financing Authority. **HB 2401 (Taylor, R)** Amends Titles 12 (Commerce & Trade) & 64 (Public Authorities & Quasi-Public Corporations), in small business first, for def.; Commonwealth Financing Authority, providing for duties of the authority, indebtedness & for use of moneys.

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Joint Legislative Conservation Committee will meet at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2010 in Room G-50 Irvis Office Building for Earth Day Environmental Issues Forum will feature a presentation by PA Cleanways and the Center for Rural PA analyzing the results of the illegal dumping surveys completed across PA by PA Cleanways. PA Cleanways will also discuss plans for the 2010 Great American Cleanup.

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House State Government will hold an Off the Floor meeting on Monday, April 19, 2010 in Room G-50 Irvis Office Building to consider **HB 2393 (Gibbons)** Act providing for abuse of office, for false reports and for penalties; **HB 2409 (Taylor, R)** Act providing for ethics in government; prohibiting certain uses of public funds; and providing for penalties; **HB 2411(Boyle)** Act relating to ethics; and further requiring ethics training for members, officers and employees of the General Assembly; **HB 2240 (Solobay)** Act authorizing the DGS, with the approval of the Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs & the Governor, to grant &

convey to the Borough of Canonsburg certain lands situate in the Borough of Canonsburg, Washington County **HB 2275 (Peifer)** Act authorizing DCNR, with the approval of the Gov., to grant & convey to the Canaan Bible Chapel certain lands situate in South Canaan Twnp, Wayne Cnty, in exchange for certain property in South Canaan Twnp, Wayne Cnty, to be conveyed to PA.

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House Judiciary will hold a meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Tues. April 20, 2010 in Room 60 East Wing Subcommittee on Family Law on **HB 1639 (Manderino)** Amends Titles 23 (Domestic Relations) & 42 (Judiciary) further providing for contempt for noncompliance with visitation or partial custody order and for child custody; and making conforming amendments.

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House Local Government will hold a meeting on Tues. April 20, 2010 in Room G-50 Irvis Office Building to consider **HB 2345 (Freeman)** Amends the Second Class County Code further providing for vacancy in the office of county commissioner; **HB 2346 (Freeman)** Amends the County Code, further providing for vacancy in the office of county commissioner; **HB 2352 (Freeman)** Amends the Third Class City Code, providing for the office and powers and duties of a city administrator or manager; **HB 2353(Freeman)** Amends an act authorizing council of any incorporated town to create the office of town manager, and prescribe his powers and duties," further providing for the office of town manager and for powers and duties of a town manager; **HB 2354 (Freeman)** Amends the Second Class Township Code, further providing for township manager; **HB 2356 (Freeman)** Amends the Borough Code, further providing for the office of borough manager and for powers and duties of a borough manager; **HB 1237 (ONeill)** Act authorizing municipalities to acquire highway corridor conservation easements; and providing for highway corridor overlay zoning and for outdoor advertising permits.

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House Judiciary will hold a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Tues. April 20, 2010 in Room 60, East Wing to consider **HB 190 (Godshall)** Amends Title 20 (Decedents, Estates & Fiduciaries) providing for autopsies; **HB 387 (Harhart)** Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) further providing for duties of Pennsylvania State Police; **SB 1044 (White, D)** Amends Title 61 (Penal and Correctional Institutions) providing for drug redistribution within correctional facilities; **SB 1074 (Leach)** Amends Title 61 (Penal & Correctional Institutions) providing for State recording system for application of restraints to pregnant prisoners or detainees, for county recording system & for incarceration of pregnant women.

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House Labor Relations will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Tues. April 20,2010 in Rom 39 East Wing to consider **HB 2242 (Thomas)** Amends Tax Reform Code providing for the Keystone Employment and Training Tax Credit.

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House Appropriations will hold an Off the Floor meeting on Tues. April 20, 2010 in Room 140 Main Capitol. Agenda to be announced.

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House State Government will hold an Off the Floor meeting on Tues. April 20, 2010 in Room 39, East Wing to consider **HB 2126 (Josephs)** Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for the qualifications of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General; **HB 2162 (Josephs)** Amends PA Election Code further defining "expenditure" & "political action committee"; for

reporting by candidate & political committees & annual reports; limitations on certain contributions; late filing fee; Secretary of the Commonwealth; **HB 1290 (McGeehan)** Amends PA Human Relations Act further providing for unlawful discriminatory practices.

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House Health and Human Services will hold an Off the Floor meeting on Tues. April 20, 2010 in Room 205, Ryan Office Building to consider **HB 1572 (Gerber)** Amends Title 24 (Education) providing for school foods reform and imposing duties on schools relating to the sale of food and beverages and on the Department of Education and the Department of Health; **HB 1594 (Maher)** Act relating to delivery of services & programs to persons with disabilities; conferring powers & duties on Office of the Governor; & creating Office for People with Disabilities & Advisory Committee; & providing for powers, duties & funding; **HB 1679 (Gerber)** Act providing for liability for false claims, for adoption of Congressional intent of the Federal False Claims Act, for treble damages, costs and civil penalties, for powers of the Attorney General and for qui tam actions; **HB 1842 (Wheatley)** Amends the Public Welfare Code providing for electronic prior approval for Medicaid.

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House Insurance will hold an Off the Floor meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 in Room 60, East Wing to consider **HB 2392 (Shapiro)** Amends The Insurance Company Law further providing for Mini-COBRA small employer group health policies; **HB 1865 (Burns)** Amends The Insurance Company Law providing for oncology benefit design; **HB 2368 (Harhai)** Amends The Insurance Department Act further providing for definitions.

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House Tourism and Recreational Development will hold an Off the Floor meeting on Tues. April 20, 2010 in Room G-50 Irvis Office Building to consider **HB 442 (Smith, M.)** Amends the Pennsylvania Innkeepers' Rights Act providing for prospective employee background checks; and requiring deadbolt locks in hotels; **HR 427 (Barrar)** Resolution directing Leg. Budget & Finance Cmte to study local hotel room taxes that support county & regional tourism marketing & convention centers & to determine if revenues are being appropriated in accordance with applicable statutes; **HB 2131 (Moul)** Amends The County Code, in fiscal affairs, further providing authorization of three per centum hotel tax.

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House Education will hold a public hearing at 9:00 a.m. on Wed. April 21, 2010 in Room G-50, Irvis Office Building on **HB 1803 (Siproth)** Amends the Public School Code further providing for CPR instruction; providing for procedures regarding response to cardiac arrest, for donations for use related to CPR & AED instruction, etc; & providing for availability of AED.

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House Tourism and Recreational Development will hold a meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Wed. April 21, 2010 on **HB 1651 (Kirkland)** Amends Tax Reform Code further providing, in hotel occupancy tax, for definitions.

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House Children and Youth will hold a meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Wed. April 21, 2010 in Room 39, East Wing to consider **HB 2297 (Bishop)** Amends Title 42 (Judiciary), in juvenile matters, further providing for definitions and for disposition of dependent child; and providing for termination of jurisdiction; **HB 2258 (Briggs)** Amends Title 42 (Judiciary), in juvenile matters, providing for sibling placement and visitation; **HB 2338 (Mundy)** Act

providing for requirements for children in foster care and for grievance policy and procedure.

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House Transportation will hold a meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Wed. April 21, 2010 in Room 60, East Wing to consider **SB 747 (Rafferty)** Act authorizing the Department of Transportation to sell land under certain conditions; and repealing certain provisions of The Administrative Code of 1929; **HB 2030 (Stevenson)** Act designating U.S. Route 62 in Mercer County as the Mercer County Veterans Highway; **HB 2253 (Phillips)** Act designating a portion of Route 11 from the Barry King Memorial Bridge to the Montour County line as the Sgt. Brett D. Swank Memorial Highway; **HB 2303 (Kirkland)** Act redesignating Concord Road in Chester Township, Delaware County, as Judge Robert A. Wright Road; **HB 2305 (Mirabito)** Act designating the bridge that connects South Williamsport to Williamsport, known as the Market Street Bridge, over the Susquehanna River in Loyalsock Township, Lycoming County, as the Carl E. Stotz Little League Bridge; **SB 1115 (Stout)** Act designating the Donora-Monessen Bridge in Washington and Westmoreland Counties as the Stan Musial Bridge; **HB 914 (Houghton)** Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) further providing for ignition interlock; **HB1171 (Hanna)** Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, further providing for definitions, for restricted account and for registration of snowmobile or ATV; providing for vintage snowmobile permits; and making an editorial change.

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House Professional Licensure will hold a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wed. April 21, 2010 in Room 302, Irvis Office Building to consider the following regulations: Reg. No. 16A-629, Reg. No. 16A-6212.

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House Appropriations will hold an Off the Floor meeting on Wed. April 21, 2010 in Room 140 Main Capitol. Agenda will be announced.

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House Democratic Policy Committee will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Thurs. April 21, 2010 in Ambler Theatre, 108 East Butler Avenue, Ambler on **HB 2106 (Taylor, R.)** Act establishing the Pennsylvania Health Information Exchange Authority and the Health Information Technology Fund; and providing for grants and loans for health information technology and for duties of the Department of Health.

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House Judiciary will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Thur. April 21, 2010 in Room 140 Main Capitol on Medical Liability.

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Independent Regulatory Review Commission will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Thurs. April 22, 2010 in 333 Market Street, 14th Floor Conference Room, Harrisburg Public hearing to consider the following Regulations:

- Reg. No. 2788 State Board of Veterinary Medicine #16A-5723: Biennial Renewal Fees
  - Reg. No. 2763 State Board of Psychology #16A-6315: Qualifications
  - Reg. No. 2713 Department of Public Welfare #14-513: Family Violence and TANF and GA; and Support from Relatives
  - Reg. No. 2672 Department of Health #10-181: School Immunizations; Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases
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House Agriculture and Rural Affairs will hold a public hearing at 10:30 a.m. on Thur. April 21, 2010 in Penn Township Community Building, Community Room, 260 Lewis Road, West Grove on **HB 2260 (Houghton)** Amends Title 3 (Agriculture) providing for the registration, licensing & use of a PA Preferred trademark; establishing the Pennsylvania Preferred Trademark Licensing Fund; and providing for penalties & for enforcement.

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**Senate Session Schedule**

April	19, 20, 21
May	3, 4, 5, 24, 25, 26
June	7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30

**The Senate** stands in recess until Monday, April 12, at 1:00 p.m. or to the call of the Chair.

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Senate Judiciary will hold a public hearing at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 19, 2010 in Philadelphia Bar Association, 1101 Market Street, 11th Floor, Philadelphia on Philadelphia's criminal justice system.

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Senate Rules and Executive Nominations will hold an Off the Floor on Mon. April 19, 2010 in Rules Committee and Conference Room to consider certain executive nominations and **SB 81 (Earll)** Amends the Liquor Code, further defining "eligible entity" & other definitions; for general board powers, wine marketing, Sunday liquor sales, for interlocking business prohibited, number & kinds of licenses & unlawful liquor acts.

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Senate Law and Justice will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 19, 2010 in Hearing Room 1, North Office Building for a Joint public hearing with the Senate Transportation Committee on the Statewide Radio Network.

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Senate Transportation will hold a public hearing at 11:00 a.m. on April 19, 2010 in Hearing Room 1, North Office Building a joint public hearing with the Senate Law and Justice Committee on the Statewide Radio Network.

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Senate Appropriations will hold a meeting at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2010 in Room 461 Main Capitol to consider **SB 288 (Erickson)** Act providing for plumbing contractors licensure; establishing the State Board of Plumbing Contractors & providing for its powers & duties; conferring powers & imposing duties on the DLI; establishing fees, fines & civil penalties; **SB 507 (Folmer)** Act establishing PA High-Risk Health Insurance Pool, Fund & the State Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool Board; providing for powers & duties; for selection of administering insurer & payment of plan costs; & prescribing plan benefits; **SB 1176 (White, D)** Amends the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act further providing for the filing fee; **SB 1196 (White, D)** Amends The Bituminous Mine Subsidence and Land Conservation Act further providing for fees; **SB 1197 (White, D.)** Amends Coal Refuse Disposal Control Act further providing for fees; **HB 961 (Buxton)** Amends the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, further providing for the sunset date for fees; **HB**



ordered the state to transfer hundreds of millions of dollars out of its general fund to resolve a pair of lawsuits... - [AP](#)

04-15-2010

**[PA Chamber - Facts would be helpful in policy debate](#)**

(Press Release)

04-15-2010

**[Court reverses state budgeting maneuver, creates \\$800M hole](#)**

HARRISBURG — With state government already facing a deficit, an appeals court ruled today the state must move \$800 million into a special account used to defray physicians' cost of malpractice insurance. Gov. Ed Rendell said the decision was wrong and the state will appeal the... - [TRIB](#)

04-14-2010

**[DOS: Monday is Deadline to Register to Vote in Pennsylvania's May Primary](#)**

(Press Release)

04-14-2010

**[Turnpike Commission has \\$2 billion in debt tied to 'swaps,' state auditor general says](#)**

HARRISBURG The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission has more than \$2 billion in debt tied to 26 interest-rate "swaps," risky financial instruments whose use by state and local governments should be banned, Auditor General Jack Wagner said. Wagner, a Democratic candidate for governor, has criticized swaps since one... - [MCCLATCHY TRIBUNE](#)

04-14-2010

**[Wind project generates heat](#)**

A federal agency and Audubon Pennsylvania are among about 40 conservation groups from around the world critical of a wind turbine project that's been approved for Turkey Hill along the Susquehanna River. All the concerns except one revolve around perceived threats 120-foot-long... - [INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL](#)

04-14-2010

**[Pennsylvania Senate confirms appointment of John Quigley and C. Daniel Hassell to Cabinet posts](#)**

By JAN MURPHY, The Patriot-News April 14, 2010, 11:35AM The state Senate approved the nominations of John Quigley as secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and C. Daniel Hassell as secretary of the Department of Revenue by a 49-0 vote.... - [PATRIOT](#)

04-13-2010

**['Very eerie': This winter had virtually no flu](#)**

By Don Sapatkin Inquirer Staff Writer Is it possible for a pandemic to save

lives? The short answer is that it just did. Since swine flu first burst onto the scene one year ago this month, fewer Americans appear to have died of influenza-related causes than in any recent flu season.... - [INQUIRER](#)

04-13-2010

**[Oil falls below \\$84, extending 5 days of losses](#)**

SINGAPORE - Oil prices fell for a fifth day to below \$84 a barrel Tuesday in Asia as traders mulled whether a slowly recovering U.S. economy justified the recent two-month, 25 percent crude rally... - [AP](#)

04-12-2010

**[Rep. George: Attack of the gas industry!](#)**

(Press Release)

04-12-2010

**[Troubled decision: Without I-80 tolls, the state faces difficult choices](#)**

On tolling Interstate 80, Pennsylvania now has a definite "no." After previously asking (unsuccessfully) the Bush administration to allow tolling, Gov. Ed Rendell and his team learned last week that the Obama administration also was opposed. No means no, but it also means a budget catastrophe for the commonwealth.... - [POST-GAZ.](#)

04-12-2010

**[Penn State-Hershey researchers work on test to detect heavy drinking](#)**

How many drinks do you have per day? Pardon the pun, but it can be a loaded question. Alcohol abusers often don't give an honest answer. That can make it hard for their doctor to know if they have a problem. Or it can make it hard for an airline, for example, to know if someone has... - [PATRIOT](#)

04-12-2010

**[New federal storm water rules could drain wallets](#)**

By Evan Brandt, ebrandt@pottsmmerc.com POTTSTOWN — Changes to rules governing stormwater are quietly under way which could add thousands to even the most basic home improvement. And a group of Montgomery County townships and boroughs are out to make some noise about it.... - [POTTS. MERCURY](#)