



**Center for Beef Excellence  
Beef Bytes  
August 14, 2009**

***Opportunities/Good News***

Good afternoon,

The Versant Strategies Team has been busy assisting our clients prepare for Ag Progress Days. Please join us in visiting their exhibits at the following locations: Ag Progress Days is held at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center, nine miles southwest of State College on Route 45. (The address is 2710 West Pine Grove Road, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865) **As you approach the Ag Progress Days site on Route 45, you will be directed to a main parking area.**

**Monsanto's Mobile Technology Unit** – After parking, proceed to Main Street. Follow Main Street to East 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn left onto E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street and follow it to the end of the road where the Monsanto Mobile Technology Unit is located.

**PA No-Till Alliance** – After parking, proceed to Main Street. Follow Main Street to East 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn left onto E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street and follow it to the end of the road to the Conservation Education tent beside the corn maze. The Alliance exhibit is located in the middle of this tented section on an end location beside the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's exhibit.

**PA State Grange** - After parking, proceed to Main Street. Follow Main Street to the corner of West 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The Grange exhibit is located inside the Ag Choice Farm Credit exhibit area on this corner in the middle section right off the doorway entrance (behind the Lancaster Farming exhibit).

**PA Veterinary Medical Association** - After parking, proceed to Main Street. Follow Main Street to West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, winding around the Ag Special Events Building at W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. There are two dairy and livestock tents south of W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The PVMA site is located in the 2<sup>nd</sup> tent along the left side wall off the entrance towards the back.

And speaking of PVMA, Versant Strategies congratulates Charlene Wandzilak, PVMA Executive Director, for being named one of Central PA's top 40 business leaders under 40. Read more here: <http://www.centralpennbusiness.com/events.asp?nID=60&show=details>

Enjoy the remaining two weeks of August and consider visiting one of the many county fairs occurring during this time.

Sincerely,

MeeCee

### ***Articles of Interest***

- 08-11-2009      [\*\*PA Farm Bureau - Pennsylvania Dairy: An Industry in Crisis\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 08-11-2009      [\*\*Colorado sees slowing spread of deadly cattle STD\*\*](#)  
DENVER - The spread of a venereal disease that can cause cows to lose their calves appears to be slowing in Colorado, and state agriculture officials plan to strengthen policies to keep it that way... - [AP](#)
- 08-14-2009      [\*\*Penn State Dean of Ag Sciences lays out a vision for Rockview property\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 08-12-2009      [\*\*Statement from PFB Pres. Shaffer on recently announced job cuts in PA Ag. Dept.\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 08-12-2009      [\*\*WHO CAN GET HELP\*\*](#)  
If the federal disaster designation is approved, farmers who suffered property losses of 30 percent or more due to harsh weather would be eligible for low-interest emergency loans from the Farm Services Agency. -- Loans can cover as much as 100 percent of the dollar value of the... - [EASTON EXPRESS](#)
- 08-12-2009      [\*\*Farmer vs. 'Agri-Intellectuals'\*\*](#)  
Today's idea: Despite what the "agri-intellectuals" say, a farmer writes, "we have to farm 'industrially' to feed the world," and modern methods are less destructive than those the critics are urging. DESCRIPTIONReuters More "natural" cow manure to fertilize your... - [NY TIMES](#)

08-11-2009

**[Increased federal aid for milk products not enough for struggling local farmers](#)**

An increase in a federal subsidy for milk products provides slim relief for dairy farmer Jim Doran. "We haven't taken pay since March," said Mr. Doran, who milks about 50 cattle near Ashley in Hanover Twp. "I don't know how much longer I can hang on." The boost in price supports comes as dairy farmers face a critical struggle... - [SCRANTON TIMES](#)

08-10-2009

**[Where's the beef? Not at these farms](#)**

Two farmers in Bucks and Montgomery County know where the buffalo roam. Though farming is in his blood, Rod Wieder never thought he'd grow up to be a farmer. At age 45, Wieder quit his day job as a warehouse supervisor nearly a decade ago, and now helps raise his young family in the same stone... - [The Intelligencer](#)

7-30-09

*The American* The Omnivore's Delusion: Against the Agri-Intellectual  
<http://www.american.com/archive/2009/july/the-omnivore2019s-delusion-against-the-agri-intellectuals>

## **Legislative Interests**

[SB 850](#)

[Corman](#)

Act to provide from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative & Judicial Departments, the public debt & the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0953](#)

**Bill History:** 08-15-09 G Last day for Governor's action  
08-05-09 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 1A)  
08-10-09 G Bill, together with Governor's Line Item Veto Message, laid on the table

## **Weekly Letter**

August 14, 2009

Dear Clients,

Pennsylvania was once again in the national spotlight this week, as U.S. Senator Arlen Specter decided to hold a few town hall meetings on health care reform. Specter, never one to back down from a controversial topic, probably feels today that he should have instead

just sat at home while hitting himself in the head repeatedly with a tack hammer. It likely would have been much less painful than being accosted, insulted, and sneered at everywhere he went.

His chief rival, Congressman Joe Sestak, however, had a nice, quiet and productive town hall meeting on the same topic. The difference? Sestak held his event in Philadelphia, in front of a much more – how should we say this – sympathetic crowd, many of whom don't actually have any health insurance at all. We believe that is known as preaching to the converted.

There was an interesting twist to all of the wrangling over whether or not to reform the health care delivery system, especially here in Pennsylvania. At almost the same time people in Lebanon County were screaming at Specter, telling him the current system is fine, Independence Blue Cross was sending letters to 36,000 of its poorest customers, telling them their health insurance plan was being dropped. Toodles, poor folks.

And while Specter was being excoriated in State College the very next day for supporting reform, Blue Cross of Northeast Pennsylvania was filing for a massive rate increase on senior citizens. Yup. No problem here in Pennsylvania, all is fine on the health care front. Better keep the government out of it; who knows what could happen if those jokers get involved!

More than 250 state employees this week got the honor and privilege of being the first to sacrifice their jobs on the altar of fiscal responsibility and austere budgeting. They were, predictably, thrilled, and could not wait to go and sign up for Medicaid, CHIP for their kids, and unemployment compensation benefits, thereby simultaneously striking a blow against fiscal responsibility and austere budgeting. Ah, the continuing irony of budget cuts.

In a shocking development, the budget impasse continued this week. Okay, maybe it was not all that shocking considering that the budget conference committee didn't meet. So, as the summer of our discontent plods along, we can now more clearly see the autumn of our disaster on the horizon. First up are the fine folks at the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency who have no money to mail out a couple hundred thousand PA college kids – even though they promised the cash and the students and their families built their college funding plans for the year around the state grants. Which of their classmates is having the homecoming party is about to become the very least of their worries.

County governments! Step right up; you are next in line to go bankrupt! But don't worry; you'll only have to close your YMCA, your domestic violence prevention programs, your mental health and drug and alcohol offices and perhaps your parks departments. On the bright side, you might soon be authorized to impose a county sales taxes to help pay for all of these services – someday in the future. Feelin' lucky yet?

And last in our three-part series that we've tentatively entitled "Dancing with No Money" we have our public libraries. No, it is not a good time for all of those kindly, bifocal-wearing women who are always "Shhhush-ing" you, or for anyone who might need a book, newspaper archive, or any information at all, especially if that person doesn't have a computer.

Much like Rasputin, it is becoming increasingly clear to the folks living along Interstate 80 that the plan to toll that highway just cannot be killed. The state is preparing to take another shot at the keystone to the soon-to-be-broke transportation infrastructure plan known as Act 44. Memo to those who believe we should just rely on gas taxes to support our infrastructure: Chevy is about to introduce a car that gets 230 miles per gallon. Buying gas every 6 months isn't gonna do much to help our gas tax revenue.

The plan to allow video poker in bars is also doing a credible imitation of Michael Myers from the Halloween movies – it just won't die either. This week, House Democrats announced that they have tweaked their video poker bill to earmark 50% of the proceeds to host municipalities. The Senate GOP leadership team is still not impressed.

The State Board of Education this week gave final stamp of approval to the controversial Keystone Exams, standardized graduation tests that would count as one-third of a student's overall grade. The state Senate passed a bill that would outright ban these types of tests, but the House has not acted. If both chambers do not act with a resolution to stop the plan within 20 days, it looks like the face of public education is about to change significantly in Pennsylvania.

A bill to permit table games at the state's slots parlors seems to be hitting critical mass, although for some odd reason, the bill's authors have decided to exclude the state's one approved resort license holder. We view this as a bunch of older brothers picking on the little brother, and not letting him play with them. The state's race horse folks were the first group to formally show up with their collective hooves out, looking for a piece of the still-unbaked pie.

Some newspapers and a smattering of House GOP members are grumbling that despite a huge deficit and deadlocked budget, Governor Ed Rendell is still handing out \$360 million in checks from the state's redevelopment capital assistance pot – all financed through state bonds. This money is used for brick-and-mortar projects designed to create jobs. So apparently there are some who believe that the best way to jump start a flagging economy is to stop building things, an interesting and possibly groundbreaking economic theorem.

Bloggers of all political stripes converged on Pittsburgh this week, as the Netroots Nation held its annual conference in the Steel City. Thursday's event included a speech by our

former president and current journalist rescuer-in-chief, Bill Clinton. While liberal bloggers set up downtown, a shadow group of conservative bloggers camped over on the South Side. At the end of the conference, both groups met for a West Side Story-style brawl on the Smithfield Street Bridge. There were Dell notebooks, jump drives and broken monitors littering the road.

The state Supreme Court this week ordered Allegheny County to get crackin' on a property reassessment that county leaders have been desperately avoiding for years. This was not good news for County Executive and gubernatorial wannabe Dan Onorato, who may have to endure sweeping property tax increases just as he is ramping up a statewide run.

And finally, no matter if you happen to be a Barack Obama fan or detractor, 2012 could be a really fun year to watch. This week, former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum made a sort of semi-announcement that he may toss his hat into the Presidential ring. If you thought the Sarah Palin candidacy was ripe with sound bites, just wait! A Santorum candidacy would be the Rosetta stone for political reporters.

The House and Senate will be back in town...um, soon? In any case, we will be here to cover it all for you next week. From all of your friends here at Triad, have a great weekend!

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

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**PHILLY SALES TAX INCREASE VOTE NOT ALONG PARTY LINES -According to an article in Philadelphia Inquirer, The Susquehanna River split the state House vote last week that gave Philadelphia the power to impose a sales-tax hike. By a vote of 112 to 85 on Wednesday, the House approved a bill to allow Philadelphia to temporarily boost its sales tax from 7 percent to 8 percent, largely along regional – not party – lines. Twenty Democrats, most of them from the central or western part of the state, voted against the bill, while 32 Republicans – everyone from Philadelphia and most from the southeast region – voted for the bill.**

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**LAYOFFS LOOM FOR STATE WORKERS - Because of the state's ongoing budget problems, Gov. Ed Rendell plans to lay off more state workers as of Aug. 28. With previous layoffs made earlier in the year and a hiring freeze that started in October, the state soon will have 1,091 fewer workers than it did last fall, administration officials said. The new batch of layoffs comes from numerous state agencies, including agriculture, community and economic development, education, executive agencies, the health department, the insurance department, the revenue**

**department, the history and museum commission and the human relations commission.**

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**VITALI STILL WEIGHING CONGRESSIONAL RUN - According to an article on Politicspa.com, Democrat Greg Vitali will likely decide in the next few weeks whether he'll campaign to represent the 7th Congressional District in 2010. Vitali said his decision will come down to whether he thinks a bigger legislative stage outweighs the benefit of being a 16-year member of the state House, seniority that he said has allowed him to get things done in Harrisburg. The lawmaker is particularly involved with environmental and energy legislation, and raised a few chuckles earlier this month on the House Floor when he called a meeting of the "Green Dog" caucus.**

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**RENDELL TELLS LEGISLATURE TO RECONVENE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE** -Gov. Ed Rendell called on legislative leaders to recommence public discussions on the state budget, even if that means temporarily replacing one of the members of the committee tasked with finding a solution. The conference committee last met two weeks ago but made no progress on the state budget. House Appropriations Committee Chairman Dwight Evans, D-Philadelphia, has been in Georgia mourning the death of his sister-in-law since late last week. Rendell said that if Evans does not return soon, he should temporarily resign from the conference committee and House Speaker Keith McCall, D-Carbon, should appoint a different conferee.

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**BUDGET UPDATE** -It's starting to look like the fears expressed by some in the Capitol about the governor signing a stopgap budget are being realized. There was no movement on the budget this week. Early in the week, Gov. Ed Rendell called on legislative leaders to recommence public discussions on the state budget, even if that means temporarily replacing one of the members of the committee tasked with finding a solution. The conference committee last met two weeks ago but made no progress on the state budget.

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**AMY KELCHNER NEW COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR FOR RENDELL** -On Monday, Aug. 10, Amy Kelchner became communications director for Gov. Ed Rendell. She transferred from her post as communications director for the Governor's Office of Health Care Reform, according to a memo by Rendell's chief of staff, Steve Crawford. Crawford wrote: "As you know, this position has been vacant since last March when former Communications Director Doug Rohanna resigned to join the team at Treasury. Amy has served in the Rendell administration since 2003, initially serving as Deputy Communications Director. "In her new role, Amy will work very closely with me and the Governor. She will oversee all agency press offices, the Commonwealth's website, all the Administration's marketing initiatives, and coordinate all of the Administration's communications efforts. "Also, please note that the communications director position at the OHCR will remain vacant."

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**CHIEF JUSTICE NAMES MEMBERS OF JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION** – The Supreme Court initiated the concept of a special commission to examine problems in the Luzerne County juvenile justice system after federal charges were filed earlier this year against former Luzerne County Judges Mark A. Ciavarella and Michael T. Conahan. The judges were accused of receiving \$2.6 million in payments from the developer and the owner of two juvenile detention facilities. They have since agreed to plead guilty to federal fraud and tax charges. Chief Justice Ronald D. Castille is named the chairman and the three others named to the commission by the chief justice are:

- Dwayne D. Woodruff, a judge of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas who presides in Family Court. Judge Woodruff is a member of the state Supreme Court's Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee.
- Kenneth J. Horoho Jr., a Pittsburgh lawyer who was president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association in 2006-07. Horoho practices divorce and family law and is an expert on child custody matters.
- George D. Mosee Jr., Deputy District Attorney of Philadelphia and chief of the district attorney's Juvenile Division. Mosee is vice chair of the Supreme Court's Juvenile Court Procedural Rules Committee.

Under legislation adopted by the General Assembly and signed by the governor on Friday, August 7, the chief justice is authorized to appoint four members of the 11-member Interbranch Commission on Juvenile Justice including the chairman. Legislative leaders are authorized to appoint four members; the governor is to name three.

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### **HOUSE MEMBERS CALL ON SENATE TO OVERRIDE PHEAA GRANT BLUE LINE** –

members of the House Republicans held a press conference at Delaware County Community College to urge the Senate to override the Governor's PHEAA grant blue line. Rep. Adolph indicated that a co-sponsorship memo for a resolution in support of the measure has generated bipartisan support. "I don't believe higher education should be held hostage during these negotiations," he said, "we have to keep politics out of it." Rep. Ross said that nothing is stopping the legislature or the Governor from implementing a supplementary budget and stated that the time for "debate is discussion is over." "We need to pay our bills," Rep. Ross concluded.

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### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OFFERS TIPS TO STAY SAFE IN EXTREMELY HOT WEATHER**

- Drink plenty of water throughout the day and avoid beverages with caffeine and alcohol;
- Dress in lightly-colored, loose-fitting clothing;
- Stay indoors if possible and;
- Postpone strenuous activity and outdoor work until later in the day when the temperature drops.

Additional information and hot weather safety tips are available through the Department of Health Web site at [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us).

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***Legislative Developments***

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- **House Session Schedule**
- **The House expects to reconvene at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2009. Until then, the House will remain on a 6-hour call of the Chair until further notice.**

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House Appropriations will hold an Off the Floor meeting on Monday, Aug. 17, 2009 in Room 140 Main Capitol. The agenda will be announced.

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House Republican Policy Committee will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009 in Room 418 Main Capitol on municipal pensions and the status of PA Municipal Retirement System (PMRS).

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House Appropriations will hold an Off the Floor meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009 in Room 140 Main Capitol. The agenda will be announced.

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House Commerce will hold a public hearing at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009 at the Ag Progress Days Site, Russell E. Larson Agriculture Center, College Building Theatre, 2710 West Pine Grove Road, Rout 45, Rock Springs, on **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.

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House Finance will hold a meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2009 in room G-50 Irvis Office Building. The agenda will be announced.

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House Judiciary will hold a meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2009 in room 205, Ryan Office Building to consider HB 1869 (Donatucci) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary), in governance of the system, further providing for establishment of fees and charges.

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House Judiciary will hold a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2009 in Room G-50 Irvis Office Building to consider **HB 1860 (Donatucci)** Amends Title 42 (Judiciary), in governance of the system, further providing for establishment of fees and charges.

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House Finance will hold a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wed. Aug. 19, 2009 in Room G-50 Irvis Office Building. The agenda will be announced.

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House Rules will hold a meeting at 10<sup>45</sup> a.m. on Wednesday August 19 in Room 140 Main Capitol to consider: **HB 1593 (Matzie)** Amends The Insurance Company Law providing for the regulation of health insurance practices concerning parity and nondiscrimination. **HB 39 (Caltagirone)** Amends Title 18 (Crimes & Offenses) further providing for cruelty to animals. **HB 348 (Staback)** Act authorizing DGS, with approval of the Governor, to grant & convey to the Waymart Area Historical Society, or its assigns, certain land, buildings & improvements situate in the Township of Canaan, Wayne County. **HB 1663 (Evans, D.)** Act making appropriations from restricted revenue accounts within the State Gaming Fund & from the State Gaming Fund to the PGCB, Dept. of Revenue, PA State Police & Attorney General for fiscal year 7/1/09 to 6/30/10 & for bills incurred.

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House Appropriations will hold an Off the Floor meeting on Wed., Aug 19, 2009 in Room 140 Main Capitol. The agenda will be announced.

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House Agriculture and Rural Affairs will hold an Off the Floor meeting on Wednesday, August 19, 2009, in Room G-50, Irvis Office Building to consider: **SB 901 (Scarnati)** Amends the Biofuel Development and In-State Production Incentive Act, further providing for biodiesel content in diesel fuel sold for on-road use. **SB 607 (Wozniak)** Amends the Rural Pennsylvania Revitalization Act, in Center for Rural Pennsylvania, further providing for board of directors and for grants.

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House State Government will hold an Off the Floor meeting on Wed., Aug. 19, 2009 in Room 205 Ryan Office Building to consider **SB 969 (Eichelberger)** Act authorizing and directing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Governor, to grant and convey to Altoona Regional Health System certain lands situated in the City of Altoona, Blair County.

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House Gaming Oversight will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 20, 2009 at Richland Fire Co., Johnstown on **HB 243 (McCall)** Amends the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act providing for Texas Hold'em tournaments.

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House Appropriations will hold an Off the Floor meeting on Thurs., Aug. 20, 2009 in Room 140 Main Capitol. The agenda will be announced.

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House Tourism and Recreational Development will hold a public hearing at 2:00 p.m. on Thurs. Aug 20, 2009 in the Community Arts Center, 220 W. Fourth Street, Williamsport on quarterly report of Governor's Tourism Partnership.

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House Tourism and Recreational Development will hold a public hearing at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 21, 2009 in the Genetti Hotel, Grand Ballroom, 200 W. Fourth Street, Williamsport with community leaders and LLWS Officials.

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House Appropriations will hold an Off the Floor meeting on Friday, Aug. 21, 2009 in Room 140 Main Capitol. The agenda will be announced.

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House Tourism and Recreational Development will hold a public hearing at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2009 in the Genetti Hotel, Grand Ballroom, 200 W. Fourth Street, Williamsport with Executive Director of Lycoming County CVB

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**\*\*\* Independent Regulatory Review Commission** will hold a meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Thurs., Aug. 20, 2009 in 14<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, 222 Market Street, Harrisburg. It will be a staff briefing followed by a public meeting to consider the following regulations:

- Reg. No. 2756 PA Gaming Control Board #125-99: Junkets, Slot Machines, and Practice and Procedures, Omnibus Amendments
- Reg. No. 2721 Dept. of Labor & Industry #12-84: Special Rules of Administrative Practice & Procedure Before the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board; Special Rules of Administrative Practice & Procedure Before the Workers' Compensation Judges
- Reg. No. 2748 PA Gaming Control Board #125-97: Vendor Permission to Conduct Business Prior to Certification or Registration
- Reg. No. 2740 Insurance Department #11-238: Annual Audited Insurers' Financial Report Required

- Reg. No. 2709 Insurance Department #11-241: Military Sales Practices
  - **senate session schedule**
  - **Senate will convene in voting session on Wednesday, August 19 at 1:00 p.m. Until then, the Senate stands in recess until the call of the President Pro Tempore.**
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Senate Finance will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2009, in Room 8E-B East Wing on Local Government Financing and Municipal Pension Issues.

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### **Other Articles**

- 08-14-2009     [State board's OK clears way for exams to graduate](#)  
The first ones could be given to high school seniors in 2010-11 Friday, August 14, 2009 By Tracie Mauriello, Post-Gazette Harrisburg Bureau HARRISBURG -- Pennsylvania high school students could be taking graduation exams designed to measure competence in core subject areas by the 2010-11... - [POST-GAZ.](#)
- 08-14-2009     [It's not if, but when for expansion to table games](#)  
The moment Pennsylvania legislators approved slot-machine gambling in 2004, many predicted blackjack, poker and craps tables would soon join them on the floor of commonwealth casinos. Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi, R-9, of Chester, said legislation to legalize table games is under consideration and may come up for a vote... - [DELCO TIMES](#)
- 08-13-2009     [Bottled Water Boom Appears Tapped Out](#)  
The recession has finally answered the question that centuries of philosophers could not: The glass is half-empty. That's because sales of bottled water have fallen for the first time in at least five years, assailed by wrathful environmentalists and budget-conscious consumers, who have discovered that tap water is... - [WASH POST](#)
- 08-12-2009     [Jt. public hearing of House, Senate Ag cmtes to be held during Ag Progress Days](#)  
(Press Release)
- 08-12-2009     [State had coldest July in 100 years, NOAA says](#)  
Northeastern Pennsylvania got its only taste of 90-degree weather back in April, when temperatures soared for four days breaking 90 twice, said National Weather Service meteorologist Erik Heden. The temperature hasn't hit 90 since, making for a cold summer -... - [HAZLE. STANDARD](#)
- 08-11-2009     [Pa. lays off 255 as Rendell advocates spending](#)  
HERSHEY, Pa. — Pennsylvania officials began notifying more than

250 state employees Monday that they are losing their jobs, as a stubborn budget stalemate driven by the recession and partisanship threatened to exact a higher toll... - [AP](#)

08-11-2009

**[Obama Sets Immigration Changes for 2010](#)**

GUADALAJARA, Mexico — Flanked by his counterparts from Mexico and Canada, President Obama on Monday reiterated his commitment to pursuing comprehensive immigration reform, despite his packed political agenda and the staunch opposition such an initiative is likely to face.... - [NY TIMES](#)

08-10-2009

**[Dept. of Agriculture: Inside PDA Newsletter for August 7, 2009](#)**

(Press Release)

08-10-2009

**[Fat America: Our biggest health issue is written on the scale](#)**

An epidemic is sweeping across America, an affliction so pervasive that seven in 10 adults already are in its grip. It is hitting a growing number of our children, too, and there's no vaccine to cure it. The real tragedy is that this illness is largely self-inflicted, a killer... - [POST-GAZ.](#)

08-10-2009

**[Preparing for Swine Flu's Return](#)**

As the first influenza pandemic in 41 years has spread during the Southern Hemisphere's winter over the past few months, the United States and other northern countries have been racing to prepare for a second wave of swine flu virus. This Story \* Preparing for Swine Flu's Return... - [WASH POST](#)