

PA Transportation Recap



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Co-Sponsor Memos

- [N HCO2078](#) [Dush, Cris](#)

Designates the newly constructed bridge on State Route 119 covering Pine Run Creek as the PFC Frank Enzer Weiss United States Marine Corps Bridge.
- [N HCO2091](#) [Costa, Paul](#)

Expands the ability to use licensed private-sector inspectors (Certified Examiners of Weights and Measures) to inspect truck mounted fuel oil meters and retail vehicle fuel dispensers.
- [N HCO2100](#) [Rothman, Greg](#)

Provides restrictions on the use of data collected from automated license plate reader systems (ALPRs).
- [N HCO2110](#) [Kortz, Bill](#)

Designates the Harley-Davidson as the official motorcycle of Pennsylvania.
- [N HCO2111](#) [Ellis, Brian](#)

Increases the minimum amount of insurance a person would be required to carry on an automobile policy.
- [N HCO2115](#) [Marshall, Jim](#)

Creates a pilot program to provide additional safety protections for Pennsylvania construction workers operating in active work zones.
- [N HCO2122](#) [Marshall, Jim](#)

Addresses key issues including safety, insurance, accident reporting, registration, and titling, without needlessly restricting testing and deployment of vehicles with fully self-driving safety features.
- [N SCO 900](#) [Rafferty, John](#)

Prohibits novice drivers from using cell phones while driving in this Commonwealth.
- [N SCO 901](#) [Rafferty, John](#)

Allows golf carts on public-highway crossovers for recreational purposes as well as golf carts and low-speed utility vehicles for incidental travel on public highways for maintenance purposes.

Bill Actions

- [N HB 74](#) [Snyder, Pam](#)

(PN 69) Amends the Automobile Lemon Law to include motorcycles in the definition of "new motor vehicle." Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-09-17 H Filed
01-23-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Consumer Affairs
05-22-17 H Press conference held

- [N HB 108](#) [Warner, Ryan](#)

(PN 85) Act designating Exit 18 of State Route 43 in Fayette County as the Staff Sgt. John P. Wanto Vietnam Veteran Exit. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-23-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
 05-23-17 H Removed from the table
 05-24-17 H Set on the House Calendar
 05-24-17 Second consideration 10:51am
 05-24-17 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

N [HB 109](#) [Warner, Ryan](#)

(PN 86) Act designating Exit 15 of State Route 43 in Fayette County as the Lance Corporal Russell W. Naugle Vietnam Veteran Exit. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-08-17 H First consideration
 05-08-17 H Laid on the table
 05-24-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
 05-24-17 H Removed from the table
 06-05-17 H Set on the House Calendar

N [HB 154](#) [Tallman, Will](#)

(PN 118) Act designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 2003 over the Yellow Breeches Creek, South Middleton Township, Cumberland County, as the Sgt. Adam C. Schoeller Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-23-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
 05-23-17 H Removed from the table
 05-24-17 H Set on the House Calendar
 05-24-17 Second consideration 10:52am
 05-24-17 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

N [HB 181](#) [Day, Gary](#)

(PN 143) Act designating a portion of State Route 100 in Lehigh County as the Captain Mark T. Resh Memorial Highway. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-23-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
 05-23-17 H Removed from the table
 05-24-17 H Set on the House Calendar
 05-24-17 Second consideration 10:52am
 05-24-17 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

N [HB 218](#) [Saylor, Stanley](#)

(PN 1236) The General Appropriation Act of 2017 provides from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive and Judicial Departments, the State Government Support Agencies and the General Assembly of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, for certain institutions and organizations and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017; to provide appropriations from the State Lottery Fund, the Tobacco Settlement Fund, the Aviation Restricted Account, the Hazardous Material Response Fund, The State Stores Fund, the Milk Marketing Fund, the Home Investment Trust Fund, the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund, the Tuition Account Guaranteed Savings Program Fund, the Banking Fund, the Firearm Records Check Fund, the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority Fund, the Oil and Gas Lease Fund, the Home Improvement Account, the Cigarette Fire Safety and Firefighter Protection Act Enforcement Fund, the Commonwealth Financing Authority Debt Service Restricted Revenue Account, the Insurance Regulation and Oversight Fund, the Pennsylvania Racehorse Development Restricted Receipt Account, the Multimodal Transportation Fund, the State Racing Fund and the ABLE Savings Program Fund to the Executive Department; to provide appropriations

from the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account to the Judicial Department for the fiscal year July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018; to provide appropriations from the Motor License Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, for the proper operation of several departments of the Commonwealth and the Pennsylvania State Police authorized to spend Motor License Fund money; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017; and to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds from the General Fund, the State Lottery Fund and the Tobacco Settlement Fund for the Executive and Legislative Departments of the Commonwealth for the fiscal year July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. The bill is effective immediately and retroactive to July 1, 2017, if enacted after that date. (Prior Printer Number: 162)

Bill History:

04-04-17 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:114/N: 84)
 04-06-17 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Appropriations
 05-10-17 S Discussed during informational meeting, House Agriculture and Rural Affairs -- House Agriculture and Rural Affairs
 05-23-17 S Discussed during public hearing, House Health -- House Health
 05-24-17 S Discussed during HOPE Caucus meeting

 [HB 269](#)

[Murt, Thomas](#)

(PN 228) Act amending the act of November 4, 2016 (P.L.1196, No.159), entitled "An act designating a portion of State Route 663 in Montgomery County as the Army Specialist Ray Ira Haas Memorial Highway; designating the portion of State Route 100 from Hereford Township at the Lehigh County line through Washington Township in Berks County as the First Lieutenant William R. Gendebien Memorial Highway; designating a portion of State Route 2026, also known as Blair Mill Road, in Montgomery County as the Private First Class Paul T. Wright Memorial Highway; designating a bridge on a portion of Sheep Bridge Road over I-83, Newberry Township, York County, as the Staff Sgt. Jason M. Faley Memorial Bridge; designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 879 over Trout Run in Goshen Township, Clearfield County, as the Private David Kyle McCracken Memorial Bridge; designating a portion of State Route 2034 in Montgomery County as the Cpl. Carl F. Hynek III Memorial Highway; designating a portion of State Route 145 in Salisbury Township, Lehigh County, as the Cpl. Joshua B. Smith Memorial Highway; designating a bridge on that portion of U.S. Route 15 over State Route 114, Upper Allen Township, Cumberland County, as the Cpl. Jonathan Dean Faircloth Memorial Bridge; designating a portion of Byberry Road between Warminster Road and Orangemen's Road in Montgomery County as the Major Jeffrey Toczylowski Memorial Highway; designating a portion of State Route 1010 in Berks County as the DeLight Breidegam, Jr., Memorial Highway; designating a portion of State Route 51 in Fayette County as the Officer Richard Champion Memorial Highway; designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 741 over

the Conestoga River, between Pequea Township and Lancaster Township, Lancaster County, as the Cpl. Eric M. Torbert, Jr., Memorial Bridge; designating the interchange of State Route 43, the Mon-Fayette Expressway, with Rubles Mill Road, known as Exit 4, Fayette County, as the Master Sgt. Arthur L. Lilley Memorial Interchange; designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 770 over the Tunungwant Creek, Bradford Township, McKean County, as the Master Sgt. Thomas Maholic Memorial Bridge; designating a bridge to be constructed on that portion of State Route 6 over Dingman Run, Coudersport Borough, Potter County, as the PFC George Pesock Memorial Bridge; designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 872 over Bailey Run in Wharton Township, Potter County, as the Sgt. Paul M. Brown Memorial Bridge; designating a certain interchange in New Stanton Borough, Westmoreland County, as the E. Jeffrey Wentzel Memorial Interchange; designating a portion of State Route 220 in Lycoming and Sullivan Counties as the Lieutenant Commander John J. Peterman Memorial Highway; designating a portion of State Route 220 in Lycoming County as the Thomas A. Paternostro Memorial Highway; designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 1027 in Polk Township, Jefferson County, as the Polk Township Veterans Memorial Bridge; and making related repeals," amending the title of the act; and further providing for Cpl. Carl F. Hynek III Memorial Highway. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-23-17 S Meeting set for 11:30 a.m., Room 8 E-B, East Wing, Senate Transportation -- Senate Transportation
 05-23-17 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Transportation
 05-23-17 S Reported as committed from Senate Transportation
 05-23-17 S First consideration
 06-05-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

 [HB 271](#)

[Ortitay, Jason](#)

(PN 1821) Amends Title 4 (Amusements) providing for fantasy contests and for iLottery; in general provisions, further providing for legislative intent and for definitions; in Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, further providing for general and specific powers, for licensed gaming entity application appeals from board, for board minutes and records, for regulatory authority of board, for reports of board and for diversity goals of board; in licensees, further providing for Category 3 slot machine license, for slot machine license application, for supplier licenses and for manufacturer licenses, providing for nongaming service provider, further providing for license renewals and providing for slot machine license operation fee; in table games, further providing for other financial transactions and for local share assessment; providing for interactive gaming; imposing a multi-use gaming device tax; in revenues, further providing for establishment of State Gaming Fund and net slot machine revenue distribution and for the Pennsylvania Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund, establishing the Casino Marketing and Capital Development Account and further providing for transfers from State Gaming Fund; in administration and enforcement, further providing for responsibility and authority of department, for wagering on credit, for compulsive and problem gambling program, for financial and employment interests, for regulation

requiring exclusion or ejection of certain persons, for repeat offenders excludable from licensed gaming facility, for list of persons self excluded from gaming activities, for investigations and enforcement and for prohibited acts and penalties; in miscellaneous provisions, further providing for appropriations; and making a related repeal. Portions are effective in 60 days, portions are effective in 180 days, and the remainder is effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 229, 1028, 1237)

Bill History:

05-24-17 S Over in Senate
 05-24-17 Laid out for discussion 1:50pm
 05-24-17 S Senate Corman motioned to proceed on HB 271-
 Agreed to
 05-24-17 Third consideration 1:53pm
 05-24-17 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 38/N: 12)

N [HB 303](#) [Topper, Jesse](#)

(PN 303) Act designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 1005, known as Church View Road, Segment 0180, Offset 0000, over Beaver Creek, South Woodbury Township, Bedford County, as the PFC/POW William G. Koontz Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-23-17 S Meeting set for 11:30 a.m., Room 8 E-B, East Wing, Senate Transportation -- Senate Transportation
 05-23-17 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Transportation
 05-23-17 S Reported as committed from Senate Transportation
 05-23-17 S First consideration
 06-05-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

N [HB 603](#) [Metzgar, Carl](#)

(PN 641) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding language providing a vehicle that is operated by an engine fueled by compressed or liquefied natural gas may exceed the 80,000 pound gross natural weight limit and any axle weight limits by an amount not to exceed 2,000 pounds that is equal to the difference between the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system carried by the vehicle and the weight of a comparable diesel truck and fueling system. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-24-17 H Reported as committed from House Appropriations
 05-24-17 H Set on the House Calendar
 05-24-17 Laid out for discussion 11:05am
 05-24-17 Third consideration 11:05am
 05-24-17 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:190/N: 0)

N [HB 741](#) [Stephens, Todd](#)

(PN 1262) Amends Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in other offenses, further providing for drug trafficking sentencing and penalties; in sentencing authority, further providing for sentencing and penalties for trafficking drugs to minors and for drug free zones with exceptions for marijuana and hashish on college campuses; further providing for sentences for offenses committed on public transportation; for sentences for offenses against elderly persons; for sentences for offenses against infant persons; and for sentences for offenses committed while impersonating a law enforcement officer with a mandatory sentence of at least four years when convicted of murder of the third degree, voluntary manslaughter, rape, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, aggravated assault, robbery, or kidnapping in such instances. The bill provides for application of

mandatory minimum sentences for certain offenses. Also restores mandatory minimum sentencing provisions relating to violent crimes committed with firearms. Effective in 60 days.
(Prior Printer Number: 807)

Bill History:

04-05-17 Third consideration 4:27pm
04-05-17 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:122/N: 67)
04-06-17 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Judiciary
05-22-17 S Press conference held
05-22-17 S Discussed during joint public hearing, Senate Judiciary -- Senate Judiciary

 [HB 831](#)

[Keller, Mark](#)

(PN 1178) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in general provisions relating to operation of vehicles, further providing for obedience to authorized persons directing traffic and providing for drivers in organized motorcycle processions; in rules of the road in general, further providing for following too closely; in inspection of vehicles, further providing for inspection by police or Commonwealth personnel; and, in enforcement, further providing for investigation by police officers. The bill allows the driver of a vehicle or motorcycle that is being driven in an organized motorcycle procession to park or stand irrespective of provisions and proceed past a red signal indication or stop sign if the lead vehicle or motorcycle in the procession started through the intersection while the signal indicator was green, only if the lead and trailing vehicle or motorcycle in an organized motorcycle procession is equipped with and displays a yellow flashing light, lighted head lamps and emergency flashers. The bill also states a systematic vehicle inspection program may stop only commercial motor vehicles. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-24-17 H Voted favorably from committee as amended House Transportation
05-24-17 H Reported as amended House Transportation
05-24-17 H First consideration
05-24-17 H Laid on the table
06-05-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar

 [HB 917](#)

[Everett, Garth](#)

(PN 1071) Amends Title 53 (Municipalities) adding a new section prohibiting a police officer or police department in the Commonwealth from engaging in motorcycle profiling. Requires the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission to include, as part of the basic and in-service training, instruction on what conduct constitutes motorcycle profiling in patrol procedures and other police department operations and the duty to refrain from engaging in motorcycle profiling. Also requires local police departments to include in its procedures and operating policies a statement that condemns the profiling. Further provides for private right of action. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

03-21-17 H Filed
03-22-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary
05-22-17 H Press conference held

 [HB 952](#)

[Snyder, Pam](#)

(PN 1111) Act designating the bridge, identified as Bridge Key 53825, on that portion of State Route 1011, also known as Castile Run Road, over the South Fork Tenmile Creek between

Jefferson Township and Clarksville Borough, Greene County, as the PFC Brent A. McClellan Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-23-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
 05-23-17 H Removed from the table
 05-24-17 H Set on the House Calendar
 05-24-17 Second consideration 10:52am
 05-24-17 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

 [HB 1049](#) [Hahn, Marcia](#)

(PN 1221) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in licensing of drivers, further providing for driving while operating privilege is suspended or revoked by adding increasing penalties for second, third, and fourth and subsequent violations. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-24-17 H Set on the House Calendar
 05-24-17 Laid out for discussion 11:13am
 05-24-17 H House Reed motion to proceed to vote on HB 1049
 05-24-17 Third consideration 11:14am
 05-24-17 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:189/N: 1)

 [HB 1187](#) [Taylor, John](#)

(PN 1409) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) establishing a pilot program for an automated speed enforcement system on US Route 1 in Philadelphia from the Bucks County Line to I-76. Provides requirements for the City of Philadelphia pertaining to management of the program, and for PennDOT approval. Also outlines rules governing violations. The addition of 75 Pa.C.S. 3369 (e) shall take effect 60 days after publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin of the notice under section 2. The remainder of the act is effective immediately.

Bill History:

05-24-17 H Voted favorably from committee as amended House Transportation
 05-24-17 H Reported as amended House Transportation
 05-24-17 H First consideration
 05-24-17 H Laid on the table
 06-05-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar

 [HB 1189](#) [McClinton, Joanna](#)

(PN 1768) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in other offenses, further providing for the Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction Fund by assessing a mandatory cost of \$150 (changed from \$100) on any individual convicted or adjudicated delinquent or any individual who pleads guilty or nolo contendere for various violations relating to theft, fraud, alcohol, and drugs. In the case of an individual convicted, adjudicated delinquent, or granted Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition for a violation, an additional assessment in the amount of \$200 shall be assessed when the amount of alcohol by weight in the blood of the individual is equal to or greater than 0.08 percent at the time a chemical test is performed. Five percent of grant moneys deposited into the fund under this paragraph shall be made available to eligible organizations for public awareness campaigns, including school districts. Effective immediately.

Bill History:

05-19-17 H Filed
 05-19-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary

 [HB 1219](#) [Reed, Dave](#)

(PN 1447) Act designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 1012, known as the Diamondville Bridge, Cherryhill

Township, Indiana County, as the Sgt. Robert Eugene Goodlin Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-23-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
 05-23-17 H Removed from the table
 05-24-17 H Set on the House Calendar
 05-24-17 Second consideration 10:53am
 05-24-17 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

 [HB 1239](#) [Marshall, Jim](#)

(PN 1466) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding language to section 1504 relating to classes of licenses providing a person who violates subsection (a) relating to proper class of license required shall be sentenced to pay a fine of up to \$200, except that, if the person charged provides satisfactory proof of having held the proper class of license valid on the last day of the preceding driver's license period and no more than six months has elapsed from the last date of renewal, the fine shall be \$25. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-24-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Transportation
 05-24-17 H Reported as committed from House Transportation
 05-24-17 H First consideration
 05-24-17 H Laid on the table
 06-05-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar

 [HB 1244](#) [Carroll, Mike](#)

(PN 1488) Act designating a bridge on that portion of U.S. Route 11 over the Susquehanna River between the City of Pittston and West Pittston Borough, Luzerne County, as the Specialist Dale J. Kridlo Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-23-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
 05-23-17 H Removed from the table
 05-24-17 H Set on the House Calendar
 05-24-17 Second consideration 10:53am
 05-24-17 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

 [HB 1270](#) [Hanna, Mike](#)

(PN 1537) Act designating a bridge at the junction of State Route 150 and State Route 64 over Fishing Creek in Mill Hall Borough, Clinton County, as the U.S. Navy SOC David M. Collins Veterans Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-23-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar
 05-23-17 H Removed from the table
 05-24-17 H Set on the House Calendar
 05-24-17 Second consideration 10:54am
 05-24-17 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

 [HB 1288](#) [Marshall, Jim](#)

(PN 1578) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in registration of vehicles, further providing for person with disability plate and placard. The bill adds optometrist to persons who can certify a statement that the person is disabled. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-24-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Transportation
 05-24-17 H Reported as committed from House Transportation
 05-24-17 H First consideration
 05-24-17 H Laid on the table
 06-05-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar

 [HB 1411](#) [Wentling, Parke](#)

(PN 1776) Designates a portion of State Route 18 in West Fallowfield Township, Crawford County, as the Staff Sergeant James Douglas Mowris Memorial Highway. Effective in 60

days.

Bill History:

05-24-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Transportation
 05-24-17 H Reported as committed from House Transportation
 05-24-17 H First consideration
 05-24-17 H Laid on the table
 06-05-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar

 [HB 1414](#) [Barrar, Stephen](#)

(PN 1779) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in other required equipment, further providing for visual signals on authorized vehicles by establishing a tow truck may be equipped with one or more flashing or revolving yellow lights and one or more flashing or revolving red lights to remove a disabled vehicle when dispatched by 911, responding to law enforcement, or responding to a request from the owner. The combination of yellow and red lights specified in this subsection may be used only during the period in which the tow truck is at the incident to which it was dispatched or requested for the removal of a disabled vehicle, with violations resulting in a summary offense by a fine between \$500 and \$1,000. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-19-17 H Filed
 05-19-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

 [HB 1426](#) [Fee, Mindy](#)

(PN 1794) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in size, weight and load, further providing for conditions of permits and security for damages, for permit for movement of construction equipment and for permit for movement of containerized cargo. A permitted vehicle, combination or load which does not exceed 135,000 pounds (increased from 107,000) gross weight and which does not exceed 10 feet in width or any height or length limitation under Subchapter B (relating to width, height and length) may be driven, hauled or towed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, if the vehicle or combination is operated at prevailing speeds. Movement under this subsection is not authorized during inclement weather. The holiday restriction is removed. effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-19-17 H Filed
 05-22-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

 [HB 1431](#) [Masser, Kurt](#)

(PN 1817) Act designating a portion of State Routes 54, 901 and 2023 in Northumberland County and Schuylkill County as the Honorable Robert E. Belfanti, Jr., Memorial Highway. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-24-17 H Voted favorably from committee as amended House Transportation
 05-24-17 H Reported as amended House Transportation
 05-24-17 H First consideration
 05-24-17 H Laid on the table
 06-05-17 H Set on the Tabled Calendar

 [HB 1444](#) [Marshall, Jim](#)

(PN 1836) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in fees, further providing for annual hauling permits; and, in size, weight and load, further providing for permit for movement during course of manufacture. A permit for overweight movement of up to 50 miles shall be \$750 and a permit for overweight movement for more than 50 miles shall be \$900. Further, a combination of

vehicles which is hauling hot ingots or a hot box may be permitted by the department and local authorities to move upon highways within their respective jurisdictions a distance not exceeding 125 miles (increased from 25 miles) if the gross weight does not exceed 150,000 pounds and the weight of any nonsteering axle does not exceed 21,000 pounds. No permit may be issued for this type of movement upon an interstate highway. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-23-17 H Filed
05-24-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

 [HB 1461](#) [DeLuca, Anthony](#)

Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in rules of the road in general, prohibiting use of handheld mobile telephones.

Bill History:

05-25-17 H Filed

 [HR 337](#) [Pickett, Tina](#)

(PN 1735) Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to enact legislation that would allow states to regulate air ambulance billing and pricing practices.

Bill History:

05-18-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Insurance
05-22-17 H Meeting set for 11:00 a.m., Room 60, East Wing, House Insurance -- House Insurance
05-22-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Insurance
05-22-17 H Reported as committed from House Insurance
06-05-17 H Set on the House Calendar

 [SB 133](#) [Ward, Kim](#)

(PN 555) The REAL ID Compliance Act requires the Department of Transportation to submit a written request to the Department of Homeland Security that seeks an extension of time for the Commonwealth to comply with the provisions of the federal REAL ID Act. The amount of time requested for the extension shall be at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation. Requires the secretary to also present a report to the chairs and minority chairs of the Senate Communication and Technology Committee and the Senate and House Transportation Committees providing details and all estimated costs associated with the implementation and maintenance of all remaining requirements for compliance with the federal REAL ID Act as determined by the US Department of Homeland Security. Also requires the report to include all estimated initial and recurring costs to establish and maintain a two-tiered system which provides individuals with a choice between being issued a standard driver's license or identification card or a driver's license or identification card compliant with the REAL ID Act. The bill makes repeals the REAL ID Nonparticipation Act. Effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 155)

Bill History:

05-24-17 H House concurred in Senate amendments to House amendments ([Vote Y: 190/N: 1](#))
05-24-17 H Signed in the House
05-24-17 S Signed in the Senate
05-24-17 G In the hands of the Governor
05-26-17 G Approved by the Governor

 [SB 288](#) [Rafferty, John](#)

(PN 274) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in rules of the road in general, further providing for duty of driver in emergency response areas by increasing penalties for a violation of what is

colloquially known as the Steer Clear Law. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-22-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar
 05-22-17 Laid out for discussion 3:52pm
 05-22-17 Third consideration 3:52pm
 05-22-17 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 50/N: 0)
 05-24-17 H Received in the House and referred to House Transportation

N [SB 382](#) [Schwank, Judy](#)

(PN 372) Amends the Liquid Fuels Tax Municipal Allocation Law to provide a formula for a surcharge on municipalities with a population of 5,000 or more utilizing the Pennsylvania State Police as their law enforcement agency. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

02-15-17 S Filed
 02-15-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Law and Justice
 05-23-17 S Discussed during public hearing, Senate Law and Justice -- Senate Law and Justice

N [SB 435](#) [Boscola, Lisa](#)

(PN 612) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in miscellaneous provisions, requiring a driver to make a reasonable effort to remove snow or ice from the vehicle within 24 hours of the cessation of the falling snow or ice. The bill provides for exceptions and penalties. Provides this amendatory act shall be known as "Christine's Law." Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 426)

Bill History:

03-28-17 S Voted favorably from committee as amended Senate Transportation
 03-28-17 S Reported as amended Senate Transportation
 03-28-17 S First consideration
 05-22-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar
 05-22-17 S Laid on the table (Pursuant to Senate Rule 9)

N [SB 444](#) [White, Donald](#)

(PN 435) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in taxes for highway maintenance and construction, further providing for allocation of proceeds by tying the annual maintenance payment of \$4,000 to the inflation rate. Applicable retroactively to January 1, 2008. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-10-17 S Reported as amended Senate Transportation
 05-10-17 S First consideration
 05-22-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar
 05-22-17 Second consideration 4:10pm
 05-22-17 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

N [SB 564](#) [Yaw, Gene](#)

(PN 610) The Bridge Fencing Safety Act provides for installation of protective fencing on certain state-owned bridges and for powers and duties of the Department of Transportation. When a bridge is built with a sidewalk or a concrete barrier is installed, modified or rehabilitated on a bridge with a sidewalk over an interstate or other limited access highway, the department shall install protective fencing. When a bridge is built without a sidewalk or a concrete barrier is installed, modified or rehabilitated on a bridge without a sidewalk over an interstate or other limited access highway, the department, as part of its preliminary design process, shall consider installation of protective fencing at certain locations near schools, playgrounds and urban areas; where otherwise deemed necessary; or where there have been incidents of objects being dropped or thrown from the overpass. The department shall

consider installation of protective fencing at similar locations on bridges over nonlimited access highways. Effective immediately.

Bill History:

05-23-17 S Meeting set for 11:30 a.m., Room 8 E-B, East Wing, Senate Transportation -- Senate Transportation
 05-23-17 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Transportation
 05-23-17 S Reported as committed from Senate Transportation
 05-23-17 S First consideration
 06-05-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

 [SB 589](#)

[Langerholc, Wayne \(F\)](#)

(PN 756) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in size, weight and load, further providing for fire apparatus, for length of vehicles and for maximum gross weight of vehicles. A vehicle operated by an engine fueled primarily by compressed or liquefied natural gas may exceed the gross vehicle weight limits by an amount, not to exceed a maximum of 2,000 pounds, that is equal to the difference between the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system carried by the vehicle and the weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system. The weight requirements of this chapter do not apply to emergency vehicles. In lieu of the weight requirements of this chapter, the requirements of 23 U.S.C. 127(R)(1) shall apply to emergency vehicles. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 667)

Bill History:

05-24-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar
 05-24-17 Laid out for discussion 12:54pm
 05-24-17 S 1 Floor amendment(s) adopted
 05-24-17 Second consideration 12:55pm
 06-05-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

 [SB 627](#)

[Killion, Thomas](#)

(PN 700) Amends the Tax Reform Code, in corporate net income tax, adding qualified air freight forwarding companies under the scope of "taxable income." "Qualified air freight forwarding company" is defined as a company that is engaged in the air freight forwarding business, primarily uses an airline with which it has common ownership and control, and will use the revenue miles of the airline. The bill is effective immediately but applies to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2016.

Bill History:

05-08-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar
 04-26-17 S First consideration
 05-22-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar
 05-22-17 Second consideration 4:12pm
 05-22-17 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

 [SB 648](#)

[Rafferty, John](#)

(PN 757) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in registration of vehicles, further providing for special registration plates and providing for Distracted Driving Awareness plate, which shall be accompanied by an additional fee of \$40 to be used exclusively to advance public education and outreach on the dangers posed by distracted driving, at the department's discretion. The provisions expire December 31, 2025. The bill also authorizes the department to, upon request by the applicant, issue organization registration plates for special groups or for special purposes and bear an appropriate designation. Special groups may charge a fee for authorization to request a registration plate bearing the name of the group. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 736)

Bill History:

04-25-17 S First consideration
 05-22-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar
 05-22-17 Second consideration 4:13pm
 05-22-17 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations
 05-23-17 S Press conference held

 [SB 651](#)

[Browne, Patrick](#)

(PN 737) The Capital Budget Project Itemization Act of 2017-2018 provides for the capital budget for fiscal year 2017-2018; itemizing public improvement projects, furniture and equipment projects, transportation assistance projects, redevelopment assistance, flood control projects, Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund projects, Environmental Stewardship Fund projects, State forestry bridge projects, park and forest management projects, State ATV/ Snowmobile Fund projects, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission projects, Oil and Gas Lease Fund projects and Motor License Fund projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of General Services, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation or the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, together with their estimated financial costs; authorizing the incurring of debt without the approval of the electors for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of General Services, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation or the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission; authorizing the use of current revenue for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources or the Department of Transportation stating the estimated useful life of the projects; making a related repeal; and making appropriations. Effective immediately.

Bill History:

05-23-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar
 05-23-17 Laid out for discussion 3:37pm
 05-23-17 Third consideration 3:37pm
 05-23-17 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 50/N: 0)
 05-25-17 H Received in the House and referred to House Appropriations

 [SB 669](#)

[White, Donald](#)

(PN 788) Act designating the a bridge on a portion of State Route 85 over the north branch of Plum Creek in Plumville Borough in Indiana County as the Henry Lue Weaver Memorial Bridge.

Bill History:

05-23-17 S Meeting set for 11:30 a.m., Room 8 E-B, East Wing, Senate Transportation -- Senate Transportation
 05-23-17 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Transportation
 05-23-17 S Reported as committed from Senate Transportation
 05-23-17 S First consideration
 06-05-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

 [SB 697](#)

[Browne, Patrick](#)

(PN 863) The Capital Budget Act of 2017-2018 appropriates \$1,615,000,000 for the capital budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018. Effective July 1, 2017, or immediately, whichever is later.

Bill History:

05-22-17 S Filed
 05-22-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Appropriations

N [SB 722](#) [Bartolotta, Camera](#)

(PN 861) The Clean Vehicles Investment Plan Act stipulates that funds available to, paid through or planned for use by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a beneficiary of the \$2,700,000,000 Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust shall not conflict with the terms of the settlement nor certain delineated provisions. Specifically the majority of funds shall be used to deploy vehicles that are certified to one of CARB's optional low-NOx standards and vehicles which have zero tailpipe emissions. Vehicle grant funding for a nongovernment fleet vehicle shall provide for 25 percent of the total vehicle cost up to \$50,000 regardless of fuel type. No more than 20 percent of the funds may be used for government fleets. Effective immediately.

Bill History:

05-19-17 S Filed
05-19-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Environmental Resources and Energy

N [SB 724](#) [Rafferty, John](#)

(PN 858) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) repealing section 7802 relating to findings and declaration of policy. Makes changes in the representation of the public members on the Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee. Repeals and replaces the committee's current powers and duties. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-23-17 S Meeting set for 11:30 a.m., Room 8 E-B, East Wing, Senate Transportation -- Senate Transportation
05-23-17 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Transportation
05-23-17 S Reported as committed from Senate Transportation
05-23-17 S First consideration
06-05-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

N [SB 729](#) [Street, Sharif \(F\)](#)

(PN 885) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in registration plates, creating special plates for veterans of an ally foreign country for an additional fee of \$20. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

05-24-17 S Filed
05-24-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation

Committee Stories

House Appropriations Committee

5/24/17, 9:45 a.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

By Matt Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider bills.

[HB 603 Metzgar, Carl](#) - (PN 641) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding language providing a vehicle that is operated by an engine fueled by compressed or liquefied natural gas may exceed the 80,000 pound gross natural weight limit and any axle weight limits by an amount not to exceed 2,000 pounds that is equal to the difference between the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas tank and fueling system carried by the vehicle and the weight of a comparable diesel truck and fueling system. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1049 Hahn, Marcia](#) - (PN 1221) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in licensing of drivers, further providing for driving while operating privilege is suspended or revoked by adding increasing penalties for second, third, and fourth and subsequent violations. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

House Rules Committee

5/24/17, 11:30 a.m., 245 Main Capitol

By Matt Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider [SB 133 Ward, Kim](#) - (PN 555) The REAL ID Compliance Act requires the Department of Transportation to submit a written request to the Department of Homeland Security that seeks an extension of time for the Commonwealth to comply with the provisions of the federal REAL ID Act. The amount of time requested for the extension shall be at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation. Requires the secretary to also present a report to the chairs and minority chairs of the Senate Communication and Technology Committee and the Senate and House Transportation Committees providing details and all estimated costs associated with the implementation and maintenance of all remaining requirements for compliance with the federal REAL ID Act as determined by the US Department of Homeland Security. Also requires the report to include all estimated initial and recurring costs to establish and maintain a two-tiered system which provides individuals with a choice between being issued a standard driver's license or identification card or a driver's license or identification card compliant with the REAL ID Act. The bill makes repeals the REAL ID Nonparticipation Act. Effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 155) - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

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House Transportation Committee

5/24/17, 12:45 p.m., Room 205 Ryan Office Building

By Jeff Cox, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

Video:  [\(click here\)](#)

The committee met to consider bills.

[HB 1411 Wentling, Parke](#) - (PN 1776) Designates a portion of State Route 18 in West Fallowfield Township, Crawford County, as the Staff Sergeant James Douglas Mowris Memorial Highway. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1431 Masser, Kurt](#) - (PN 1817) Act designating a portion of State Routes 54, 901 and 2023 in Northumberland County and Schuylkill County as the Honorable Robert E. Belfanti, Jr., Memorial Highway. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A01449](#) by Culver, was described as providing more details on the military decorations received by Rep. Belfanti and more details on his involvement in his local veterans community. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

[HB 1288 Marshall, Jim](#) - (PN 1578) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in registration of vehicles, further providing for person with disability plate and placard. The bill adds optometrist to persons who can certify a statement that the person is disabled. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1239 Marshall, Jim](#) - (PN 1466) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding language to section 1504 relating to classes of licenses providing a person who violates subsection (a) relating to proper class of license required shall be sentenced to pay a fine of up to \$200, except that, if the person charged provides satisfactory proof of having held the proper class of license valid on the last day of the preceding driver's license period and no more than six months has elapsed from the last date of renewal, the fine shall be \$25. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1187 Taylor, John](#) - (PN 1409) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) establishing a pilot program for an automated speed enforcement system on US Route 1 in Philadelphia from the Bucks County Line to I-76. Provides requirements for the City of Philadelphia pertaining to management of the program, and for PennDOT approval. Also outlines rules governing violations. The addition of 75 Pa.C.S. 3369 (e) shall take effect 60 days after publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin of the notice under section 2. The remainder of the act is effective immediately. - The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A01375](#) by Taylor, provides a definition of "automated speed enforcement system" and authorizes the use of radar and lidar in the devices in the system. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Chairman John Taylor (R-Philadelphia), prime sponsor of the bill, provided a brief overview of his proposed legislation. He cited statistics indicating that in the last five years Roosevelt Boulevard, which represents less than one-half of one percent of the roadways in the city of Philadelphia, has accounted for six percent of the crashes and 13 percent of the deaths in the city. Chairman Taylor explained that those crashes accounted for 4,220 people injured and 61 deaths. He said that the goal of the bill is only to slow people down so that folks will not be harmed and killed on that roadway."

Minority Chairman William Keller (D-Philadelphia) expressed his support for the legislation, describing it as "the step we need to protect the citizens of Philadelphia."

Rep. Michael Schlossberg (D-Lehigh) commented that he hopes if the pilot program is successful it can be expanded to other parts of the Commonwealth.

[HB 831 Keller, Mark](#) - (PN 1178) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in general provisions relating to operation of vehicles, further providing for obedience to authorized persons directing traffic and providing for drivers in organized motorcycle processions; in rules of the road in general, further providing for following too closely; in inspection of vehicles, further providing for inspection by police or Commonwealth personnel; and, in enforcement, further providing for investigation by police officers. The bill allows the driver of a vehicle or motorcycle that is being driven in an organized motorcycle procession to park or stand irrespective of provisions and proceed past a red signal indication or stop sign if the lead vehicle or motorcycle in the procession started through the intersection while the signal indicator was green, only if the lead and trailing vehicle or motorcycle in an organized motorcycle procession is equipped with and displays a yellow flashing light, lighted head lamps and emergency flashers. The bill also states a systematic vehicle inspection program may stop only commercial motor vehicles. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was **reported as amended** with Chairman Keller and Rep. Maria Donatucci (D-Philadelphia) voting in the negative.

[A01261](#) by Kortz, was described as only requiring emergency flashers for participant, if so equipped; changes the authorized visual signals and makes them mandatory; changes the definition of "organized motorcycle procession"; and eliminates the systematic vehicle inspection language. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

[A00727](#) by Rothman, changes the word "commercial motor vehicles" to "motor carrier vehicles" within the systematic vehicle sections of the bill. The amendment was **withdrawn**.

Rep. Stephen Kinsey (D-Philadelphia) asked if the authorized visual signals such as a yellow bandana or cloth is to be attached to the motorcycle or if it something rider could have on their person. Rep. William Kortz (D-Allegheny) responded that it would be attached on the frontal area of the motorcycle.

Chairman Keller expressed his opposition to the bill. He explained that the amendment made improvements but the legislation continues to need work on it. Chairman Keller noted that the Department of Transportation and the Pennsylvania State Police oppose the bill in its current form.

Chairman Taylor and the committee recognized Esther Armstrong of the committee staff upon her retirement effective at the end of the week after 36 years of service with the House of Representatives.

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Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee

5/23/17, 3:15 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room

By Mike Howells, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider [HB 271 Ortity, Jason](#) - (PN 1237) Amends Title 4 (Amusements), in administration and enforcement relating to gaming, further providing for compulsive and problem gambling program by requiring the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to maintain one toll-free problem gambling telephone number to be used at all Pennsylvania casinos. The bill also provides for various definitions and grants the board the authority to

authorize and implement airport gaming in international airports or commercial airports with at least 50,000 passenger enplanements per calendar year, along with the associated qualifications and rules for licensees. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1028) - The bill was **reported as amended** with Senators John Blake (D-Lackawanna) and Wayne Fontana (D-Allegheny) voting in the negative.

[A01435](#) by Scavello, provides for enhancements and reforms to Title 4. Among its changes, provides for Gaming Control Board licensing and regulation of fantasy contests, and for associated taxation; authorizes iGaming; makes changes to Category 3 slot machine license provisions; and amends the local share assessment. The amendment was **adopted** with Senators Blake and Fontana voting in the negative.

Chairman Mario Scavello (R-Monroe) explained to members that the amended bill represents a work in progress and is something over which the House and Senate can now negotiate.

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Senate Appropriations Committee

5/23/17, 4:10 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room

By Mike Howells, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider [HB 271 Ortity, Jason](#) - (PN 1237) Amends Title 4 (Amusements), in administration and enforcement relating to gaming, further providing for compulsive and problem gambling program by requiring the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to maintain one toll-free problem gambling telephone number to be used at all Pennsylvania casinos. The bill also provides for various definitions and grants the board the authority to authorize and implement airport gaming in international airports or commercial airports with at least 50,000 passenger enplanements per calendar year, along with the associated qualifications and rules for licensees. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1028) - The bill was **reported as committed** with Senators John Blake (D-Lackawanna), Stewart Greenleaf (R-Montgomery), Art Haywood (D-Montgomery) and Judy Schwank (D-Berks) voting in the negative.

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Senate Law and Justice Committee

5/23/17, 10:00 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

By Kimberly Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a public hearing on [SB 258 Ward, Kim](#) - (PN 238) Amends the Administrative Code establishing the State Trooper Services Contractual Program. The bill authorizes the State Police Commissioner to enter into agreements with boroughs and townships for the furnishing of police protection by one or more state troopers on a contractual basis, and provides for duties and requirements of various parties in the furtherance of the measure. A trooper would be paid no less than \$65 per hour under an agreement. Effective in 60 days.

Sen. Ward explained she has been working on this concept since she was first elected and explained it gives municipalities an option on the level of service they would like to have. She emphasized the officers would remain under control of the State Police.

[Elam Herr](#), assistant executive director of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS), relayed the rural nature of townships, which comprise 95 percent of the commonwealth's land area and are home to 5.5 million people, and offered discussion on the bill. He opined this proposal is a reasonable alternative to the governor's proposed \$25-per-resident tax. He pointed out that the provisions of SB 258 are similar to the "Resident Trooper" program of the 1990s, which sunset before any municipalities were able to take advantage of the program, but called SB 258 a "much-improved proposal." Herr indicated several other states have programs where their state police may enter into agreements with communities for police protection and those programs seem to be working well. He argued that municipalities would benefit under SB 258 because they would have control over local police service levels and benefit from the professionalism, efficiency, and logistical support of the State Police. He noted SB 258 addresses the current downside of coverage in that troopers are not always in the municipality by empowering contracted troopers to enforce the municipality's public safety ordinances and local speed limits. Herr offered several points of improvement for the bill, such as addressing what happens when a municipality is dissatisfied with the

assigned trooper, offering options to assist existing small or part-time departments that could benefit from the assistance, or whether ordinances beyond "public safety" could be enforced. Herr stated, "We believe SB 258 would be a step in the right direction and provide a reasonable alternative for those municipalities that want to provide police services to their residents." In conclusion, he also noted the need for discussions on how the legislature can adopt meaningful reforms to reduce the financial burdens on the communities that currently provide local police protection.

Chairman McIlhinney questioned how this would be funded and asked if there will be a need for increased revenue. He noted Sen. Judy Schwank's (D-Berks) [SB 382](#) would allow motor license funds to be used to offset this cost. Herr noted PSATS's association for a special police services tax but also discussed the need to address the whole local taxing situation. He remarked property tax has become "a bad term." He said most PSATS members could raise property taxes "somewhat." He called the problem with the governor's proposal is that the service will not change, but under this program the townships will get something for the money they are putting out. Herr said there are numerous proposals that would help municipalities get money, but he stated outright opposition to the governor's proposed \$25 fee out of fear it would increase or that other fees for State Police services would be tacked on.

Sen. Ward pointed out the bill provides for a local decision and argued that they should also be able to figure out how to pay for it, such as using Marcellus Shale natural gas dollars or gaming money. Herr agreed and reiterated his support for a special police services tax, which he explained would be a property tax based on millage.

[Lt. Col. Stephen Bucar](#), deputy commissioner of staff for Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), said PSP patrols 82 percent of the land area of the commonwealth and provides protection to more than 1,700 municipalities. He reviewed the many services provided by PSP and said PSP assisted municipal police through the following incidents in 2016:

- 13,007 request assist-other police
- 15,621 request assist-other agency
- 101,067 incidents were handled by PSP which were not in primary patrol areas
- 40 homicides were investigated at the request of municipal police
- 24 shooting incidents involving municipal law enforcement officers were investigated
- Special emergency response teams responded to 23 municipal police requests for assistance
- Clandestine laboratory response teams responded to 139 municipal police requests
- Approximately 70 percent of PSP laboratory services are annual devoted to municipal police departments.

Chairman McIlhinney again asked how the services should be funded. Lt. Col. Bucar responded the bill presents some challenges to that end, and explained the services provided may compromise the total complement if it is not increased. He added it is unfeasible to assign a particularly individual to a particular municipality and he objected to enforcing local ordinances because each trooper in the district would need to know all the local ordinances. He indicated some challenges could be overcome, but said the bill does not provide clear guidance.

Sen. Ward commented that she never really envisioned this proposal as requiring the PSP to enforce local ordinances. She added that simply the idea of having more troopers available would be a deterrent to crime.

Sen. Tartaglione asked how far down the complement is. Lt. Col. Bucar did not have an exact figure, but said PSP has been averaging around 500 vacancies at any given time. He said three classes are scheduled in the academy and the last graduation "was probably last month or the month before." Sen. Tartaglione referenced her legislation which dedicates collected fines and forfeitures to cadet classes and asked if that would be helpful. Lt. Col. Bucar responded the PSP position is to not be concerned with where the money comes from, but to be funded. He declined to advocate for a specific funding source.

Sen. Regan asked if PSP enforces any local ordinances. Lt. Col. Bucar confirmed PSP does not. Sen. Regan referenced Lt. Col. Bucar's fears that the contracts will be below the threshold to increase the complement and asked for more details. Lt. Col. Bucar explained patrol coverage is segregated by patrol zones, which do not necessarily align with any municipalities. Without an increase in complement, he explained, a trooper would be assigned to one municipality in the zone and precluded from going to another, which means a trooper on the roster is lost. Sen. Regan asked about impacts to response time. Lt. Col. Bucar confirmed incidents would have to wait until another

trooper is available and he also noted the bill does not address when the assigned trooper can be pulled to go to an incident elsewhere.

Chairman Brewster discussed the PSP budget and pointed out about half of that budget is used to police municipalities without police coverage. Lt. Col. Bucar confirmed this. Chairman Brewster also remarked on the trooper shortages, and said he is "trying to build a picture" and opined this bill and the governor's bill have merit, but first PSP needs a full complement. Lt. Col. Bucar offered some math and indicated each class graduates about 80 troopers. Chairman Brewster referenced a calculation that PSP services cost more than \$250 per person and again said the various proposals have merit.

Chairman McIlhinney asked if PSP could work with an idea that allows a trooper to be added to the complement as a trooper is contracted. Lt. Col. Bucar also pointed out that a lot of municipalities have ordinances that conflict with state law and questioned how that would be dealt with. Chairman McIlhinney remarked state law would trump local ordinances and quipped if the municipality is choosing to contract with PSP they would be accepting that term.

[Ed Troxell](#), director of the Pennsylvania Boroughs Association, reviewed the provisions of the bill and noted that it primarily has two parts: program creation/authorization; and implementation and regulation. He observed the bill offers options to negotiate agreeable levels of police protection and the need to have an awareness of attributes of those municipalities contracting police services. He called SB 258 a "wonderful option" that can be tailored for a community that is willing and also suggested the committee consider the police fee suggested by Herr as an option to help fund this. Regarding SB 382, Troxell briefly commented it has elements the association supports and he asked that the committee also examine that bill as an option for communities that are willing.

Chairman McIlhinney asked if the association is in favor of the concept of contracting with the state for police services. Troxell replied, "Oh yeah," and noted the passage of a resolution at the annual conference in support of a fee for municipalities that are 4,000 and above.

Sen. Ward reiterated this legislation was never intended to have PSP enforce local ordinances like noise or parking; this is to put more officers on the street to deter and fight crime, she said. She also wondered how much PSP time is spent doing crime-related issues in municipalities, as opposed to traffic patrol or other tasks. She pointed out it is understandable why funding for traffic-related tasks would come from a traffic-related fund. Troxell responded local police are often called upon to respond to an area that do not have police and said that is a dynamic to be considered as well. He pointed out 89 percent of boroughs have their own police services or are contracted or regional. Sen. Ward said she is not aware of the governor's \$25 proposal being introduced in legislative form.

Sen. Regan pointed out mayors are in charge of the police in boroughs and asked if the mayor would thus be telling PSP what to do. He said he does not see that "going over well." Sen. Ward replied the intention is always for PSP to be in control of the trooper. The mayor or supervisors would contract with PSP, she said, but they are not under control of the local officials. Troxell said that is clear in the bill. Sen. Regan concluded the mayor would abdicate that authority and asked what would be their responsibly. Troxell indicated they mayor could act like an emergency management coordinator or could be the indicated party for affected communications.

Chairman McIlhinney pointed out that in a municipality without a local police force, the mayor would have no authority. The goal of the bill, he noted, is to help municipalities without local police forces.

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Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

5/23/17, 1:45 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room

By Kimberly Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider [SB 133 Ward, Kim](#) - (PN 555) The REAL ID Compliance Act requires the Department of Transportation to submit a written request to the Department of Homeland Security that seeks an extension of time for the Commonwealth to comply with the provisions of the federal REAL ID Act. The amount of time requested for the extension shall be at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation. Requires the secretary to also present a report to the chairs and minority chairs of the Senate Communication and Technology Committee and the Senate and House Transportation Committees providing details and all estimated costs associated with the implementation

and maintenance of all remaining requirements for compliance with the federal REAL ID Act as determined by the US Department of Homeland Security. Also requires the report to include all estimated initial and recurring costs to establish and maintain a two-tiered system which provides individuals with a choice between being issued a standard driver's license or identification card or a driver's license or identification card compliant with the REAL ID Act. The bill makes repeals the REAL ID Nonparticipation Act. Effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 155) - The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A01412](#) by Corman, clarifies provisions relating to commonwealth participation in the REAL ID Act. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

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Senate Transportation Committee

5/23/17, 11:30 a.m., Room 8E-B East Wing

By Jeff Cox Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider bills.

[SB 724 Rafferty, John](#) - (PN 858) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) repealing section 7802 relating to findings and declaration of policy. Makes changes in the representation of the public members on the Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee. Repeals and replaces the committee's current powers and duties. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[SB 564 Yaw, Gene](#) - (PN 610) The Bridge Fencing Safety Act provides for installation of protective fencing on certain state-owned bridges and for powers and duties of the Department of Transportation. When a bridge is built with a sidewalk or a concrete barrier is installed, modified or rehabilitated on a bridge with a sidewalk over an interstate or other limited access highway, the department shall install protective fencing. When a bridge is built without a sidewalk or a concrete barrier is installed, modified or rehabilitated on a bridge without a sidewalk over an interstate or other limited access highway, the department, as part of its preliminary design process, shall consider installation of protective fencing at certain locations near schools, playgrounds and urban areas; where otherwise deemed necessary; or where there have been incidents of objects being dropped or thrown from the overpass. The department shall consider installation of protective fencing at similar locations on bridges over nonlimited access highways. Effective immediately. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[SB 669 White, Donald](#) - (PN 788) Act designating the a bridge on a portion of State Route 85 over the north branch of Plum Creek in Plumville Borough in Indiana County as the Henry Lue Weaver Memorial Bridge. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 269 Murt, Thomas](#) - (PN 228) Act amending the act of November 4, 2016 (P.L.1196, No.159), entitled "An act designating a portion of State Route 663 in Montgomery County as the Army Specialist Ray Ira Haas Memorial Highway; designating the portion of State Route 100 from Hereford Township at the Lehigh County line through Washington Township in Berks County as the First Lieutenant William R. Gendebien Memorial Highway; designating a portion of State Route 2026, also known as Blair Mill Road, in Montgomery County as the Private First Class Paul T. Wright Memorial Highway; designating a bridge on a portion of Sheep Bridge Road over I-83, Newberry Township, York County, as the Staff Sgt. Jason M. Faley Memorial Bridge; designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 879 over Trout Run in Goshen Township, Clearfield County, as the Private David Kyle McCracken Memorial Bridge; designating a portion of State Route 2034 in Montgomery County as the Cpl. Carl F. Hynek III Memorial Highway; designating a portion of State Route 145 in Salisbury Township, Lehigh County, as the Cpl. Joshua B. Smith Memorial Highway; designating a bridge on that portion of U.S. Route 15 over State Route 114, Upper Allen Township, Cumberland County, as the Cpl. Jonathan Dean Faircloth Memorial Bridge; designating a portion of Byberry Road between Warminster Road and Orangemen's Road in Montgomery County as the Major Jeffrey Toczyłowski Memorial Highway; designating a portion of State Route 1010 in Berks County as the DeLight Breidegam, Jr., Memorial Highway; designating a portion of State Route 51 in Fayette County as the Officer Richard Champion Memorial Highway; designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 741 over the Conestoga River, between Pequea Township and Lancaster Township, Lancaster County, as the Cpl. Eric M. Torbert, Jr., Memorial Bridge; designating the interchange of State Route 43, the Mon-Fayette Expressway, with Rubles Mill Road, known as Exit 4, Fayette County, as the Master Sgt. Arthur L. Lilley Memorial Interchange; designating a bridge on that

portion of State Route 770 over the Tunungwant Creek, Bradford Township, McKean County, as the Master Sgt. Thomas Maholic Memorial Bridge; designating a bridge to be constructed on that portion of State Route 6 over Dingman Run, Coudersport Borough, Potter County, as the PFC George Pesock Memorial Bridge; designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 872 over Bailey Run in Wharton Township, Potter County, as the Sgt. Paul M. Brown Memorial Bridge; designating a certain interchange in New Stanton Borough, Westmoreland County, as the E. Jeffrey Wentzel Memorial Interchange; designating a portion of State Route 220 in Lycoming and Sullivan Counties as the Lieutenant Commander John J. Peterman Memorial Highway; designating a portion of State Route 220 in Lycoming County as the Thomas A. Paternostro Memorial Highway; designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 1027 in Polk Township, Jefferson County, as the Polk Township Veterans Memorial Bridge; and making related repeals," amending the title of the act; and further providing for Cpl. Carl F. Hynek III Memorial Highway. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 303 Topper, Jesse](#) - (PN 303) Act designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 1005, known as Church View Road, Segment 0180, Offset 0000, over Beaver Creek, South Woodbury Township, Bedford County, as the PFC/POW William G. Koontz Memorial Bridge. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

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Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

5/22/17, 1:42 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room

By Jeff Cox, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider [SB 133 Ward, Kim](#) - (PN 555) The REAL ID Compliance Act requires the Department of Transportation to submit a written request to the Department of Homeland Security that seeks an extension of time for the Commonwealth to comply with the provisions of the federal REAL ID Act. The amount of time requested for the extension shall be at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation. Requires the secretary to also present a report to the chairs and minority chairs of the Senate Communication and Technology Committee and the Senate and House Transportation Committees providing details and all estimated costs associated with the implementation and maintenance of all remaining requirements for compliance with the federal REAL ID Act as determined by the US Department of Homeland Security. Also requires the report to include all estimated initial and recurring costs to establish and maintain a two-tiered system which provides individuals with a choice between being issued a standard driver's license or identification card or a driver's license or identification card compliant with the REAL ID Act. The bill makes repeals the REAL ID Nonparticipation Act. Effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 155) - The bill was **passed over**.

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Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice and Senate Judiciary Committee

5/22/17, 9:30 a.m., Hearing Room 1 North Office Building

By Andre Dienner, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a public hearing on mandatory minimum sentencing.

[HB 741 Stephens, Todd](#) - (PN 1262) Amends Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in other offenses, further providing for drug trafficking sentencing and penalties; in sentencing authority, further providing for sentencing and penalties for trafficking drugs to minors and for drug free zones with exceptions for marijuana and hashish on college campuses; further providing for sentences for offenses committed on public transportation; for sentences for offenses against elderly persons; for sentences for offenses against infant persons; and for sentences for offenses committed while impersonating a law enforcement officer with a mandatory sentence of at least four years when convicted of murder of the third degree, voluntary manslaughter, rape, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, aggravated assault, robbery, or kidnapping in such instances. The bill provides for application of mandatory minimum sentences for certain offenses. Also restores mandatory minimum sentencing provisions relating to violent crimes committed with firearms. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 807)

Chairman Greenleaf explained in the 1890s and 1990s mandatory minimum legislation was passed, and admitted he was an author of several such bills. He indicated they were intended to deter crime and combat drug problems at the

time, but an update is needed to address results and potential constitutional issues with recent Supreme Court rulings.

[Jeffrey Manning](#), Allegheny County President Judge, offered testimony on his own behalf against the use of mandatory minimums. He indicated an "overwhelming majority" of the judicial branch is also against the measure and described the use of mandatory minimums as an inappropriate determination of sentences instead of judge's discretion to determine justice. "This argument is being repeated in favor of the legislation now being considered," Manning stated. "Claiming mandatory sentences will deter crime, reduce recidivism, and provide transparency and consistency in sentencing." Manning added sufficient data to create mandatory minimums did not exist 30 years ago and does not today; opining such laws "do not deter crime." On efforts against drug use, he added "we lost the war on drugs" and can only start to regain ground by reducing demand through specialty courts instead of focusing on reducing supply. "Imposing new mandatory sentences to deter crime and recidivism is Einstein's definition of insanity; doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results," he maintained. Summarizing, Manning indicated disproportionate sentences do not deter crime but rather shift judgment away from judges and prosecutors, sometimes forcing them to work around certain charges to avoid mandatory minimums they do not see as necessary. "Fewer than half of all convictions that were mandatorily eligible federal offenses resulted in the mandatory sentence," he concluded, reiterating that such sentences are "just not fair" and are decisions better left in the hands of judges.

Chairman Greenleaf clarified not all facts can be appropriately taken into consideration with mandatory minimums in place which affects a judge's decision. Manning said "that is exactly the point" and repeated judges are well suited to determine sentences. Chairman Greenleaf then asked if mandatory minimums have had an impact in drug use. Manning said statistics show it has not, with prisons filled with "people who don't belong there."

Chairman Leach drew on a notion judges are not stiff enough with their sentences, noting the US incarcerates at higher rates than any other developed country. He asked if there is data showing increased prison populations as a result of mandatory minimums. Manning said he does not have exact data but believes a study would demonstrate a correlation. In closing, Chairman Leach drew on 17th century practices of public hanging of criminals for pickpocketing, which he said had many criminals in the crowd still committing that exact same crime. He used this example to agree mandatory minimums do not deter crime, to which Manning concurred.

Sen. Langerholc asked about a line in the testimony stating "the rate of cooperation in cases involving mandatory minimum sentences has been found to be comparable to the average rate of cooperation in any and all other cases that come before the court" and where the information was gathered. Manning said it was from a sentencing commission report.

[John Foradora](#), Jefferson County President Judge, said it is hard to find judges in support of mandatory minimums and drew on specific case issues with DUI mandatory minimums as a prime example, where the mandatory minimum can go against the judge's discretion. He added mandatory minimums are an effective tool for negotiating guilty pleas "if you trust the prosecutor." Foradora also opined criminals are aware of minimums and which areas are more strict, and went on to highlight how the bill addresses the "most heinous" crimes which he said should have some sort of mandatory minimum. He did voice concern with some specific case mandatory minimums originally being developed "on a whim", but exemplified a decrease in DUI as a potential positive effect of mandatory minimums. "I do believe mandatory are a legislative exercise of those crimes that we want to, as a legislature as a state, say you don't commit here," he finished.

Chairman Leach said he generally "doesn't worry" about DUI mandatory minimums but receives many cosponsor memos to increase sentences. He cited this "ratcheting up" as a driving factor for overfilled prisons, and asked theoretically if there were no mandatory minimums, the example in Foradora's testimony of a drunk driver killing her boyfriend in the car would have been sentenced to three years. Fodor said "most judges would not" which he said is mostly agreed upon except for the DA. Chairman Leach stated that is the point of opposing mandatory minimums, as facts matter and they can limit consideration of those circumstances. He concluded, saying it seems testimony indicated some crimes are more valuable than others and prosecutors can handle things differently, but as a matter of public policy a general principle of judge discretion is needed. Foradora agreed.

Sen. Rafferty asked if the Supreme Court took away all mandatory minimums and voiced support for victims through keeping such sentences for serious offenses such as DUI. Foradora said "almost all" and clarified no one complains about certain mandatories such as child abuse.

Sen. Langerholc echoed Sen. Rafferty with supporting some mandatories and asked the best way to implement certain mandatory minimums are in light of the Supreme Court ruling, such as separate chargeable offenses. Foradora said either way the jury would be deciding, but a separate charge could be a "cleaner and better way."

Sen. Street referenced private discussions with prosecutors to determine charges, and asked if public confidence is important for the process. Foradora said certainly. Sen. Street then wondered if judges having discretion is important to ensure that confidence. Foradora said yes.

Chairman Greenleaf asked if there is an opioid epidemic in Foradora's area, being Jefferson County. Foradora said yes. Chairman Greenleaf then asked about recidivism. Fodor said it is "pretty high" but would have to look for a specific number.

John Wetzel, secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, focused on drug mandatories versus violent mandatories and the importance of distinguishing the two in language. He voiced caution with Florida legislation in 2003, which he said led to 63 percent of individuals serving those mandatories being in state prison regardless of their offense level. Sec. Wetzel demonstrated this to recommend intermediate punishment for first time offenders having low risk but high need, which he indicated would reduce recidivism. "That language has to be very precise, and what we don't want is to catch a little fish when we're trying to catch big fish in this net and that has been the history of mandatory minimums in America," he summarized. Sec. Wetzel agreed there is a need to remove high level dealers "introducing poison" into the community, but cautioned that including low level offenders and those who need treatment in state prisons increases crime rates and recidivism.

Chairman Greenleaf wondered what current recidivism rates are. Sec. Wetzel indicated total it is at 60 to 63 percent. Chairman Greenleaf then inquired as to which demographic led to prison overcrowding. Sec. Wetzel demonstrated the crux of the department's focus has been on lower level addicted individuals to reduce overcrowding and recidivism. He drew on the Justice Reinvestment Initiative and an increased focus on parole, but clarified over 100 percent of the reduction for changes to that approach have affected nonwhite individuals.

Sen. Street asked about cost structuring of alternative sentencing for low level drug offenders. Sec. Wetzel said it is significant at about \$42,000 per year with treatment alternatives being "significantly less."

Charles Ramsey, chairman, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) admitted the discussion around mandatories is high in disagreement but PCCD is charged with "sifting through the facts" and improve the entire criminal justice system. He noted many district attorneys and victims favor mandatory minimum provisions, while judges and correctional administrators generally oppose them. He further noted crime is steadily decreasing even after mandatories were removed, opioid arrests have increased at the same time and continue to manifest negative effects, and prison population has been slowly declining. Ramsey indicated reinstating mandatories is of concern to PCCD and the state is best served through court discretion rather than mandates.

Sen. Rafferty asked if PCCD has taken an official position. Ramsey said they have concerns with both human and financial costs and he personally does not see any deterrent effect as a result of the policy, particularly with drugs. He stated he has no problem with mandatory minimums for egregious offenses, but ultimately wants power to be in the judge's hands. Sen. Rafferty asked about mandatory minimums for gun offenses. Ramsey said more could be done there, especially regarding robbery with a firearm as such incidents can escalate quickly to more severe incidents.

Sen. Street asked if mandatory minimums have made Philadelphia safer. Ramsey said no, and partly attributed the lack of success to low level offenders getting long sentences but someone else taking their place. He opined treatment should be utilized more, but admitted there are some people who "need to be in jail."

Chairman Leach commented long sentences can still be implemented without mandatory minimums and said certain crimes like drugs and prostitution cannot be combated through only dealing with supply. He opined treatment and education is a better tool than threatening sentences in order to reduce demand. Ramsey agreed, saying dealers can

be aggressively sought but demand must be addressed to truly fix the problem. "You have to deal with the demand side of the problem," he emphasized. "A drug dealer can't sell drugs to himself." Ramsey restated he wants judges to have as much discretion as possible, and noted a need for more information for judicial elections to improve the judicial process.

Sen. Rafferty returned to guns and mandatory minimums, saying there should be policies in place for such offenses. Ramsey emphasized if there is such policy it has to be used, drawing on the example of previous mandatories being "seldomly imposed" and worked around in plea deals.

[Alfred Blumstein](#), professor, Carnegie Mellon University, provided historical background on mandatory minimum and offered recommendations to the committees. "It is very clear throughout the nation and in Pennsylvania in particular that prison sentences have been cranked up excessively over the past 30 years, generating prison populations much larger than appropriate and so less effective in ensuring public safety. At the estimated cost of about \$41,000 per prisoner year, Pennsylvania's prisoners represent a cost of over \$2 billion. As has been shown in many other states, many of the individuals currently in prison and likely to be sent to prison under current rules could be much more effectively treated in the community at much lower cost. Since criminal activity is so often associated with drug abuse, this warrants significant investment in addiction-treatment centers," he stated. "Mandatory-minimum sentencing laws provide inappropriate distortion and constraints in the sentencing process that should be the primary responsibility of the judge. The judge can gain considerable benefit in reaching an appropriate sentence by taking account of the sentencing guidelines, and perhaps augmented by tested risk assessment instruments. In view of the more appropriate use of judge-based sentencing, I would recommend that the Senate not enact any new mandatory-minimum laws and consider repealing the large majority of those still on the books, and especially so for those that relate to drug offenses."

Sen. Langerholc asked for a time range when the opioid epidemic effects began. Blumstein said it is difficult to pinpoint a year but demand for illicit drugs has generally been going down with a peak in homicides in the early 1990s.

Sen. Vulakovich drew on personal experience as a cop to state justice for the victim is important and being tough on crime is not always political. Blumstein said the victim is important but the victim should not be the primary determiner of punishment. He explained that if they were the more articulate the victim the more rigorous they will be in pursuing sentences. Sen. Vulakovich reasserted the victim must be understood and considered and minimum sentences can help that end in some areas. Blumstein agreed the victim is important but related that justice back to the importance of judicial discretion as better suited for victim representation than the legislature. Sen. Vulakovich referenced "appalling" sentences for certain egregious crimes and indicated there may be others that are "weak on crime" which calls for a need of checks and balances for discretion. Blumstein asserted it is tough for the legislature to apply an appropriate standard to all crimes.

Sen. Rafferty said people have the power through the legislature which plays a key part in defining mandatory minimums in cases such as rape. He agreed treatment and rehabilitation are important, but added that people are unhappy with the direction of drug addiction and crime and the legislature can help define that criminal activity.

Chairman Greenleaf said he is interested in establishing an agreed-to method of justice to make streets safer and thanked Blumstein for the data he presented. Blumstein then reiterated mandatory minimums were a response to drug concerns in the past but the dynamic has changed today. He presented studies showing longer sentences resulted in even more crime, stating "there's a real need to, in the legislature, get to establish policies but you don't want to establish policies that necessarily distort what goes on the courtroom."

Sen. Street drew on mass production of pharmaceuticals and asked Blumstein to identify the true victims and how the legislature can address the problem. Blumstein stated there are many victims but that number can be reduced by identifying "where the excess behavior has been" by identifying physicians that are overly prescribing along with reducing demand.

[Mark Kleiman](#), professor, New York University, spoke against mandatory minimums and highlighted "The sentiment behind mandatories is that we want more people in prison. But that's not always their effect. If something else caps the prison headcount, then more long sentences means fewer shorter sentences...Prisons can reduce crime by deterrence, by incapacitation, and by rehabilitation. But putting too many people away can also increase crime: by

turning out ex-prisoners who are more dangerous and less capable of fitting in to normal society than they were when they went away, and by normalizing incarceration in high-crime communities, thus reducing the deterrent effect of the shame of incarceration," he stated. "Swiftness and certainty are more important than severity in determining the deterrent value of a punishment. Thus, long sentences produce less deterrence per cell-year than shorter sentences. Long sentences also tend to increase the time lag between arrest and disposition."

Kleiman also address the opioid epidemic. "The penetration of the opiate/ opioid markets by drugs of the fentanyl class - all of them more potent than heroin, and some of them massively so - represents a twofold threat. Not only do the fentanyls expand the total opiate supply, in part because they are more compact and thus easier to smuggle than heroin and in part because they can be produced virtually anywhere, but their potency and variety greatly increase the risk of overdose compared to heroin itself. The body count is further increased by the fact that some of the fentanyls are longer-acting pharmacologically than heroin; unlike a heroin user brought out of overdose by naloxone, a revived fentanyl user may well go back into respiratory arrest because the fentanyl outlasts the naloxone," he stated. "That creates a strong case for differential sentencing, with longer sentences for fentanyl sellers than for heroin sellers. Differential sentencing could either be created within a discretionary or guideline framework by making fentanyl dealing a separate and more serious offense than heroin dealing or by the sort of sentence enhancements used for dealing while armed, dealing to a minor, or dealing within a school zone. It could also be imposed on a mandatory basis, but I for one wouldn't be inclined to do that unless and until it became evident that judges were unwilling to impose enhanced sentences for such a deadly drug."

Sen. Langerholc asked what caused crime to radically decrease in 1994. Kleiman said there are dozens of explanations but none were predicted. He explained part of the original increase in 1962 was simply due to the baby boom, and further demographic changes along with many other factors changed the trend. Sen. Langerholc then wondered why prosecutors should not have the tool to use mandatory minimums to incarcerate individuals who should be in jail. Kleiman highlighted the DA is an advocate for one party in each case and discretion should be given to a central judge rather than an advocate.

Sen. Street inquired as to why prosecutorial discretion is preferred in the judicial system. Kleiman said a neutral party having discretion is critical in order to rationally and systematically determine outcomes.

[Mark Bergstrom](#), executive director, Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, outlined "while most agree that some exercise of discretion is required, there is less agreement as to the amount of discretion that should be available, how transparent that exercise of discretion should be, and whether that discretion should be exercised by the prosecutor or the sentencing judge." He indicated the commission has been working since 1978 to advance policies that promote the protection of the public, the restoration of victims, and the rehabilitation of offenders. "The recommendations contained in the guidelines provide judges with substantial discretion regarding disposition and duration of sentences, particularly for less serious offenders. Courts are required to consider the guidelines and the Commonwealth or the defendant may file an appeal based on an erroneous preparation of the guidelines, a departure from the guidelines, or other discretionary aspects of a sentence," he emphasized. "In 2015, 75 percent of sentences imposed were within the standard range of the guidelines."

Moving to mandatory minimums, Bergstrom explained "when a mandatory minimum sentence is applied, it supersedes the sentencing guidelines recommendation; if the mandatory is available but not applied, or if the guideline recommendation is longer than the mandatory minimum sentence, the guidelines must be considered by the Court... the commission found that less than half of all mandatory eligible offenses studied received a mandatory sentence, but that the use varied substantially depending on the nature of the offense." Bergstrom continued, stating "advocates of mandatory sentencing legislation appropriately identify sufficiency and certainty as important sentencing components. The sufficiency of the guideline recommendations are regularly reviewed, and adjustments continue to be made to address concerns and to promote uniformity and proportionality. Both the sentencing guidelines and the previous prosecutor discretion mandatories include uncertainty. The uncertainty of the advisory guidelines relates to departures without substantive review of the reasons; the uncertainty of the mandatories related to the lack of transparency in the exercise of discretion by the prosecutor." Lastly, he indicated the commission is happy to provide any additional data but voiced concern with the House Republican budget proposal which eliminated all funding for the commission.

Chairman Greenleaf asked what has happened to sentencing since mandatory minimums were ruled unconstitutional. Bergstrom indicated violent, sexual, and firearms offenses sentencing stayed consistent while drug trafficking and

school zone sentences decreased. Chairman Greenleaf specifically brought up a need to "fine tune" school zones as some areas are comprised completely of such categories.

Edward Marsico, Dauphin County, Craig Stedman, Lancaster County, and Lisa Lazzari-Strasiser, Somerset County, comprised the next panel from the [Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association](#). "Mandatory minimum sentences are an important component to keeping the public safe: they help to keep the most dangerous offenders off of our streets," Marsico summarized. "These offenders will not be committing crimes while they are incarcerated. They also help to ensure that defendants who commit similar crimes and have similar records receive the same sentences. And they help to provide law enforcement the necessary leverage to target and incapacitate the most dangerous drug traffickers who are profiting from the sale of drugs, like heroin, in our neighborhoods." Marsico further advocated for the reinstatement of mandatory minimums, opining they advance the important goals of accountability and punishment and demand that offenders who commit terrible crimes receive a certain sentence in order to hold them accountable. "Let's note some of the very serious and dangerous crimes that are covered by HB 741: rape of a child, aggravated assault against the elderly, gunpoint robberies and home invasions, impersonating a law enforcement officer while committing a violent crime, selling drugs while in possession of a firearm, and trafficking in illegal drugs. We recognize that restoring some mandatory minimums for some drug delivery crimes is not necessary. HB 741 does not, therefore, restore every single mandatory that existed before, and it also reforms some of the prior mandatory minimums." Marsico reiterated the importance of mandatory minimums in drug cases for cooperation and to deal with dealers who carry guns. "The lack of mandatory minimum sentences has already been a boon to dangerous and violent offenders. In a short time period, we are seeing individualized determinations that are troubling... Data is important, but data is not singularly dispositive. Would these cases affect data showing mean or median sentences? Probably not. Do these results have a negative effect on victims, their families, and their communities? Absolutely. Do these sentences send a message to other criminals or would-be criminals that there are little to no consequences for their actions? Definitely."

Stedman focused on the need for mandatory minimums from a violent crime perspective, saying they help solve crimes by providing leverage for more information and are an important tool to the state to solve crimes. He emphasized the standard range for sentences are too wide, saying "I'm all about discretion for judges, I think it's very important, but not all discretion." He also voiced issue with outdated sentencing guidelines, and summarized, saying "you just have to pay for public safety."

Lazzari-Strasiser offered a local perspective on the issue in support of reinstating mandatory minimums. She drew on significant challenges with heroin as a need for mandatory minimums "especially for gun toting violent predators pedaling poison on our streets." She indicated counties have "nothing to leverage" in the absence of mandatory minimums and if reinstated, would give smaller communities the means to "attack and fight this battle on an even playing field" in order to work up the chain to stop higher levels of crime. On prevention and deterrence, Lazzari-Strasiser clarified law enforcements job is to "investigate, arrest, and prosecute" rather than reduce demand and are in a "perfect spot" to differentiate dealers and users. Lastly she read a telephone call between a convicted trafficker and an affiliate voicing content with no more mandatory minimum to demonstrate criminals know the sentences they face and are empowered through the removal of mandatory minimums.

Sen. Rafferty asked about a Commonwealth Foundation video in opposition to mandatory minimums and if the panel has any comments. Marsico responded, describing the video as "very misleading."

Sen. Langerholc wondered if there has been any strain on personnel and court costs. Marsico indicated there has been and voiced concern with not being able to leverage lower level dealers to work up the chain.

Sen. Vulakovich repeated his focus on creating a balance and compromise for effective judicial discretion. Marsico agreed. He outlined the historical cycle of drugs from cocaine, crack, and today's heroin epidemic, stating the victim has to be part of conversation and certain crimes need mandatory minimums to ensure justice.

Sen. Street drew on personal experience as a victim being a child growing up in North Philadelphia with his home broken into 12 times and his cousin beaten unconscious with a rod. He then asked if judges are able to empathize with victims. Marsico indicated it depends on who is in the best position which could be the judge. Stedman agreed. Sen. Street summarized saying poor communities are being disproportionately targeted and a discretionary approach is important.

Chairman Greenleaf thanked the panel for their commitment to uncovering best practices for a fair and just system.

[Bret Bucklen, Ph.D.](#), Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC), offered several points around Pennsylvania specific data points related to mandatory minimums. "Proponents of mandatory minimums have in various forums cited certain academics for whom they claim provide support for the efficacy of mandatory minimum sentencing. Most notably, they have cited the work of economist Steven Levitt and of the late great social scientist James Q. Wilson. I'm very familiar with the work of these scholars, and I contend that a careful reading of the work of both of these scholars reveals that their work does not in fact support mandatory minimum sentencing." He summarized, saying "there is no credible research that finds a public safety benefit from mandatory minimum sentencing." Other key points Bucklen offered included:

- A 2012 study by Daniel Nagin and Matthew Snodgrass examined recidivism rates for judges within the same county who sentenced individuals to prison at different rates. The study showed a null effect for incarceration. In other words, there were no meaningful differences in recidivism rates between judges who sentenced at higher versus lower rates to state prison in Pennsylvania.
- Proponents of mandatory minimums have said that those opposed to mandatories do not respect victims. I believe that we should respect victims of crime like we respect victims of illness and disease, by providing them with the best treatment that science has to offer, but not providing a false hope based on ineffective and unproven treatments. In short, empirical evidence matters precisely because victims matter.
- Proponents of mandatory minimums also have painted a picture of all drug dealers as predatory, violent offenders who prey on innocent drug users. This ignores the reality that many drug dealers are themselves users, that they are dealing in order to support their own habit, and are thus themselves victims of substance abuse. Drug users need treatment. In many cases, drug dealers are those drug users.
- Mandatory minimums for violent offenses have very little impact to the Department of Corrections.
- Proponents of mandatory minimums have used old political rhetoric based on faulty logic. They claim the Department of Corrections is "soft on crime" because we don't support mandatory minimums, and that the Department of Corrections wants to "empty out our prisons." Equating data-driven, smart-on-crime strategies as being soft on crime is a false equivalence; it is, after all, possible to be smart on crime and tough on crime at the same time.
- Some proponents of mandatory minimums have claimed that the absence of mandatory minimums for drug dealers in Pennsylvania has made our current heroin/opioid epidemic worse in the last couple of years, and that bringing back these mandatories will help alleviate the epidemic. Ironically, a mid-2016 report by the DEA found that overdose deaths in Montgomery County dropped 16 percent during 2015. The "mandatory minimums-opioid epidemic connection" theory fails.
- If mandatory minimum sentencing was any other government program, we would surely view it as wasteful government spending. Where else would we move to enact a government program that costs as much as \$85.5 million per year without any evidence that it is effective in reaching its stated goals?

Sen. Rafferty asked for Bucklen's credentials at DOC. Bucklen explained he is the director of research and statistics. Sen. Rafferty asked if Bucklen deals and sits with victims of crimes such as rape in his position, to which he said no. "I was offended by your testimony," Sen. Rafferty summarized, as he supports mandatory minimums in certain areas and needs to be approached from a human aspect. Bucklen agreed the human aspect is critical and victims must be respected like those with illness and disease. Sen. Rafferty opined Bucklen is "missing the point" by looking at numbers as human suffering is more important.

Sen. Langerholc asked if overdose rates have been reduced since removal of mandatory minimums. Bucklen said the rate is still growing, but at a slower rate than before. He clarified after mandatories were removed rates did not increase, which demonstrates the lack of results from such policies.

Sen. Street voiced appreciation for the data presented and said such figures are important to be brought to light to allow individual voices to be heard.

Chairman Greenleaf further asked for Bucklen's credentials and experience. Bucklen explained he has been at DOC for 17 years, has a Ph.D. in criminology and criminal justice, with a primary focus on prison population forecasting, impact analyses, recidivism rates, and prison population drivers. Chairman Greenleaf asked how he came to his conclusions. Bucklen maintained he has thoroughly reviewed the body of evidence regarding prison populations and has seen no studies with support for mandatory minimums, even in Pennsylvania specific studies.

[Kevin Ring](#), president, Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM), spoke against mandatory minimum sentences. "I am convinced more than ever that mandatory minimum sentencing laws are a colossal fraud. They are a cancer on the criminal justice system. And I don't mean just their unintended consequences. I mean everything about them- their creation, their distortion of our constitutional system - even their name is a lie. Mandatory minimums have nothing to do with public safety and everything to do with power," he stated. "Requiring addicts and more low-level and low-risk offenders to serve unnecessarily lengthy prison terms will impose a larger burden on taxpayers. The Department of Corrections has already provided the legislature with the estimated cost to taxpayers perhaps as high as \$85 million. We know from history the enormous and negative impact one-size-fits-all sentences have on the families whose loved ones are forced to serve disproportionately lengthy prison sentences. We know the consequences. More kids will grow up without a parent, causing a host of economic, educational, and social challenges. Families will struggle to stay together. Economic self-sufficiency will become much more difficult to achieve."

Chairman Greenleaf clarified both conservative and liberal organizations are opposed to mandatory minimums. Ring concurred, saying they have been against the policy for 10 years. He also placed public support for repealing mandatory minimums at 75 percent. Ring concluded saying it is not about being soft on crime, but rather tailored sentences being better than one size fits all. He opined there are better approaches than mandatory minimums, and in the end the state will spend whatever is needed to protect the public.

[Jennifer Storm](#), victim advocate, said the Office of Victim Advocate has a "particular interest in mandatory minimums for offenses against our most vulnerable populations, the elderly and infants." She drew on sentences she described as outrageously minimal to sex offenders, stating "unfortunately, we cannot leave our public's safety in the hands of our judiciary when we still hear about the utter disregard of the severity and impact sexual offenses have on our citizens. We as a Commonwealth must set the standards of what is acceptable conduct and surely preying and offending upon our most vulnerable shall be met with at the least- a minimum sentence. We owe not only the victims of these horrific acts that certainty in justice but we owe our community that level of public safety as well." She noted the purpose of mandatory sentencing is to ensure a uniformity of sentencing in the most heinous crimes and to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth, but said this promise cannot be trusted unless such policies are in place. "According to the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, when the judiciary has discretion, sentences for sex offenses against minors are less than the standard guidelines 9 percent of the time. This is less than acceptable." Specifically on sexual assault, Storm opined the cost of incarceration is necessary to protect victim's lives and mandatory minimums offer necessary retribution. "We respectfully ask for the positive consideration and vote of this committee and its members for one of the very few things that we can offer these brave men, women and children, a belief that certain crimes committed by dangerous and heartless offenders will have an exactitude in sentencing."

Sen. Rafferty voiced empathy for Storm's testimony and also indicated support for mandatory minimums for gun violations, violent offenses, and habitual DUI.

Sen. Street agreed "it would be prudent" to consider sexual crimes separately and not lump them in with drug prosecutions.

On behalf of [Les Nerj](#), president, Fraternal Order of Police, Pennsylvania State Lodge, a police officer offered testimony in support of bringing back mandatory minimums. "Please consider this bill, please bring back a very necessary tool that law enforcement needs," he summarized, particularly due to opportunities to leverage such sentences to gain information on larger crime. He also recognized prosecutor's ability to practice discretion in individual cases and implored the legislature to rework a constitutional way to allow mandatories to be utilized by law enforcement.

Sen. Street revisited the officer's comments on prosecutors having a "sense of how things work" and wondered if judges also have that ability. He specifically noted that criminals can still get harsher sentences with judge determination rather than prosecutor. The police officer said he believes some judges have their mind made up "before the first gavel" and mandatory minimums for drug cases are usually appropriate. Sen. Street then asked why urban areas, if they stand to gain the most, are the ones against reinstating mandatory minimums. The officer indicated he does not know why, but can only assume law enforcement has not done a good enough job of explaining the benefits and need for them.

Sen. Langerholc wondered if a judge has ever sentenced above the guidelines for drug offenses. The officer said he has yet to see that in Montgomery County.

Sen. Rafferty thanked the officer for his testimony and indicated mandatory minimums are about ensuring checks and balances between the legislature and judicial branches.

[Devin Reaves](#), addiction treatment professional and individual in recovery, said he fears that the opioid epidemic is being used as a justification for policies that will result in more people who misuse licit and illicit drugs being sent to prison rather than treatment. He specifically referenced challenges due to the opioid epidemic, stating "law enforcement is a critical partner in this much-needed collaboration but I stress to the committee that focal point of dealing with this public health crisis must be comprehensive treatment and not an afterthought... We know that substance use contributes to crime. It follows that addressing substance use will not only help improve the health and lives of the individuals and families affected by such use, but it will help reduce crime and the financial burden on our commonwealth of incarcerating people in a system that it not designed to rehabilitate people and support them on their recovery journey." Reaves implored the legislature to acknowledge that substance use disorders are a medical condition and focus resources on improving accessibility to successful and cost-effective treatment models. "While I strongly believe treatment should be at the center of our response to the current opioid crisis, I am not here to advocate removing law enforcement from the equation," he concluded. Reducing the number of people profiting off of others' disease is necessary but it must be approached with extreme care. The line between drug trafficker and drug user is not always clear. It is common for a drug user to turn to drug dealing in an effort to support his or her substance use disorder. Imposing mandatory prison sentences would result in far too many people with substance use disorders receiving counterproductive prison terms when treatment would be the best option."

Sen. Street agreed removing the stigma associated with addiction is important to ensure proper treatment and results.

Sen. Langerholc congratulated Reaves on his recovery and clarified his personal views that mandatory minimums should be tweaked to address those who do not need treatment.

[Elizabeth Randol](#), legislative director, American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, argued against reinstating mandatory minimums in Pennsylvania. "Mandatory sentencing schemes create and exacerbate racial disparities in the criminal justice system. There are three primary sources of unwarranted racial disparity in sentencing: racially biased use of discretion in sentencing prosecutors are the 'dominant procedural sources of disparity,' but others include police officers, judges, and even public defenders; policies that have a disparate racial impact, like drug-free school zone laws; underfunding key areas of the criminal justice system that require significant financial outlays by defendants, like pretrial detention. Seventy percent of pretrial releases require money bond, an especially high hurdle for low-income defendants. Detention increases the odds of conviction, and those who are detained are more likely to accept less favorable plea deals, be sentenced to prison, and receive longer sentences," she stated. "Legislating mandatory minimum sentences prevents judges from performing their most fundamental role - making decisions based on the case before them. By impeding judicial discretion, judges are unable to reduce a defendant's sentence based on any number of mitigating factors, including a person's role in the crime, criminal history, or risk of recidivism. Judges do not need minimum sentence requirements; they look to Pennsylvania's existing sentencing guidelines for direction and apply those guidelines 90 percent of the time."

Sen. Street pointed out that almost all of Philadelphia is a school zone and heightened penalties in those areas need to be revisited. Randol concurred, saying this provision was "disproportionately applied in communities of color."

Written testimony was provided by:

- [Pennsylvania Prison Society](#)
- [Commonwealth Foundation](#)

Senate Appropriations Committee

5/22/17, 3:48 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room

By Jeff Cox, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider [SB 651 Browne, Patrick](#) - (PN 737) The Capital Budget Project Itemization Act of 2017-2018 provides for the capital budget for fiscal year 2017-2018; itemizing public improvement projects, furniture and equipment projects, transportation assistance projects, redevelopment assistance, flood control projects, Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund projects, Environmental Stewardship Fund projects, State forestry bridge projects, park and forest management projects, State ATV/ Snowmobile Fund projects, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission projects, Oil and Gas Lease Fund projects and Motor License Fund projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of General Services, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation or the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, together with their estimated financial costs; authorizing the incurring of debt without the approval of the electors for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of General Services, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation or the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission; authorizing the use of current revenue for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed, acquired or assisted by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources or the Department of Transportation stating the estimated useful life of the projects; making a related repeal; and making appropriations. Effective immediately. - The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A01366](#) by Browne, was described as adding additional projects. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

[A01358](#) by Hughes, was described as adding additional projects. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

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House Insurance Committee

5/22/17, 11:00 a.m., Room 60 East Wing

By Matt Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider [HR 337 Pickett, Tina](#) - (PN 1735) Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to enact legislation that would allow states to regulate air ambulance billing and pricing practices. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Tina Pickett (R-Bradford) noted an informational meeting on air ambulance costs was held last month.

- 30 -

House Appropriations Committee

5/22/17, 1:15 p.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

By Matt Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider [SB 133 Ward, Kim](#) - (PN 555) The REAL ID Compliance Act requires the Department of Transportation to submit a written request to the Department of Homeland Security that seeks an extension of time for the Commonwealth to comply with the provisions of the federal REAL ID Act. The amount of time requested for the extension shall be at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation. Requires the secretary to also present a report to the chairs and minority chairs of the Senate Communication and Technology Committee and the Senate and House Transportation Committees providing details and all estimated costs associated with the implementation and maintenance of all remaining requirements for compliance with the federal REAL ID Act as determined by the US Department of Homeland Security. Also requires the report to include all estimated initial and recurring costs to establish and maintain a two-tiered system which provides individuals with a choice between being issued a standard driver's license or identification card or a driver's license or identification card compliant with the REAL ID Act. The bill makes repeals the REAL ID Nonparticipation Act. Effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 155) - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

- 30 -

Press Conferences

ABATE OF PENNSYLVANIA HOLDS ANNUAL MOTORCYCLISTS RIGHTS RALLY

By Aaron Rider, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | May 22, 2017

With many state legislators present in support, the Alliance of Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE) of Pennsylvania held their 40th annual rally at the Main Capitol Rotunda to urge continued support for motorcyclists rights and safety in Pennsylvania.

ABATE lobbyist Charles Umbenhauer said that it has been 14 years since former Governor Ed Rendell signed into law legislation that permitted licensed motorcyclists to choose whether they want to wear helmets. Umbenhauer read a letter that was written to him in 2003 by former House Speaker Sam Smith, who praised Umbenhauer for his respectful lobbying that showed the good side of “bikers” as “regular people who just want to ride.” Smith’s letter encouraged ABATE to continue doing its Biker Day at the Capitol, and Umbenhauer said the group will comply.

Umbenhauer thanked Gov. Wolf for declaring May as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month. He shared that ABATE will distribute 20,000 lawn signs to bring attention to motorcycle safety issues.

Umbenhauer thanked the state government for enacting “Daniel’s Law,” which enacts strong punishments on people who kill or seriously injure a motorcyclist because they were texting while driving.

Sen. John DiSanto (R-Dauphin) said that he is a proud biker and that “situational awareness,” not helmets, is what saves motorcyclists from devastating accidents. He stated that his staff had warned him against releasing a political ad in which he was seen riding a motorcycle without a helmet, but that he told them, “Hell no; we’re going out there without a helmet,” because, he said, all Pennsylvanians have the right to responsibly ride without a helmet.

Rep. Pam Snyder (D-Greene) said her [HB 74](#) will extend Pennsylvania’s Lemon Law to motorcycles, which, she said, is only fair. Motorcycles, she stated, are “major investments” and not “toys” and should be treated as such.

Rep. Garth Everett (R-Lycoming) said [HB 917](#) will prevent law enforcement from unfairly profiling motorcyclists as they are prohibited from profiling other groups of people. “Bikers,” he stated, “Are ordinary people” who should be able to ride without worrying about police trouble.

Rep. Mark Keller (R-Perry) described [HB 831](#) as legislation that would legalize the practice of “road guards” by motorcyclists on on-ramps and in certain traffic areas.

According to Rep. Jim Marshall (R-Beaver), [HB 1239](#) will make the area of licenses fair by making the offense of riding without an endorsement the same level of offense as driving without one.

Rep. Harry Readshaw (D-Allegheny) mentioned that the Ride to Gettysburg project, with ABATE participation, has raised more than \$170,000 for the restoration of monuments at the Gettysburg battlefield as well as the nearby historic Daniel Lady Farm. He added that Umbenhauer is “second to none” among lobbyists.

Umbenhauer said he remembered how he once had been unable to get legislators to come out in support and pointed to the large number of them now as a sign that a “small group of determined people” can accomplish a lot. Furthermore, he said, he is proud to have “no enemies” in the state legislature, “not even Dan Frankel.”

Other legislators present in support included Representatives Dan Moul (R-Adams), Donna Oberlander (R-Clarion), Eric Nelson (R-Westmoreland), Mindy Fee (R-Lancaster), Stephen Bloom (R-Cumberland), Karen Boback (R-Luzerne), Brett Miller (R-Lancaster), Jerry Knowles (R-Schuylkill), Tina Pickett (R-Bradford), Brandon Neuman (D-Washington), James Roebuck (D-Philadelphia), Bill Kortz (D-Allegheny), Chris Sainato (D-Lawrence), Robert Kauffman (R-Franklin), Sue Helm (R-Dauphin), John Sabatina (D-Philadelphia), Scott Conklin (D-Centre), Tina Davis (R-Bucks), Paul Schemel (R-Franklin), Keith Greiner (R-Lancaster), Thomas Murt (R-Montgomery); and Senators Mike Regan (R-Cumberland), Elder Vogel (R-Beaver), Michele Brooks (R-Mercer), John Eichelberger (R-Blair), and Patrick Stefano (R-Fayette).

###

LAWMAKERS & ADVOCATES PUSH FOR DISTRACTED DRIVING LEGISLATION

By Jeff Cox, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | May 23, 2017

Lawmakers, state officials, law enforcement representatives, families of distracted driving victims, students and other advocacy groups gathered in the Main Capitol Rotunda today to push for distracted driving legislation and to bring awareness to the issue of distracted driving. The rally was held in conjunction with AT&T's "It Can Wait" tour which is making stops across the Commonwealth to remind drivers of the dangers of distracted driving.

David Kerr, AT&T vice president of external affairs, commented, "We are here today to remind drivers to keep their eyes on the road, not on their phones." He explained that the theme of AT&T's campaign is "distracted driving is never okay, you're never alone on the road even when you're alone in the car." According to Kerr, AT&T has been working with celebrities, sports teams, high schools and universities to increase awareness of the issue.

Sen. John Rafferty (R-Montgomery), chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, stated, "This is a vitally important issue in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." He observed, "I think people are becoming more and more aware of the problem of distracted drivers on our highways." According to Sen. Rafferty, in 2015 there were 14,810 crashes in Pennsylvania alone involving a distracted driver. Sen. Rafferty said that he and Senators John Sabatina (D-Philadelphia) and Mike Regan (R-York) are working on several pieces of legislation to bring awareness to the dangers of distracted driving. He mentioned [Senate Bill 648](#), which creates a Distracted Driving Awareness license plate, and [Senate Resolution 58](#), which designated April 2017 as "Distracted Driving Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

Sen. John Sabatina (D-Philadelphia), minority chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, announced that he and Sen. Rafferty are planning to introduce legislation prohibiting drivers ages 16 and 17 from using cell phones while driving in the Commonwealth. He stated, "Novice drivers have the highest crash risk of any age group and, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are three times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than drivers age 20 or older." Sen. Sabatina commented, "Hopefully this legislation will prevent tragedies from happening." He pointed out enactment of the legislation would also make Pennsylvania eligible for federal funds.

Leo Bagley, representing the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), stated that 69 people died in crashes due to distracted driving. He explained that the number is probably higher because people won't say they were distracted. Bagley outlined some of the programs developed by the department to create what he described as "a sustained culture of safety" in the Commonwealth.

Joseph Kovel, president of the Pennsylvania State Troopers Association, thanked AT&T for being a leader on this issue. He emphasized the importance of communication and encouraged parents and children to sit down and discuss the dangers of distracted driving. Kovel said, "We can do better in Pennsylvania."

Joseph Regan, secretary for the Pennsylvania State Lodge-Fraternal Order of Police, stated, "As a police officer, I have seen firsthand the aftermath of an accident involving a distracted driver." He added, "Distracted driving is not a fad or something that is going away quickly. Sadly, it is here to stay." Rogan said, "As technology advances, the chances for distracted driving only increases." He concluded, "You can't stop technology from advancing but we can stop distracted driving."

Rep. William Keller (D-Philadelphia), minority chairman of the House Transportation Committee, and Sen. Regan were also in attendance at this event.

###

AUDITOR GENERAL ANNOUNCES START OF PENNDOT AUDIT

By Mike Howells, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | May 24, 2017

Auditor General Gene DePasquale today announced the start of a special performance audit of the Department of Transportation (PennDOT). The audit will focus on five main areas, covering the period January 1, 2014, through June 30, 2017.

Specifically, DePasquale advised that his office will assess the degree to which the department manages and monitors the sharing of personal information it collects – something he confirmed it is legally allowed to do; whether PennDOT's procurement procedures are appropriate; whether procedures to monitor the execution of contracts is

appropriate; whether PennDOT has properly received state funds and that they are spent in accordance with their enabling acts; and the process by which projects have been selected for funding through the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Fund.

DePasquale noted this will be the first performance audit of PennDOT since he took office, and said Secretary Leslie Richards has committed to full cooperation on the part of the department. In speaking to the timing of the audit he said that in particular it is the “right time” to see that Act 89 funds are being used appropriately and effectively.

On their scrutiny of private information use, DePasquale said private information is the “next front” in the ongoing arms race in cybersecurity. He clarified the audit will look at both PennDOT’s policies on sharing personal information, and their preparedness to defend against digital attacks.

“We’re looking forward to seeing if there any way we can be helpful to them in doing their job better,” he remarked.

The audit is expected to take nine months and will be finished in 2018.

###

PA Bulletin

DGS: PROPOSED RULEMAKING: METROLOGY CALIBRATION AND TESTING FEES

The Department of General Services proposed to amend § 110.2 (relating to State Metrology Laboratory fee schedule) to fulfill requirements to establish, by regulation, fees for metrology laboratory calibration, type evaluation and other testing services. This proposed rulemaking fulfills the statutory requirement for the Department to establish, charge and collect the fees described in section 4178 of the act by increasing fees charged for metrology laboratory calibration, type evaluation and other services performed by the Laboratory. The estimated annual revenue to the Commonwealth/Department from this proposed rulemaking is approximately \$610,137. Comments should be submitted within 30 days to Mary W. Fox, Assistant Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel, Department of General Services, Forum Place, 6th Floor, 555 Walnut Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101, (717) 787-6789. The full proposal is available in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

PENNDOT: AUTOMATED RED LIGHT ENFORCEMENT TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The Department of Transportation invited city, county and municipal governments and other local boards or bodies with authority to enact laws relating to traffic in this Commonwealth to submit applications in accordance with the parameters delineated in 67 Pa. Code Chapter 233 (relating to transportation enhancement grants from automated red light enforcement system revenues). Applications will be accepted from June 1, 2017, to June 30, 2017 and are available at https://www.dot34.state.pa.us/ARLE/Module/PADOT/BOMO_Default.aspx. Additional guidance can be found [here](#). Questions should be addressed to Richard N. Roman, PE, Director, Bureau of Maintenance and Operations, 400 North Street, 6th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17120, (717) 787-6899, ra-pdsignalfunding@pa.gov.

PENNDOT: PENNSYLVANIA INTERCITY BUS PROGRAM

The Department of Transportation announced an opportunity for transportation providers to participate in the Pennsylvania Intercity Bus Program which provides regularly scheduled bus service for the public with limited stops over fixed routes connecting two or more urbanized or non-urbanized areas, or both. The three routes consist of the following origins and destinations: 1) Harrisburg to Elmira; 2) Williamsport to Easton; and 3) Williamsport to Philadelphia. Details are available in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. For more information, or to express interest in this Program, contact Colton Brown by June 9 at coltbrown@pa.gov.

SCC: DIRT AND GRAVEL ROADS POLLUTION PREVENTION MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The State Conservation Commission provided public notice of the apportionment of Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Pollution Prevention Maintenance Program funds to participating County Conservation Districts in the amount of \$26.068 million.

Upcoming Events

PA Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

June 1, 2017 - 12:30 p.m., Commonwealth Keystone Building, Conference Room 8N1, 400 North St., Harrisburg
Committee Meeting. For additional information: (717) 783-3991

PA Turnpike Commission

June 6, 2017 - 10:00 a.m., Turnpike Admin. Bldg, Large Board Room, 700 S. Eisenhower Blvd., 3rd Fl., Middletown
Commission Meeting. For additional information: (717) 831-7333

Session Schedule

Senate

June 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

House

June 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

In the News

- 05-25-2017 [Comitta: Legislature passes measure to comply with Real ID law](#)
(Press Release)
- 05-25-2017 [Stateline Daily: Why Some Officials Want to Ban Secret Government Settlements](#)
(Press Release)
- 05-25-2017 [PHIA: PennDOT official provides view of the future with autonomous vehicles](#)
(Press Release)
- 05-25-2017 [Governor Wolf, PennDOT Preview Northwest Region Construction](#)
(Press Release)
- 05-25-2017 [Metzgar Bill to Encourage Clean Energy Transportation Passes House](#)
(Press Release)
- 05-25-2017 [House Votes on REAL ID, Offers Options, Quinn Says](#)
(Press Release)
- 05-25-2017 [Pennsylvania Senate OKs internet play for casinos, lottery](#)
Legislation to allow an expansion of casino-style gambling and lottery play to the internet in Pennsylvania passed the state Senate on Wednesday, as lawmakers look for ways to heal the state's deficit-ridden finances by capturing new and younger gamblers... - [AP](#)
- 05-25-2017 [Congress should not vote to make big rigs bigger](#)
Whatever you wear, eat, drive or otherwise consume or use, probably was shipped to you by truck. According to the American Trucking Association, U.S. truckers carried 10.49 billion tons of freight in 2015, 70.1 percent of total domestic shipped tonnage. All of that material traveled in 3.5 million tractor-trailers... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 05-25-2017 [I-81 off-ramp work nears completion](#)
Work on the off-ramp at Exit 175, the Dupont/Pittston exit, from the northbound lanes of Interstate 81 should be completed by the middle of June, according to a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation press release. PennDOT will begin using a traffic signal this week at the intersection of... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 05-25-2017 [Wayne County bridge complete](#)
The Route 296 Easton Turnpike bridge, which crosses the creek in Wayne County, is complete and open to traffic, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation announced. The Canaan Twp. crossing, longer and wider than the original, is designed with a 100-year lifespan.... - [Scranton Times](#)

- 05-25-2017 **[PennDOT driver license, photo centers closed for Memorial Day](#)**
 All Pennsylvania Department of Transportation driver license and photo centers, including its full-service center in Harrisburg and the center in Dunmore, will be closed Saturday through Monday in observance of Memorial Day. Customers may still obtain a variety of driver and vehicle products and... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[Real ID goes to governor, 12 years after passage of federal law and two weeks before real problems](#)**
 Ending a long-running legislative stand-off with Washington, the Pennsylvania House voted 190-1 Wednesday to pass a plan for compliance with federal Real ID regulations. The bill now goes to Gov. Tom Wolf, who has said he will sign it. With that act, it is hoped, Pennsylvanians will be freed from a cloud of... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[More than 25,000 Graco child seats recalled because restraints can break in an accident](#)**
 Graco recalls more than 25,000 child seats because the restraints can break in an accident. More than 25,000 Graco brand child seats are recalled because the webbing that holds a child in place "may not adequately restrain the child" in an accident, according to a release issued by the National Highway... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[Pennsylvania acts to avert 'Real ID' travel disruption](#)**
 Pennsylvania lawmakers voted overwhelmingly Wednesday for a bill designed to comply with federal identification standards for people who want to fly or enter federal facilities. The House passed Real ID bill 190-1, and Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf said he will sign it to ensure travel plans are not interrupted.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 05-25-2017 **['Predatory towing' targeted by Easton City Council](#)**
 Easton City Council introduced a bill Wednesday aimed at stopping what officials have described as "predatory towing" from privately owned parking lots in the city. If adopted, the ordinance would require private parking lot owners to call the police before calling a towing company to have an errant car removed.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[Pa. Senate gives green light to internet gaming](#)**
 Legislation that could pave the way for gamblers to wager online, buy lottery tickets over the internet and play fantasy sports from the comfort of home or while waiting at the airport cleared the state Senate on Wednesday. In addition to expanding gambling, it would keep millions of dollars... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[Our view: Spate of traffic incidents alarming](#)**
 This will be a deadly, damaging summer if the pace of recent traffic crashes does not get checked. A reminder of events in recent weeks: Erie police are investigating not one, but two hit-and-run crashes involving children. On May 17, a 5-year-old girl was struck and injured by a Ford Explorer as... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[PennDOT workers honored, for mussel relocation](#)**
 Endangered mussels were moved from Allegheny River before bridge was replaced. Five Pennsylvania Department of Transportation employees from northwestern Pennsylvania earned a Governor's Award for Excellence for relocating some 130,000 mussels from the construction area for the Hunter Station... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[Memorial Day weekend distracted, impaired driving enforcement announced](#)**
 Pennsylvania State Police in Bucks, Lehigh and Northampton counties are planning stepped-up patrols for the Memorial Day weekend that begins midnight Friday and ends midnight Monday. Troop M, which covers those counties, is in the midst of a distracted driving enforcement effort this month. Troopers are looking for drivers... - [Easton Express-Times](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[Avoid this Bethlehem bridge during these hours](#)**
 Bethlehem's Philip J. Fahy Bridge is scheduled to be closed 4 to 6 a.m. Thursday, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation said Wednesday. The closure is in both directions for the bridge over the Lehigh River, Lehigh Valley Railroad, Monocacy Creek, and Lehigh Canal.... - [Easton Express-Times](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[State auditor general turning attention to PennDOT](#)**
 Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale said Wednesday that his office will launch a sweeping

audit of PennDOT, including its handling of personal driver information and whether it addressed problems identified in another audit four years ago. "From supporting public transit to the maintenance and construction of... - [Beaver County Times](#)

- 05-25-2017 **Level of travel expected to be highest since '05 for Memorial Day**
 Experts expect more than 39 million Americans to flood the nation's highways during Memorial Day weekend, the unofficial kickoff to road trip season. Mike Kyper, 67, of Adamsburg said he plans to be among them, during the holiday weekend and on several other trips this summer. His travel plans... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Pa. set to repeal law blocking ID compliance, ease passport burden**
 Pennsylvania is set to repeal a law that has prohibited the commonwealth from participating in a federal anti-terrorism program that set higher standards for identification cards. "This shift toward compliance was necessary because of the burdensome restrictions that the federal government would have placed on Pennsylvania... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Low gas prices fuel increase in holiday travel**
 The usual spike in summer gas prices is not materializing this year, and that means more travel Memorial Day weekend and throughout the summer, according to GasBuddy, which has a popular smartphone app that tracks gas prices. More than 82 percent of GasBuddy's 65 million users said they will take a... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 05-25-2017 **State senators plan bill that would ban cellphone use for drivers younger than 18**
 On the lookout State Police warned Tuesday that they are on the lookout for distracted drivers. Through May 30, Troop L is running a Distracted Driver Initiative, where police will be strictly enforcing violations when they see texting while driving and commercial drivers using a handheld cellphone as well as... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Real ID bill on way to Gov. Wolf**
 State lawmakers squeaked out a legislative win Wednesday as the House passed Real ID, just two voting days shy of a federal deadline. TODAY'S SPONSOR: The vote was 190-1. Congress passed Real ID following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, establishing federal security standards for state driver's licenses and... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 05-25-2017 **T.S.A. Tests New Screening Procedures for Larger Electronics**
 The Transportation Security Administration is testing new procedures at nearly a dozen American airports that will require passengers to place electronic items larger than a cellphone in a separate bin for X-ray screening, the agency announced on Wednesday. The new screening tests are part of heightened security at airports around... - [New York Times](#)
- 05-25-2017 **With proposed Trump cuts, chances fade for a bipartisan infrastructure deal**
 When President Trump took office, some otherwise deeply disappointed Democrats thought they might be able to work with him on one marquee campaign promise: pumping \$1 trillion into the nation's roads, bridges, airports and other long-neglected infrastructure.... - [Washington Post](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Gov. Tom Wolf will sign Real ID law this week**
 Pennsylvanians feeling anxious about being turned away at the airport next year can breathe a sigh of relief. After bouncing around Harrisburg for a few months, the final version of a Senate bill repealing the state's non-compliance to the federal Real ID program passed the House Wednesday... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Don't trash Maryland**
 When you discard trash from your vehicle on one of Maryland's highways, do you ever wonder where it goes? One cigarette butt flicked out of the window, a fast food bag, a small plastic wrapper. Take a moment and think about where it goes. It has to go somewhere. Now I... - [Baltimore Sun](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Auditor general announces audit of PennDOT**
 Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale said Wednesday that his office will launch a sweeping audit of PennDOT, including its handling of personal driver information and whether it addressed problems identified in another audit four years ago. "From supporting public transit to the maintenance and construction of... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)

- 05-25-2017 **Get tough**
Beginning in August, as the result of a law passed last year, Pennsylvania will begin requiring first-time drunken drivers to get ignition interlock systems installed on their vehicles. What that means is that, before the person's car will start, the driver will, in effect, be required to pass a sobriety test.... -
- 05-25-2017 **Bilingual truck-driving school opens at Tec Centro**
A truck-driving school geared toward both Spanish-speaking and English-speaking adults is opening at Tec Centro in Lancaster city today. CDL Ed. Training is offering a nine-week course, taught in both languages, to prepare adults to pass their commercial driver's license exam.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 05-25-2017 **West Cocalico Township bridge closes for PennDOT construction; will reopen in late August**
Construction began Wednesday morning on a West Cocalico Township bridge, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The Poplar Street Bridge over Cocalico Creek should reopen to traffic in late August, according to PennDOT. The bridge is slated for replacement as part of PennDOT's Rapid Bridge... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Wolf administration announces work to begin on \$2 million project to resurface 13 miles of state highway**
The Wolf administration announced Wednesday that construction is scheduled to begin Friday on a \$2 million project to repair and resurface 13 miles of state highway in Chester County. "Resurfacing projects like this are designed to improve the safety and ride-ability of our highways," Gov. Tom Wolf said. "This project... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)
- 05-25-2017 **\$2M in northern Chester County roadwork announced**
A road repair project scheduled to start Friday in West Nantmeal Township is the first of a series of \$2 million worth of Chester County projects announced this week by PennDOT. Lane restrictions on Isabella Road between Chestnut Tree Road and Creek Road will begin at 9 a.m. and last until 3 p.m., depending on the weather.... - [Pottstown Mercury](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Pennsylvania Governor To Sign Bill To Comply With Federal Real ID Law**
Pennsylvania is closer to complying with a federal law that requires people to prove they are legal U.S. residents in order for their driver's licenses to be valid for federal purposes. The state Senate voted Tuesday 49-1 to approve a bill directing state government to comply with the 2005 Real ID law. The bill still requires... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Pa. House Panel Advances Roosevelt Boulevard Speed Camera Bill**
A bill that would allow the city of Philadelphia to place speed enforcement cameras along Roosevelt Boulevard has cleared its first hurdle in the state House. Philadelphia Republican John Taylor, sponsor of the bill, says it would allow for a five-year pilot program of automated speed enforcement on... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Pennsylvania Senate OKs internet play for casinos, lottery**
Legislation to allow an expansion of casino-style gambling and lottery play to the internet in Pennsylvania passed the state Senate on Wednesday, as lawmakers look for ways to heal the state's deficit-ridden finances by capturing new and younger gamblers... - [AP](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Lawmakers send Real ID bill to Wolf, who plans to sign it**
Pennsylvania lawmakers on Wednesday voted overwhelmingly for a bill designed to comply with federal identification standards for people who want to fly or enter federal facilities... - [AP](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Pennsylvania Turnpike expects 2M vehicles over holiday**
Officials anticipate more than 2 million vehicles will use the Pennsylvania Turnpike during the Memorial Day holiday weekend... - [AP](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Route 30: Now that it's better, what will we complain about?**
I will begin by saying that the problem with traffic in York County – in general, and on Route 30 specifically – has a very simple cause. It occurred to me as I was driving on Route 30 in the middle lane at about 10:45 one morning, stuck behind some truck that could have been a crane, or... - [York Daily](#)

- 05-25-2017 **PA Turnpike urges travel safety precautions**
 HARRISBURG, Pa. — The PA Turnpike Commission (PTC) reminds motorists that as the Memorial Day weekend is the traditional kick-off for the summer season it is slated to be among the heaviest travel periods of the year. - [Towanda Daily Review](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Multiple agencies come together for United drill**
 An uncontrolled propane leak at United Refining Company is a pretty big deal. A big enough deal to warrant a multi-agency drill on Wednesday morning. According to Mike McCluskey, Fire Chief and Emergency Response Officer at United, the drill was “something we’ve been trying to schedule for... - [Warren Times Observer](#)
- 05-25-2017 **River Landing at Warren project given green light**
 The River Landing at Warren is a go. The project, spearheaded by the 2014 Leadership Warren County cohort, will place a system of floating pontoon docks at the eddy beneath the Hickory Street bridge. At Monday night’s city council meeting, project members updated council on the project and requested council’s endorsement in... - [Warren Times Observer](#)
- 05-25-2017 **‘Creative financing’ will help build authority’s office**
 The Williamsport Parking Authority — attempting to relocate its office on Pine Street down the street and into the Trade and Transit Centre I at Pine and West Third streets — has approved the borrowing of \$1 million as a first step toward funding the design and construction of its proposed... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 05-25-2017 **REAL ID Act passes**
 Local lawmakers are on board with passage of the state’s compliance with the federal REAL ID Act, which passed the House today by a 190-1 vote. The REAL ID Act addresses federal government restrictions for entering federal facilities and boarding airplanes. State driver’s licenses and non-driver IDs issued by the state... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 05-25-2017 **State ag department allowing poultry at fairs**
 The state Department of Agriculture has lifted the outdoor ban on poultry and will allow shows to go on in 2017. Earlier this year the department announced that it was waiting until the spring migration to end before deciding whether to allow poultry at fairs... - [Somerset Daily](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Pa. moves to comply with federal REAL ID law**
 HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania lawmakers have sent Gov. Tom Wolf a bill that repeals a 2012 law barring the state from cooperating with a federal program intended to create more secure identification. Even before the House voted 190-1 on Wednesday afternoon, Wolf said he... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 05-25-2017 **PA moves to comply with federal REAL ID law**
 Pennsylvania lawmakers have sent Gov. Tom Wolf a bill that repeals a 2012 law barring the state from cooperating with a federal program intended to create more secure identification. Even before the House voted 190-1 Wednesday afternoon, Wolf said he would sign the measure if it reached his desk.... - [New Castle News](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Bridge replacement to start June 1**
 Beginning June 1, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation will be working to replace a bridge in Derry Township, Mifflin County. The bridge spans a tributary of Jacks Creek near the village of Maitland on Long Lane (Route 2001). Replacement will allow PennDOT to remove the bridge... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)
- 05-25-2017 **AAA sees spike in Memorial Day travel; PennDOT, turnpike call for cautious driving**
 If you’re planning to travel this Memorial Day weekend, you’re not alone. According to the American Automobile Association, this weekend will see the highest Memorial Day travel volume since 2005. AAA says 39.3 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more away from home... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 05-25-2017 **Plans for Route 56 improvement projects aired**
 Officials presented plans to improve one of the more dangerous sections of highway in the Johnstown area — the 14-mile stretch of Route 56 between Windber and Pleasantville that contains Pleasantville Mountain and the notorious Peggy Westover Curve — at a PennDOT hearing held Wednesday... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)

- 05-25-2017 **[These are the proposed changes to Pa.'s gaming law](#)**
 A look at how gambling could expand in Pennsylvania under Senate approved bill. HB271, which passed the Pennsylvania Senate 38-12 Wednesday, would expand gambling in the state and reinstate casino host fees. Here is a breakdown what the bill proposes: • iGaming: Existing casinos would have 90 days to buy licenses that... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[To yield or not to yield? That's the real \(driving\) question: Matthew Olshan](#)**
 By Matthew Olshan It's easy to get spoiled by the roads in Perry County. You're often the lone driver on rural lanes that wind along rambling creeks and lush farms -- sometimes crossing right through the heart of them on an old easement between the farmhouse and its barn.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[PennDOT seeks public comment on East Huntingdon bridge replacement project](#)**
 Plans for replacing a bridge that carries Buttermore Road (Route 3073) over Buffalo Run in East Huntingdon will be displayed and discussed from 5: 30 to 6:30 p.m. June 8 at the township municipal building, 2494 Route 981,... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[Bus carrying Hempfield students rear-ends car during field trip; no injuries reported](#)**
 A bus carrying students from the Hempfield Area School District got into a minor crash on the way to Hersheypark Thursday morning, officials said. The bus, one of three carrying eighth-graders from Wendover Middle School on a field trip to the theme park, rear-ended a car on Route 81 and... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[NTSB: Jet made late approach maneuver before deadly crash](#)**
 Investigators: Learjet that crashed at Teterboro Airport made late turn toward runway. TETERBORO, N.J. (AP) — A Learjet approaching New Jersey's Teterboro Airport made a later-than-usual turn toward the runway before it banked hard and crashed into an industrial area, killing the two crewmen aboard,... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[High school junior killed, brother injured in crash near their home](#)**
 READING, Pa. (AP) -- Counselors are at a Pennsylvania school after a high school junior was killed and his younger brother was injured in a crash.../ Oley Valley High School identified the driver as Preston Rowe. Police say the 17-year-old was driving Wednesday near the boys' home in... - [AP](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[PennDOT seeks public comment on East Huntingdon bridge replacement project](#)**
 Plans for replacing a bridge that carries Buttermore Road (Route 3073) over Buffalo Run in East Huntingdon will be displayed and discussed from 5: 30 to 6:30 p.m. June 8 at the township municipal building, 2494 Route 981, Alverton. The project will include reconstructing 200 feet or roadway on either side... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[No way Joe! Pa. Supreme Court nixes ex-Turnpike CEO's bid for \\$300K rebate in pay to play scandal](#)**
 Former Pennsylvania Turnpike CEO Joseph Brimmeier III has reached the end of the road in his quest to get \$300,000 in reimbursements for his legal fees in the pay to play scandal. On Thursday, the state Supreme Court said, "No." The high court thwarted Brimmeier's hopes by affirming a Commonwealth Court... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 05-25-2017 **[Pilot dies in Delaware helicopter crash](#)**
 The pilot of a helicopter died Thursday after crashing in New Castle County, Del., police said. The pilot, whose identity was not released, was the only person on the privately owned aircraft, Delaware State Police spokesman Cpl. Jeffrey Hale said. The Eurocopter EC135 helicopter crashed about 11:55 a.m. in a grassy area... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 05-24-2017 **[PennDOT: Online Tool Available for Memorial Day Travel Planning](#)**
 (Press Release)
- 05-24-2017 **[SEPTA Urges Customers To Make The Switch To SEPTA Key](#)**
 (Press Release)
- 05-24-2017 **[PA Turnpike Urges Travel Safety Precautions](#)**

(Press Release)

- 05-24-2017 **REAL ID Fix Heads to Governor for Signature, House Leaders Say**
(Press Release)
- 05-24-2017 **Neilson: House Votes to Put Pa. on Track to Federal Real ID Law Compliance**
(Press Release)
- 05-24-2017 **Bizzarro: House Vote Puts Pa. on Track to Meet Real ID Compliance Deadline**
(Press Release)
- 05-24-2017 **Matzie Endorses PennDOT Audit**
(Press Release)
- 05-24-2017 **REAL ID Legislation Passed By General Assembly**
(Press Release)
- 05-24-2017 **Warren: Legislature Passes Measure to Comply with Real ID Law**
(Press Release)
- 05-24-2017 **Schlossberg Issues Statement on Real ID**
(Press Release)
- 05-24-2017 **Senate Committee Moves Caltagirone Bill to Increase Donations to Childhood...**
(Press Release)
- 05-24-2017 **Governor Wolf to Sign Bill Enabling Pennsylvania to Comply with Real ID**
(Press Release)
- 05-24-2017 **IRRC Submits Comments to the Department of Transportation**
(Press Release)
- 05-24-2017 **Auditor General DePasquale Launches Audit of PennDOT**
(Press Release)
- 05-24-2017 **PEIA: Mariner East Supports Emergency Preparedness and Safety**
(Press Release)
- 05-24-2017 **Auditor General Announces Start Of PennDOT Audit**
(Around the Capital)
- 05-24-2017 **Spirit Airlines prepares to overcome its turbulent past, 'build confidence' in Pittsburgh**
Spirit Airlines flies into Pittsburgh on Thursday still trying to shake off a turbulent month in which it finished dead last in customer satisfaction and was forced to cancel hundreds of flights after some of its pilots refused to take assignments. But chief spokesman Paul Berry insisted Tuesday that the ultra low fare... - *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*
- 05-24-2017 **Volkswagen settlement gives Pennsylvania \$118 million to clean up diesel pollution**
Pennsylvania is considering a plan to distribute its \$118 million share of a Volkswagen settlement on projects meant to offset extra pollution emitted by diesel vehicles that were outfitted by the automobile manufacturer with software to trick emissions tests.... - *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*
- 05-24-2017 **Matt Smith: Improving infrastructure vital for region**
In early March, Matt Smith traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for an infrastructure agenda, including federal funding for locks and dams, transportation and other critical local upgrades. "We had a list of infrastructure projects that we presented to members... - *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*
- 05-24-2017 **Spirit Airlines prepares to overcome its turbulent past, 'build confidence' in Pittsburgh**

Spirit Airlines flies into Pittsburgh on Thursday still trying to shake off a turbulent month in which it finished dead last in customer satisfaction and was forced to cancel hundreds of flights after some of its pilots refused to take assignments. But chief spokesman Paul Berry insisted Tuesday that the ultra low fare... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

05-24-2017

Real ID close to coming to a PennDot near you

HARRISBURG -- Pennsylvanians soon should be free to continue moving about the country. The legislature is poised to send a bill to Gov. Wolf as early as Wednesday that would allow the state to issue driver's licenses that meet security standards required by the federal Real ID law.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

05-24-2017

Peak ridiculousness: Bike lanes shouldn't be a wedge issue

Listening to debates before last week's mayoral primary, one could be led to think that bike lanes are at fault for all of Pittsburgh's woes. Mayor Bill Peduto's opponents painted bike lanes as frivolous niceties, or as dangerous, unplanned infrastructure that appear out of nowhere and... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

05-24-2017

U.S. says Fiat Chrysler used software to cheat emissions tests

DETROIT — The U.S. government is suing Fiat Chrysler, alleging that some of its diesel pickup trucks and Jeep SUVs cheat on emissions tests... - [AP](#)

05-24-2017

Pennsylvania Superior Court upholds woman's DUI checkpoint conviction

A New York State woman challenging her drunk-driving conviction after being stopped at a Robinson DUI checkpoint in 2013 lost her appeal Tuesday when Pennsylvania's Superior Court upheld the trial court's decision. The opinion could have ramifications for how police departments operate... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

05-24-2017

Pennsylvania Senate moves to expand online gambling

The Senate advanced gaming legislation Tuesday, showing its hand to the House as the two chambers continue working toward an agreement on expanding gaming in Pennsylvania. "We needed to show them where we are," said Sen. Kim Ward, R-Hempfield. "We need to get this started."... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

05-24-2017

Second traffic incident of the day backs up Parkway in Monroeville

For the second time Tuesday, an incident on the eastbound Parkway East restricted traffic. Reports indicated a vehicle caught on fire at about 6:40 p.m. and pulled to the shoulder just west of the Route 48/Monroeville interchange. The flames then caught the hillside on fire.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

05-24-2017

Pittsburgh finds extra \$1M for street repairs

Pittsburgh City Council is poised to beef up this year's street paving budget with about \$1 million discovered in expired capital project accounts. Councilman Dan Gilman of Squirrel Hill introduced legislation Tuesday that would add the cash to the \$15 million already budgeted for street repairs.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

05-24-2017

Pennsylvania moves to comply with federal Real ID law

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania is closer to complying with a federal law that requires people to prove they are legal U.S. residents in order for their driver's licenses to be valid for federal purposes... - [AP](#)

05-24-2017

The Philadelphia port gets a new name: PhilaPort

What's in a name? The Philadelphia Regional Port Authority is betting a lot, and has chosen a shorter, catchier name: PhilaPort. The port board and staff want to aggressively market Philadelphia to shippers around the world so that when they think about where to send cargo... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

05-24-2017

Pennsylvania Senate moves to expand online gambling

The Senate advanced gaming legislation Tuesday, showing its hand to the House as the two chambers continue working toward an agreement on expanding gaming in Pennsylvania. "We needed to show them where we are," said Sen. Kim Ward, R-Hempfield. "We need to get this started."... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

05-24-2017

Settled: Pennsylvania's 5-year debate over federal ID requirements gets a plan

The state Senate passed an amended "Real ID" bill Tuesday that's expected to hit Gov. Tom Wolf's desk tomorrow and keep Pennsylvanians free this summer to fly to DisneyWorld or to enter federal courthouses

and military bases. The state House earlier this month crafted a bill giving Pennsylvanians the... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

05-24-2017

Overpass fencing bill gets committee nod in Pa. Senate

The state Senate's Transportation Committee voted 14-0 Tuesday to advance a bill requiring the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to install protective fencing on most new or replacement bridges passing over interstates or other limited access highways.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

05-24-2017

Uber to Repay Millions to Drivers, Who Could Be Owed Far More

Uber's contract with drivers appears to allow the company to deduct only its 25 percent commission, not taxes, from their fares. But a lawsuit filed by a drivers' advocacy group in New York last year said the company was making its drivers swallow the tax burden — a practice the... - [New York Times](#)

05-24-2017

Proposed Rules Would Allow U.S. to Track and Destroy Drones

The Trump administration is asking Congress to give the federal government sweeping powers to track, hack and destroy any type of drone over domestic soil with a new exception to laws governing surveillance, computer privacy and aircraft protection, according to a document obtained by The New York... - [New York Times](#)

05-24-2017

Christie lays out train deal, Cuomo set for 'summer of hell'

Gov. Chris Christie on Tuesday unveiled a plan to limit the impact on New Jersey commuters during an emergency track repair project at Penn Station, while New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo cautioned commuters in his state to prepare for a "summer of hell."... - [AP](#)

05-24-2017

Pennsylvania moves closer to complying with Real ID law

The Senate voted Tuesday to repeal and replace a 2012 state law that bars Pennsylvania from complying with federally approved anti-terrorism travel rules at airports and federal property. The 49-1 tally came on a bill that would allow PennDOT to create a new... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

05-24-2017

Legislature moving internet gaming bill

You would not have to gamble with rain, sleet or snow in Pennsylvania under a bill moving through the Legislature Tuesday. The Senate Appropriations committee voted 24-2 on a bill that would permit gamblers to wager online, or buy traditional lottery tickets and play... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

05-24-2017

Pennsylvania moves to comply with federal Real ID law

Pennsylvania is closer to complying with a federal law that requires people to prove they are legal U.S. residents in order for their driver's licenses to be valid for federal purposes... - [AP](#)

05-24-2017

Fayette election board adds, rejects primary ballots to final totals

The Fayette County Election Board provided a path for certain primary votes to be among the overall totals while rejecting other ballots from those that were not eligible to vote in the spring election. On Tuesday, Commissioners Angela M. Zimmerlink, Vincent Vicites and Dave... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)

05-24-2017

State senators plan bill that would ban cellphone use for drivers younger than 18

HARRISBURG On the lookout State Police warned Tuesday that they are on the lookout for distracted drivers. Through May 30, Troop L is running a Distracted Driver Initiative, where police will be strictly enforcing violations when they see texting while driving and commercial drivers using a handheld cellphone as well as... - [Reading Eagle](#)

05-24-2017

Joint Authority weighs helping PennDOT pay for water main

The Womelsdorf/Robesonia Joint Authority will meet with PennDOT officials next week before deciding whether to agree to help pay for replacing a water main under Penn Avenue in Robesonia. The plan for the meeting was agreed on at a special session held Tuesday to... - [Reading Eagle](#)

05-24-2017

Port Authority still seeking Erie water taxi operator

One person, an experienced, Coast Guard-certified captain, has expressed interest in handling the water taxi duties this summer. He has been given until 4:30 p.m. Friday to submit a bid. By Kevin Flowers The Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority wants to find an experienced,... - [Erie Times-News](#)

05-24-2017

Pa.'s 2-tiered Real ID system passes costs to users, report says

Pennsylvania is closing in on having a Real ID system, but it will be two-tiered, involve choice and likely additional cost for those residents who want the enhanced driver's licenses, according to a published report. The Keystone State was one of several to pass on the program in 2012, but... - [Easton Express-Times](#)

05-24-2017

Maryland procurement reform could save millions

In the 2017 Maryland legislative session, major changes were taken to save taxpayers millions of dollars and increase state revenues without raising taxes or cutting programs. The state, along with counties and school systems, spends billions of dollars each year purchasing good and services via a process known as... - [Baltimore Sun](#)

05-24-2017

Drones aren't toys — and shouldn't be treated like them

What is a drone? Is it just a new version of the model aircraft that decades of schoolchildren have flown in their backyards and parks with little harm to people or property? Or is it a far more dangerous, often much more substantial, piece of machinery that can fly thousands of feet in... - [Los Angeles Times](#)

05-24-2017

AAA expects highest Memorial Day travel volume in 12 years

Price hikes for gas, airfare, car rentals and hotel stays aren't expected to keep Memorial Day travel volume from a 12-year high. More than 39 million Americans will travel at least 50 miles from home this Memorial Day weekend, according to AAA. That's 1 million more travelers than last year, and it would be the highest... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

05-24-2017

State grants to help Centennial convert school bus fleet to propane, add refueling station

The Centennial School District has been awarded \$336,338 in state grants to purchase 10 propane school buses and build a propane refueling station. The money is part of \$2 million in Alternative Fuel Incentive Grants given out in Pennsylvania this year to initiate the use of alternative fuels and... - [Levittown Intelligencer](#)

05-24-2017

City OKs grant for Ed Myer Complex upgrades

Titusville City Council at Tuesday's meeting voted unanimously in favor of Titusville Community Development Agencies seeking a grant for modifications to the Ed Myer Complex. If awarded, the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program grant will pay for a range of upgrades to the sports complex, which is owned by the city... - [Titusville Herald](#)

05-24-2017

Residency rules to stay in effect for Luzerne County management

Residency rules will stay in place for top Luzerne County management positions. County council voted 6-4 at its meeting Tuesday to keep rules in place that require the county manager, division heads, and heads of the emergency management, 911 emergency services and the sheriff's department, as... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)

05-24-2017

Residency rules to stay in effect for Luzerne County management

Residency rules will stay in place for top Luzerne County management positions. County council voted 6-4 at its meeting Tuesday to keep rules in place that require the county manager, division heads, and heads of the emergency management, 911 emergency services and the sheriff's department, as... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)

05-24-2017

Pennsylvania moves to comply with federal Real ID law

Pennsylvania is closer to complying with a federal law that requires people to prove they are legal U.S. residents in order for their driver's licenses to be valid for federal purposes... - [AP](#)

05-24-2017

Highlights of the Pennsylvania Senate's gambling legislation

The Pennsylvania Senate passed legislation Wednesday to expand casino-style gambling to websites and airports, approve online lottery games and reinstate a requirement that casinos pay millions to host communities... - [AP](#)

05-24-2017

Pennsylvania Legislature finally fixes 'Real ID'

The Legislature moved uncommonly fast this week to meet a deadline for compliance with federal identification regulations that could have prevented Pennsylvanians without passports from flying or entering federal buildings. The House voted 190-1 today to repeal and replace a 2012 state law that... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

- 05-24-2017 **Pennsylvania House passes Real ID bill**
 The Pennsylvania House has voted 190-1 to pass a Pennsylvania plan to comply with federal Real ID regulations. The bill now goes to Gov. Tom Wolf's desk for enactment. Wolf has said he will sign it. - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 05-24-2017 **Will bus routes be cut in Cumberland County? Showdown looms between county, Capital Area Transit**
 Angie Peyton relies on Capital Area Transit to get to work. The Carlisle resident is a house painter who often picks up jobs in Harrisburg. When the bus is late, or a route is canceled for the day, "I lose money," she said. But what will happen if Cumberland County loses its entire bus service from... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 05-24-2017 **Pa. Senate advances sweeping online gambling expansion**
 The state Senate passed a sweeping gambling expansion bill Wednesday that's projected to generate between \$109 million and \$147 million in new revenue amid a growing deficit. Fantasy contests, online gaming and tablets at airports are a few of the key components of HB271, which was amended by the Senate on its... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 05-24-2017 **State Auditor General DePasquale will audit PennDOT**
 State Auditor General Eugene DePasquale announced Wednesday his office will start a wide-ranging audit of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. During a conference call, Mr. DePasquale said he hasn't had any specific complaints but thought "the time was right" for the agency's first audit... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 05-24-2017 **House Rules**
5/24/17, 11:30 a.m., 245 Main Capitol
 By Matt Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services The committee met to consider one bill. SB 133 (PN 555) The REAL ID Compliance Act requires the Department of Transportation to submit a written request to the Department of Homeland Security that seeks an extension of time for the Commonwealth to comply with the provisions of the federal REAL ID Act. The amount of time requested for the extension shall be at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation. Requires the secretary to also present a report to the chairs and minority chairs of the Senate Communication and Technology Committee and the Senate and House Transportation Committees providing details and all estimated costs associated with the implementation and maintenance of all remaining requirements for compliance with the federal REAL ID Act as determined by the US Department of Homeland Security. Also requires the report to include all estimated initial and recurring costs to establish and maintain a two-tiered system which provides individuals with a choice between being issued a standard driver's license or identification card or a driver's license or identification card compliant with the REAL ID Act. The bill makes repeals the REAL ID Nonparticipation Act. Effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 155) - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.
- 05-24-2017 **House Transportation**
5/24/17, 12:45 p.m., Room 205 Ryan Office Building
 By Jeff Cox, Pennsylvania Legislative Services
 [v]http://media2.pahousegop.com/Generator.asp?videoname=470323762.wmv The committee met to consider bills. HB 1411 (PN 1776) Designates a portion of State Route 18 in West Fallowfield Township, Crawford County, as the Staff Sergeant James Douglas Mowris Memorial Highway. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.
- 05-24-2017 **Senate Floor**
May 24, 2017, 11:00 a.m.
 By Sarah Di Leo, Pennsylvania Legislative Services The Senate convened at 11:21 a.m. opening with prayer and the pledge of allegiance. New Senate bills were introduced and referred to committee. Bills were reported from committee.
- 05-23-2017 **Senate Session Notes for Tuesday, May 23, 2017**
 (Press Release)
- 05-23-2017 **AT&T'S 2017 "It Can Wait" Tour Stops in Harrisburg**
 (Press Release)

- 05-23-2017 **Lawmakers & Advocates Push For Distracted Driving Legislation**
(Around the Capital)
- 05-23-2017 **Governor: Don't install road signs for national monument**
PORTLAND, Maine — Motorists on an interstate that cuts through the heart of Maine won't see signs this summer directing them to a national monument created by President Obama because the governor won't let state workers install them... - [AP](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Officer hurt, 3 teens arrested in brawl near SEPTA station**
An officer was injured and three teenagers were taken into custody as police tried to break up an after-school brawl near a SEPTA station Monday afternoon. The incident happened near Erie and Torresdale Avenues, on the border of the city's Frankford and Juniata Park sections and close to the... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Airlines at PHL agree to \$900 million in improvements**
Want a French pastry, German beer, or Neapolitan pizza? At the touch of an Apple iPad, you can order those and more at three new restaurants in the gate areas of Terminal B at Philadelphia International Airport. The \$32.8 million terminal redesign, which will bring 1,100 iPads and eight... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Memorial Day traffic to reach 12-year high this weekend: AAA**
Whether you're driving to a family barbecue or down to the beach, expect the roads to be congested as millions of Americans travel for Memorial Day weekend. AAA reports that about 39.3 million Americans are expected to travel 50 miles or more this holiday weekend, which would create the highest Memorial... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Ford, Trudging Into the Future, Ousts Mark Fields as C.E.O.**
"Our world has changed dramatically," said William C. Ford Jr., Ford's chairman and great-grandson of its founder. "Look at the pace of change and the competitors coming into our space, and we need to match or beat that." Mr. Fields, a 28-year veteran of Ford, was a victim of rapidly evolving... - [New York Times](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Alone on the Open Road: Truckers Feel Like 'Throwaway People'**
The vast Petro truck stop here is a neon-lit, blacktop oasis at the crossroads of America. It beckons big-trig drivers with showers, laundry machines, a barber shop, even a knife store. "Professional drivers only," reads the sign above the tables of the Iron Skillet restaurant,... - [New York Times](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Commission approves LED lights for "Trenton Makes" Bridge**
TRENTON, N.J. Officials say the iconic "Trenton Makes The World Takes" letters on the Lower Trenton Bridge are getting new LED lights that can change color for special events... - [AP](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Wilkes University launches \$1.5M streetscape improvement project**
WILKES-BARRE — Wilkes University launched a \$1.5 million streetscape improvement project at a "sidewalk breaking" event on Monday morning in front of the Henry Student Center on West South Street. The project will include repairing sidewalks and installing new ones,... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Police report numbers on DUI crackdown in Luzerne County**
Several local police departments joined state troopers Friday and Saturday for a DUI enforcement initiative they called Operation Nighthawk. Through roving patrols both evenings across Luzerne County and surrounding areas, a total of 50 DUI arrests were made, along with 18 drug busts, and... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Office Hours: Are you in right seat on the right bus?**
Since Jim Collins wrote his book "Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don't," companies have been focusing on getting the right employees on the bus and in the right seats. When the notion of right bus/right seat is well-executed, success is much... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 05-23-2017 **SEPTA Taking Another Step Toward Nudging Riders To New Fare System**
There will soon be fewer places where SEPTA city transit riders can buy old-style magnetic-stripe TransPasses. Starting June 1, SEPTA will stop selling paper magnetic-stripe weekly and monthly TransPasses at its transit sales offices and at cashiers' booths. It's an effort to encourage riders to get a reloadable SEPTA... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)

- 05-23-2017 **Slow times continue at GE Transportation**
 When layoffs began 18 months ago, there was speculation the rail freight industry would bounce back quickly. That hasn't happened. Eighteen months have passed since a wave of 1,500 layoffs and retirements began at GE Transportation. When those cuts were first announced, some pointed to recent history as a... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Our view: EMTA ridership numbers troubling**
 Erie County was not alone in shedding public transit passengers in 2015-16. Statewide, 21 of the state's other 38 public transit companies also reported lower ridership numbers in the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's annual performance reviews. Still, the steep drop in the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority's... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Passenger traffic continues to climb at Pittsburgh International**
 FINDLAY TWP. -- Passenger traffic at Pittsburgh International Airport continues to climb, with April seeing the largest monthly jump in traffic since 2011. Nearly 721,000 people traveled through the airport in April, compared to 638,000 in April 2016. Through the first four months of this year, nearly... - [Beaver County Times](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Be warned: Cops across Pa. will target seat belt laws during your commute tonight**
 Buckle up, Pennsylvania. Local police departments across the state will be on the lookout for drivers and passengers who are not wearing seat belts during Monday evening's commute. More than 40 municipal agencies in southcentral Pennsylvania will conduct traffic enforcement zones and roving patrols from 4-8 p.m., according to a... - [York Daily](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Be warned: Cops across Pa. will target seat belt laws during your commute tonight**
 Buckle up, Pennsylvania. Local police departments across the state will be on the lookout for drivers and passengers who are not wearing seat belts during Monday evening's commute. More than 40 municipal agencies in southcentral Pennsylvania will conduct traffic enforcement zones and roving patrols from 4-8 p.m., according to a... - [York Daily](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Police plan crackdown on seat belt enforcement during Monday evening patrols**
 Fourteen Lancaster County police departments will take part in a Monday evening crackdown on seat belt enforcement. The state Department of Transportation announced Monday morning that the "Border to Border" event will make an extra effort to enforce seat belt laws from 4 to 8 p.m.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Route 56 safety meeting in Windber**
 The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation will conduct an open house and plans display to inform the public of the proposed Route 56 safety study between Windber Borough and Pleasantville Borough, Bedford County. The study assessed traffic, safety and driving conditions between these... - [Somerset Daily](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Cumberland County plans to replace 2 bridges as part of statewide project**
 A public meeting will be held June 5 to discuss the planned replacement of the Turnpike Road and Newville Road bridges, spanning Newburg Run in Hopewell Township, Cumberland County. The meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. at the Hopewell Township Municipal Building in Newburg, will include preliminary construction and traffic... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Rent-a-trooper: Could contracting state police patrols fix Pa.'s budget woes?**
 State police funding is top of mind for the Legislature this year. For years, Pennsylvania dipped into the Motor License Fund to subsidize patrols in communities without local police. In 2016, the state police responded to more than 100,000 incidents outside of its primary patrol... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 05-23-2017 **Senate Floor**
May 23, 2017, 1:00 p.m.
 By Sarah Di Leo, Pennsylvania Legislative Services The Senate convened at 1:12 p.m. opening with prayer and the pledge of allegiance. Bills were reported from committee.
- 05-23-2017 **Senate Rules and Executive Nominations**
5/23/17, 1:45 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room

By Kimberly Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services The committee met to consider bills and certain executive nominations. SB 133 (PN 555) The REAL ID Compliance Act requires the Department of Transportation to submit a written request to the Department of Homeland Security that seeks an extension of time for the Commonwealth to comply with the provisions of the federal REAL ID Act. The amount of time requested for the extension shall be at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation. Requires the secretary to also present a report to the chairs and minority chairs of the Senate Communication and Technology Committee and the Senate and House Transportation Committees providing details and all estimated costs associated with the implementation and maintenance of all remaining requirements for compliance with the federal REAL ID Act as determined by the US Department of Homeland Security. Also requires the report to include all estimated initial and recurring costs to establish and maintain a two-tiered system which provides individuals with a choice between being issued a standard driver's license or identification card or a driver's license or identification card compliant with the REAL ID Act. The bill makes repeals the REAL ID Nonparticipation Act. Effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 155) - The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

05-23-2017

Senate Transportation

5/23/17, 11:30 a.m., Room 8E-B East Wing

By Jeff Cox Pennsylvania Legislative Services The committee met to consider bills. SB 724 (PN 858) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) repealing section 7802 relating to findings and declaration of policy. Makes changes in the representation of the public members on the Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee. Repeals and replaces the committee's current powers and duties. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

05-22-2017

Senate Session Notes for Monday, May 22, 2017

(Press Release)

05-22-2017

Thirty-Seven State Employees Earn Governor's Awards for Excellence

(Press Release)

05-22-2017

DGS: PA Awards Contract to Conduct First-Ever Disparity Study on Small...

(Press Release)

05-22-2017

PennDOT Driver License, Photo Centers Closed For Memorial Day Holiday

(Press Release)

05-22-2017

ABATE of Pennsylvania Holds Annual Motorcyclists Rights Rally

(Around the Capital)

05-22-2017

Additional rail service between Harrisburg, Pittsburgh under reviewed

The Pennsylvania Senate is poised to take the next step toward increasing Amtrak passenger train service between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. But the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation also is looking into the possibility of supplementing train service with bus service, something... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

05-22-2017

Roads as test tracks

More than 90 percent of automobile crashes are caused by human errors (e.g., speeding, distracted drivers, fatigue, driving while intoxicated, etc.). We are hopeful and supportive of autonomous or self-driving vehicles being one answer to greater safety on the road. After all, self-driving... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

05-22-2017

Ruth Ann Dailey: Under observation, Pittsburgh drivers repent

As I entered Interstate 279 around 10:30 a.m. last Tuesday, heading north from Deutschtown, the highway was remarkably empty. Only one car was close, a white sedan behind me and over in the leftmost lane. It was near enough for me to spot some tell-tale markings, so I... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

05-22-2017

Robinson Township in Washington County expects growth when Southern Beltway is completed

And they may have to wait a bit longer to see if the new thoroughfare will spark the growth so many hope it will, said township manager Monica Miller. "If it does, we're ready," she said. "If it doesn't we're good, too." When it's finished, the 13-mile, \$700 million toll road project will... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

05-22-2017

3 charged after firing 30 to 40 shots near Pa. Turnpike tollbooths

East Cocalico police have charged three Lancaster men who reportedly fired numerous shots near Pennsylvania Turnpike tollbooths last month. Wilhelm Jesus Montalvo-Otero, 24; Carlos Gabriel Muniz-Cardona, 25; and Miguel Angel Perez-Ruiz, 42, are accused of shooting 30 to 40 shots in... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

05-22-2017

Restaurants and a warehouse proposed for Braden Airpark

The proposed development of three restaurants and a warehouse at Braden Airpark could give the small-plane airfield a long, prosperous future, but is it right for Forks Township's future? That's a decision township officials face after J.G. Petrucci Co. laid out... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

05-22-2017

Amtrak repairs to cause delays on SEPTA's Wilmington line

PHILADELPHIA The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority says Amtrak repairs will cause delays along the Wilmington/Newark regional rail line... - [AP](#)

05-22-2017

Police operation results in 50 DUI arrests

Law enforcement agencies made 50 DUI arrests this weekend as state police hosted nearly 50 state and municipal police officers for Operation Nighthawk, a unique DUI enforcement initiative Friday and Saturday. The operation consisted of an educational component conducted at Penn State... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

05-22-2017

PSP conduct Operation Nighthawk throughout Luzerne County

Several local police departments joined the Pennsylvania State Police Friday and Saturday as Operation Nighthawk took place, officials say. State police said Operation Nighthawk, is a unique DUI enforcement initiative, which consisted of an educational component conducted at Penn... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

05-22-2017

Pittsburgh Welcomed Uber's Driverless Car Experiment. Not Anymore.

"This was an opportunity missed," said Michael Lamb, Pittsburgh's city controller, who has called on Uber to share the traffic data gathered by its autonomous vehicles. The deteriorating relationship between Pittsburgh and Uber offers a cautionary tale, especially as other cities consider rolling out driverless... - [New York Times](#)

05-22-2017

Ford Motor Is Replacing Mark Fields as C.E.O.

Mr. Hackett, 62, a longtime chief of the office furniture giant Steelcase and a former Ford director, joined the company's operational ranks last year as head of its "smart mobility" operation, which includes driverless technology. As recently as last week, Mr. Fields, 56, had been trying to strengthen... - [New York Times](#)

05-22-2017

Traveling by train should be easier, faster

As a railroad buff, I have never understood why the United States acts like a third-world country when it comes to passenger rail. In America, "riding the rails" is almost a relic of a bye-gone era. Boxcar Willie sang about hobos and poker games; Johnny Cash praised the... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)

05-22-2017

Ron Southwick: Why Pennsylvania lawmakers really need to comply with Real ID

As I'm writing this column, I'm preparing to get on an airplane for the first time in nearly a decade. I'm trying to figure out how to fit everything in my carry-on bag, which would be simple if I didn't need my running shoes and gear. At least I don't have to worry about my driver's license being a valid form... - [Reading Eagle](#)

05-22-2017

Editorial: Report on Real ID cost impact must be made public

The Issue: A document relating to an important state issue is being withheld by PennDOT. Our Opinion: The information must be released, and the state needs to act on the larger issue. As if the situation with Pennsylvania's noncompliance with the federal Real... - [Reading Eagle](#)

05-22-2017

PennDOT executive leaves job; Economy woman one of three interim replacements

The man who has served as the executive of PennDOT's District 11 for the last 12 years has taken a job in the private sector, and he will be replaced on an interim basis by three former subordinates, one of whom is from Beaver County. PennDOT announced Friday that Dan Cessna is leaving PennDOT, where, since... - [Beaver County Times](#)

- 05-22-2017 **Shell confirms location of 3,000 parking spaces for construction workers**
 Shell Chemicals has secured enough parking space to accommodate about 3,000 workers during construction of its ethane cracker plant, but the company is still searching for additional space. Spokesman Michael Marr confirmed Friday that Shell has already secured 500... - [Beaver County Times](#)
- 05-22-2017 **Are new Route 30 lights moving traffic faster in York area?**
 With the new "smart" traffic lights along Route 30, Yang Ha said her commute time has been cut in half - from 20 minutes to 10. Ha, who works at Kenmae Hair & Nails in Manchester Township, said she's good because she travels the major corridor and gets the green light.... - [York Daily](#)
- 05-22-2017 **Lancaster Watchdog: Incorrect signs on Route 30 and bumpy roads in the city**
 Watchdog tracks down answers to readers' questions about highway signs and bumpy roads. - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 05-22-2017 **Lenient law yields highway tragedy**
 The traffic death last week of a Bucks County deputy sheriff was a senseless tragedy on a couple of levels. First and foremost, the crash that claimed the life of off-duty deputy Keith Clymer of Kintnersville has deprived the county of a dedicated public servant. County officials and his... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)
- 05-22-2017 **Law failed to prevent highway tragedy**
 The traffic death last week of a Bucks County deputy sheriff was a senseless tragedy on a couple of levels. First and foremost, the crash that claimed the life of off-duty deputy Keith Clymer of Kintnersville has deprived the county of a dedicated public servant. County officials and his... - [Levittown Intelligencer](#)
- 05-22-2017 **LEPC holds monthly meeting**
 Warren County's Local Emergency Planning Committee held its regular meeting last week. Among the topics discussed were responses to incidents within the county since March. Changes to the bylaws were also adopted. A planned test of the county's weather sirens was canceled when it... - [Warren Times Observer](#)
- 05-22-2017 **LEPC holds monthly meeting**
 Warren County's Local Emergency Planning Committee held its regular meeting last week. Among the topics discussed were responses to incidents within the county since March. Changes to the bylaws were also adopted. A planned test of the county's weather sirens was canceled when it... - [Warren Times Observer](#)
- 05-22-2017 **Public meeting and plans display for the Route 56 Safety Study**
 The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) will conduct an open house and plans a display to inform the public of the proposed Route 56 Safety Study between Windber Borough, Somerset County and Pleasantville Borough, Bedford County. This study assessed traffic, safety, and driving conditions between these... - [Somerset Daily](#)
- 05-22-2017 **The Heron's Nest: The Daily Numbers for Monday, May 22**
 The Daily Numbers: 3 percent tax hike coming in Rose Tree Media School District. 2.4 percent tax hike looming in Garnet Valley. 374 graduates picked up diplomas at Swarthmore College Sunday 0 injuries in plane crash outside West Chester Sunday afternoon. Advertisement... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)
- 05-22-2017 **State data: Distracted driving increasing**
 Motorists need a wake-up call about the risks involved with cellphone communication, Schuylkill County police officers and educators assert. Distracted driving due to cellphone use has become a serious hazard, recently released state data shows. "There's an effort by law enforcement to crack down on it because... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)
- 05-22-2017 **Editorial: Taking sober steps in battle vs. DUI**
 What that means is that, before the person's car will start, the driver will, in effect, be required to pass a sobriety test. That law is a significant step toward attacking the DUI problem. However, people who understand the importance of sobriety when operating a... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)

- 05-22-2017 [New K-9 teams graduate from Sheriff's Department's training course](#)
 The Chester County Sheriff's Department held a graduation ceremony at the Chester County Justice Center Friday for their second class of dog and officer teams to graduate from the in-house K-9 training course. "We're very pleased to have multiple agencies, Ridley Township and... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)
- 05-22-2017 [Environmentalist Protest SEPTA's Planned Facility In Nicetown](#)
 Environmentalists are protesting a power generating station that SEPTA wants to build at its facility in Nicetown. SEPTA says the plant is actually meant to improve the environment. Plant opponent Peter Winslow calls the project "an act of environmental racism."... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 05-22-2017 [Saegertown businesses plea for patronage during roundabout projects](#)
 All it takes is a quick glance for Chris Gilbert to see how much business is hurting in Saegertown during the construction of two roundabouts in the borough. "Before, it was always hard making a left-hand turn leaving the business," the manager for Saegertown Beer said. "Now, there's no traffic."... - [Meadville Tribune](#)
- 05-22-2017 [Time running out for PA to comply with federal REAL ID law](#)
 The Pennsylvania Legislature is pushing against a deadline set by the federal government to comply with new standards for more secure drivers' licenses. In January, the state was given an extension until June 6 after Gov. Tom Wolf and legislative leaders promised to come up with a plan to comply with... - [New Castle News](#)
- 05-22-2017 [Tragedy turns into push against drunk driving](#)
 Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Kenton Iwaniec was a son, brother, fiancé, cousin and a friend. His life had been cut short by a drunk driver. Kenton was driving home after completing a shift at the Avondale barracks in Chester County on March 27, 2008, when a Chevy Tahoe crossed into the... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)
- 05-22-2017 [Hurdles still remain for Rep. Shuster's air plan](#)
 A hearing Wednesday in Congress highlighted the steep challenges that remain for Rep. Bill Shuster, R-9th District, and his effort to privatize the nation's air traffic control system. Shuster's plan got a boost in March when President Donald Trump publicly called for the system's privatization. As head of the House... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 05-22-2017 [House Appropriations](#)
5/22/17, 1:15 p.m., Room 140 Main Capitol
 By Matt Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services The committee met to consider bills. HB 524 (PN 548) Amends the act entitled, "An act requiring the superintendent of every public school district to make available, upon request, lists of graduating seniors to armed forces recruiters; and providing a penalty for the misuse of any such lists," further providing for title and for legislative intent; providing for short title and for definitions; and further providing for list of seniors to be compiled, for optional compliance by nonpublic schools and for reimbursement of costs. The Military Access to Student Recruiting Information Act is added, which seeks to assist armed forces recruiters to achieve additional access to potential recruits by compiling a list of secondary school students for distribution upon written request to armed forces recruiters for the cost thereof, for recruiting purposes only. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.
- 05-22-2017 [Senate Appropriations](#)
5/22/17, 3:48 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room
 By Jeff Cox, Pennsylvania Legislative Services The committee met to consider bills. SB 144 (PN 96) Amends Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act authorizing the inclusion of alternative systems in the site planning process. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.
- 05-22-2017 [Senate Rules and Executive Nominations](#)
5/22/17, 1:42 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room
 By Jeff Cox, Pennsylvania Legislative Services The committee met to consider legislation and executive nominations. SB 133 (PN 555) The REAL ID Compliance Act requires the Department of Transportation to submit a written request to the Department of Homeland Security that seeks an extension of time for the Commonwealth to comply with the provisions of the federal REAL ID Act. The amount of time requested for the extension shall be at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation. Requires the secretary to also present a report to the chairs and minority chairs of the Senate Communication and Technology Committee and the Senate and House Transportation Committees providing details and all

estimated costs associated with the implementation and maintenance of all remaining requirements for compliance with the federal REAL ID Act as determined by the US Department of Homeland Security. Also requires the report to include all estimated initial and recurring costs to establish and maintain a two-tiered system which provides individuals with a choice between being issued a standard driver's license or identification card or a driver's license or identification card compliant with the REAL ID Act. The bill makes repeals the REAL ID Nonparticipation Act. Effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 155) - The bill was **passed over**.

- 05-21-2017 **Pennsylvania electric utilities develop policies for charging cars**
 Pennsylvania regulators are no strangers to what happens when new technology meets old regulations. Uber, anyone? This time, it's electric vehicle charging stations, an emerging industry trying to find its footing and an economic model in Pennsylvania. In an effort to encourage the growth of the industry, at least one utility... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

- 05-21-2017 **Ride-sharing services leave people with disabilities behind**
 During a recent browse of my Twitter feed, a quotation from Mayor Bill Peduto jumped out at me. At the National Summit on Design and Urban Mobility, held in Pittsburgh earlier this month, he said, "If it's not for all, it's not for us." Mr. Peduto was referring to... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

- 05-21-2017 **Cessna leaving PennDOT for Michael Baker International**
 When Dan Cessna became PennDOT's District 11 executive in June 2005, he was the youngest of 11 executives across the state. As he leaves 12 years later, Mr. Cessna, 43, is still the youngest. PennDOT announced Friday that Mr. Cessna will begin work Monday as the... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

- 05-21-2017 **Appeals court strikes down FAA drone registration rule**
 WASHINGTON — An appeals court on Friday struck down a Federal Aviation Administration rule that required owners of drones used for recreation to register their craft... - [AP](#)

- 05-21-2017 **Pittsburgh International Airport has biggest monthly passenger increase since 2011**
 Pittsburgh International Airport in April recorded its largest monthly jump in passenger traffic since 2011, at 11.2 percent, according to an airport news release. The airport credits the increase largely to Southwest Airlines, which added service to St. Louis and Los Angeles, capacity on flights to Orlando, new... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

- 05-21-2017 **Philly now has a mural of a squirrel eating a SEPTA token**
 Murals, squirrels, and SEPTA tokens have long been ubiquitous around Philadelphia. Now, those three parts of city life are brought together in a new art installation in North Philadelphia. As highlighted on the Streets Department blog, the just-installed mural at... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

- 05-21-2017 **Life in Pa. burbs just like in N.Y. -- kind of**
 by Kathryn Taylor Readers of the Sunday New York Times know that a staple of the Metropolitan section is "Sunday Routine." This column features notable New Yorkers sharing how they spend their Sundays. Actors and architects. Chefs and chief executives. Nobel Prize winners and MacArthur "genius... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

- 05-21-2017 **CNG service in region likely to expand**
 PITTSTON TWP. — The fueling station that Ross Finlan helped bring to Pittston Twp. is the only place the public can buy compressed natural gas, or CNG, for their vehicles in Luzerne County. That will change when the Luzerne County Transportation Authority offers... - [Scranton Times](#)

- 05-21-2017 **Compressed natural gas poised to become more readily available**
 PITTSTON TWP. — The fueling station that Ross Finlan helped bring to Pittston Twp. is the only place the public can buy compressed natural gas, or CNG, for their vehicles in Luzerne County. That will change when the Luzerne County Transportation Authority offers... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

- 05-21-2017 **Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority rejects abandoned rail sale**
 The proposed sale of 8.11 miles of unused steel rail from Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority train tracks is off the table. Authority board members unanimously voted last week to reject the sale, said authority Executive Director Andrew Reilly. The authority management had pursued the proposal to sell the rail for... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

- 05-21-2017 **Farhad's and Mike's Week in Tech: Caring About Tech News**
 Farhad: I know it's hard to love Uber, and also it's quite possible that Uber stole Google's self-driving tech (we'll find out as the big lawsuit proceeds). But to me, Google's actions here also deserve scrutiny. Look at all the sides Google and its parent company, Alphabet, are playing... - [New York Times](#)
- 05-21-2017 **Saudi Arabia to Invest \$20 Billion in Infrastructure, Mostly in U.S.**
 As President Trump begins his first presidential trip abroad in Saudi Arabia, an investment company run by one of his top supporters, the billionaire Stephen A. Schwarzman, has secured an enormous investment from the Middle Eastern kingdom. The company, Blackstone, which Mr. Schwarzman helped found, said on... - [New York Times](#)
- 05-21-2017 **Pat Bywater: Bicycling plans a key to Erie's future**
 Cities with the infrastructure to support a lifestyle centered around walking and bicycling, as opposed to using a car, will attract and retain young professionals, a vital factor in stimulating urban renewal, jobs, new business and growth. Laying down a white stripe along a few roads, putting up signs, smoothing... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 05-21-2017 **Bicycling advocates: Erie on brink of bike-friendly change**
 New elected officials, bike-friendly planners, an effort to create a high-tech local workforce and a new event highlighting the region's bikeability all hold the promise of growing Erie's bike culture. Erie may be on the brink of becoming a city where bikes are embraced,... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 05-21-2017 **EMTA ridership down in 2015-16**
 Annual performance review also shows increase in operating costs. There were some bumps in the road for local public transit systems in 2015-16. Fewer people rode Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority and Crawford Area Transit Authority buses and operating costs continued to climb, according... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 05-19-2017 **PennDOT Urges Motorists to Stop Littering, Performs District Litter Cleanup**
 (Press Release)
- 05-19-2017 **News Conference Scheduled for Tuesday, May 23 in Capitol Rotunda on...**
 (Press Release)
- 05-19-2017 **Brandon Bostian arraigned in Amtrak crash, and released**
 Brandon Bostian, the engineer operating an Amtrak train that derailed in 2015, was taken into custody on charges related to the deaths of eight people on board the train. Bostian, wearing a maroon polo shirt and jeans, was cuffed by investigators from the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office at the corner of 21st... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Pa. launches review of electric-vehicle charging policies**
 The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission on Thursday launched a review of its policy related to third-party electric vehicle charging stations, saying the lack of consistent rules governing the way fees can be assessed may inhibit the build-out of EV infrastructure.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Defense lawyers voice concern about Amtrak charges**
 At least one group of lawyers wasn't clinking champagne flutes when state Attorney General Josh Shapiro filed criminal charges against the engineer of Amtrak Train 188, which derailed May 12, 2015, claiming eight lives and injuring hundreds. Shapiro's decision to charge Brandon Bostian on Friday has triggered... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Trump's immaturity is dangerous**
 Trump's immaturity is dangerous The most dangerous element of President Trump's disclosure - to an adversary of the United States, no less - of classified intelligence material received on a confidential basis from an allied nation, is also its root cause: the president's juvenile personality ("Trump confirms he... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Texting and driving jail time could rise in Pennsylvania**
 Motorists convicted of vehicular homicide while texting could spend more time in prison under a proposed change to the state's sentencing guidelines pitched Thursday at a public hearing in Greensburg. The

Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing is expected to make a series of... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

- 05-19-2017 **One year after they hit the road in Pittsburgh, challenges remain for Uber self-driving cars**
 The whirling tops of Uber's self-driving cars still turn heads as they roll up and down Pittsburgh's streets. But the wow factor is wearing off. It was a year ago that Uber announced it was testing autonomous vehicles on the city's streets. The tests ignited a new industry in Pittsburgh. They shined a spotlight on... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 05-19-2017 **SUV recovered from Ohio River near Three Rivers Trail**
 An SUV plunged 70 feet from a Norfolk Southern Railroad bridge spanning the Ohio River in Pittsburgh on Thursday, killing at least one occupant, authorities said. "It was not a Norfolk Southern vehicle. Nobody from Norfolk Southern was inside the vehicle," said railroad spokesman David Pidgeon.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Sheetz beats Wawa - at least in drivers' trust of restrooms**
 Note to Pennsylvania road-trippers this summer: Crowdsourcing research suggests when you need to make a pit stop, do so at a Sheetz. GasBuddy, an app which allows users to rate the quality of gas station bathrooms, revealed Thursday that Sheetz has Pennsylvania's... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Police mystified about how motorist got onto railroad bridge before falling into Ohio River**
 Investigators are trying to determine how a woman managed to drive onto a railroad bridge Thursday in Pittsburgh before her sport-utility vehicle veered off and plummeted 70 feet into the Ohio River below. The woman, who had not been identified as of Thursday night, was dead by... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Port Authority says it will restore service to Mifflin Estates, use part surplus to balance proposed budget**
 Starr Magwood has watched for more than five years as her neighbors at Mifflin Estates in West Mifflin have struggled to walk nearly a mile for bus service or nearly two miles to reach a grocery store along mostly narrow roads with no sidewalks. That likely will end in September, when Port Authority extends service on... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Toyota, 3 other automakers settle suit over Takata air bags**
 DETROIT — Toyota, Subaru, Mazda and BMW have reached a proposed settlement that would compensate owners of 15.8 million vehicles for money they lost due to the massive recall of Takata air bags... - [AP](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Business briefs: Highmark Health names executive vice president and chief marketing officer**
 Highmark Health names executive vice president and chief marketing officer Cindy Donohoe has been named to the newly created position of executive vice president and chief marketing officer for Highmark Health, overseeing marketing for the entire organization including Highmark Health Plan and... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Fight between Arconic, hedge fund headed down to the wire**
 Less than a week remains for Arconic and activist hedge fund Elliott Management to win the hearts and minds of investors, who will decide the fate of the specialty metal parts producer at Arconic's shareholder meeting May 25. Much more than five seats on Arconic's board of directors are at stake... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Legislative boss negotiating Pa. budget with governor he hopes to unseat**
 Forty-two days. That's how long Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf and the Republican-controlled Legislature have to negotiate, pass and sign a budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1. The talks — expected to heat up when lawmakers return Monday — could be even more tenuous and stressful than in 2015-16. That was Wolf's... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 05-19-2017 **AVP airport terminal demolition to start soon**
 PITTSTON TWP. — With the sound of paper ripping, the long-awaited demolition of the old Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport terminal began Thursday. Fearing rebounding debris from a real demolition might hit someone, airport officials stretched an oversized poster of the terminal across a wooden... - [Scranton Times](#)

- 05-19-2017 [Lackawanna Heritage Valley hosts symposium](#)
 The Lackawanna Heritage Valley and several other local groups hosted nearly 100 trail and environmental group leaders at the fourth annual Trail Symposium on Thursday. The LHV hosted the professional development event at its Scranton headquarters to allow people from the trail and environmental... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 05-19-2017 [Watch: Mount Rose, I-83 project in York behind schedule](#)
 Construction on the Mount Rose interchange of Interstate 83 is behind schedule, and it's now possible that work could extend into 2019, according to the state Department of Transportation. Paul Kuehnel - [York Daily](#)
- 05-19-2017 [Airport terminal demolition begins](#)
 PITTSTON TWP. — With the sound of paper ripping, the long-awaited demolition of the old Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport terminal began Thursday. Fearing rebounding debris from a real demolition might hit someone, airport officials stretched an oversized poster of the terminal across a wooden... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 05-19-2017 [Erie street improvements to cover 38 road miles for \\$5.5 million](#)
 The work has already begun. Additional streets might be added if time and funding permit. City of Erie officials on Thursday morning announced a \$5.5 million plan to improve 38 miles of city roads. Four contracts totaling \$4,719,000 will be awarded for some of the work.... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 05-19-2017 [Country music fans put lane restrictions on bridge to the test in Reading](#)
 Eric Church fans put around-the-clock lane restrictions on the Penn Street Bridge to the test. The country music star attracted more than 8,000 people to the Santander Arena for a concert at 8 p.m. Thursday. It was the first big event in downtown Reading since the restrictions were... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 05-19-2017 [Reading meters agreement with UGI in dispute](#)
 The city has spent about \$150,000 on a legal battle to block UGI Utilities Inc. from installing gas meters outside of homes in the Centre Park Historic District. The expenditure has at least one city official hot under the collar. "We've spent that amount of money on Centre Park when UGI has been... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 05-19-2017 [Jefferson Township supervisors to intervene in zoning appeal](#)
 The Jefferson Township supervisors have voted to intervene in an appeal of the zoning hearing board's decision to deny zoning relief for a Dollar General Store proposed for a site on Route 183 at New Shafferstown Road. After unsuccessfully seeking relief from requirements on parking, the... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 05-19-2017 [Montgomery County commissioners approve \\$64M in borrowing](#)
 The Montgomery County commissioners Thursday voted to give the county a financial shot in the arm with borrowed money. In a unanimous vote, the three commissioners passed resolutions authorizing a \$50-million bond issue to fund capital projects. These funds will carry... - [Levittown Intelligencer](#)
- 05-19-2017 [Upper Makefield reaching out to property owners left with logs near roads after PECO trimming](#)
 Upper Makefield officials are working to soothe some residents' concerns that logs left along roadside banks after a tree trimming could roll down and create problems for drivers. Township officials have spoken to PECO and state Department of Transportation representatives who have said they're "comfortable" that the... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)
- 05-19-2017 [Doylestown Airport hosts open house Saturday](#)
 Free airplane rides, demonstrations and lots of children's activities are planned for a special free event 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Doylestown Airport. The Bucks County Airport Authority and the Doylestown Pilot Association have organized the 14th annual open house at the airport, 3879 Old Easton... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)
- 05-19-2017 [State historical commission signs off on airport project](#)
 The Fayette County Airport Authority has received the green light from the state Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) to proceed with planned improvements for the Forward Base Operations building. Bill Johnson, RW Sleighter construction manager, reported Wednesday that... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)

- 05-19-2017 **Cecil, Peters to get state help for traffic light projects**
 Two Washington County municipalities will receive hundreds of thousands of dollars in state funds each to use for upgrades to traffic lights. Gov. Tom Wolf's office announced last week a total of \$33 million for signal upgrades in 94 municipalities, including in Cecil and Peters... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 05-19-2017 **PennDOT honors Star of Excellence recipients**
 MONTOURSVILLE, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Secretary Leslie S. Richards on Wednesday recognized 30 PennDOT employees for their outstanding performance with the Star of Excellence Award, PennDOT's highest recognition. - [Towanda Daily Review](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Trainload of rail enthusiasts enjoy visit to Shamokin**
 SHAMOKIN — It was an old memory for some and a new experience for others as a train stretching two city blocks made its way into downtown Shamokin carrying approximately 500 people Thursday afternoon. - [Shamokin News-Item](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Wilkes-Barre/Scranton airport terminal demolition to start soon**
 PITTSTON TWP. — With the sound of paper ripping, the long-awaited demolition of the old Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport terminal began Thursday. Fearing rebounding debris from a real demolition might hit someone, airport officials stretched an oversized poster of the terminal across a wooden... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Uber Threatens to Fire Star Engineer in Legal Battle Over Driverless Cars**
 SAN FRANCISCO — Uber's top lawyer threatened to fire one of the company's star engineers if he did not comply with a lawsuit, according to a court filing on Thursday, the latest dramatic turn in a legal battle between two technology giants. The case involves an explosive claim from Waymo, the self-driving car unit... - [New York Times](#)
- 05-19-2017 **\$553 Million Accord for U.S. Drivers Over Takata Airbags**
 The legal battle over the deadly flaws in Takata airbags moved a step closer to resolution on Thursday when four automakers agreed to compensate owners of recalled cars. Under a proposed settlement in a class-action case, Toyota, BMW, Subaru and Mazda are set to pay a total of \$553 million to current and former owners... - [New York Times](#)
- 05-19-2017 **A judge's snoozing puts a vital transit link in peril**
 LAST FALL, the federal judge who blocked funding and construction of the light-rail Purple Line in Maryland's suburbs ordered federal officials to go back to the drawing board. The judge, Richard J. Leon, wondered if safety and maintenance problems on Metro, which would account for about a... - [Washington Post](#)
- 05-19-2017 **New Jersey Transit Train Door Stays Open For 8 Stops**
 TRENTON (CBS) — New Jersey Transit is investigating what caused a door to stay open for at least eight stops before the train was pulled out of service. It happened Tuesday night on the way from New York City to Trenton. Questlove Cancels Scheduled Appearance At Senior Prom... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Ruptured Gas Line Causes Commuting Headaches In South Jersey**
 CHERRY HILL, N.J. (CBS) — A ruptured gas line caused headaches for some South Jersey commuters this morning. Natural gas was spewing into the air, where New Jersey DOT repaving crews ruptured a two-inch main on eastbound Route 70 at Curtis Avenue around 12: 30 a.m.... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Penn Vet's Working Dog Center Celebrates Newest Graduates**
 PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — Penn Vet's Working Dog Center has been producing an elite group of scent detection dogs that have gone onto all sorts of jobs; from sniffing out bed bugs, to narcotics and explosive detection. It was graduation day for three special canines who are the newest members... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Pottsville Area to outsource busing**
 POTTSVILLE — The Pottsville Area school board voted Thursday to lease buses from one of the three companies that submitted a request for proposals earlier this year. Board members discussed the issue for about an hour with questions asked by the public. "We need to provide the safest most economical form of transportation.... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)

- 05-19-2017 **Montgomery County Commissioners approve \$64M in bonds, seek proposals for bridge projects**
 NORRISTOWN >> The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the issuance of two series bonds totaling \$64 million Thursday aimed at funding capital improvement programs and refinancing old debt. A portion of the first bond will be funded using a \$5 motor vehicle... - [Pottstown Mercury](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Pottstown Drivers License Photo Center reopens**
 POTTSTOWN >> The Drivers License Photo Center on High Street that was closed Tuesday because of a burst pipe has reopened. PennDOT announced that the center, located in the rear of Commonwealth Auto Tags at 978 E. High St., is again open for business. Customers may also obtain a variety of driver and vehicle products and... - [Pottstown Mercury](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Refurbished Allegheny Landing park, trail dedicated on North Shore**
 Riverlife and Friends of Allegheny Landing used Bike to Work Day Friday morning to formally dedicate the refurbished North Shore trail. The trail was closed between the Clemente and Warhol bridges last summer while crews relocated the in-ground mosaic along the riverfront, restored... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Paperwork delays traffic light installation in South Middleton**
 Though the installation of a traffic signal in South Middleton Township had been scheduled for completion in early May, the wrong filing of paperwork has delayed those plans. PennDOT District 8 spokesman Greg Penny said the contractor for the installation of a traffic signal at Holly Pike and Marsh Drive in South... - [Carlisle Sentinel](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Authority considering parking deal with hotel**
 The Altoona Water Authority on Thursday tabled a request from the owners of the new Wingate hotel to use authority parking spaces during off-hours. Board member Marla Marcinko, the city manager, worried that granting permission might create a zoning problem for the hotel, which is across... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Emporium levee part of Army Corps pilot project**
 EMPORIUM — The levee system protecting the borough from seasonal flooding is being included in the National Pilot Levee Program administered through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Funds have been allocated to address small levee systems across the nation that have fallen into disrepair, but few municipalities have signed onto... - [Bradford Era](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Temporary detour coming for bridge job in Hamlin Township**
 CLEARFIELD — A 2-day detour will be in place next week as work continues a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) bridge project in Hamlin Township. The bridge spans Kinzua Creek on Township Road 602 in the village of Kushequa and a detour will be in place on the project Tuesday and... - [Bradford Era](#)
- 05-19-2017 **New public transit 'cashless' fare enforcement will include warrant searches**
 Port Authority released its new fare enforcement policy Friday that will be implemented this summer when the light-rail system goes to a cashless fare system. Under the policy, Port Authority police officers will use special machines to check ConnectCard or single-fare vouchers for riders in a designated... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Philly now has a mural of a squirrel eating a SEPTA token**
 Murals, squirrels and SEPTA tokens have long been ubiquitous around Philadelphia. Now, those three iconic parts of city life are brought together in a new art installation in North Philadelphia. As highlighted on the Streets Dept. blog, the just-installed mural at 2217... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 05-19-2017 **SEPTA's Wilmington/Newark Line disrupted until July for Amtrak work**
 Riders on SEPTA's Wilmington/Newark Line should brace for delays and service disruptions for the next month and a half. Amtrak is starting a rail-improvement project Monday that will disrupt service on the Regional Rail line through July 2, SEPTA said. Weekday inbound trains from the Newark and Wilmington stations may be... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 05-19-2017 **Cessna leaving PennDOT for Michael Baker International**
 Cessna leaving PennDOT for Michael Baker International Pam Panchak/Post-Gazette Cessna leaving PennDOT for Michael Baker International Dan Cessna, PennDOT's District 11 executive for the past 12

May 26, 2017

years, is leaving the agency after work Friday for a job in the private sector.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

05-19-2017

[Pennsylvania transportation exec leaving for contractor job](#)

PITTSBURGH A Pennsylvania Department of Transportation official who's overseen billions of dollars' worth of road projects in the Pittsburgh area is leaving to take a job with a major contractor... - [AP](#)