



HARRISBURG OVERVIEW:

Both the House and Senate are scheduled to come back to session next week (April 14th-16th). However, due to concerns about Coronavirus, session activities remain restricted and most legislators are still participating remotely.

Right now, legislators are solely focused on COVID-related bills. House Republicans are now looking at legislation and amendments to override some of Governor Wolf's directives. Amendments circulated this weekend would allow businesses to operate by implementing a COVID-19 emergency mitigation plan, provide for COVID-19 emergency statutory and regulatory suspensions and waivers reporting requirements, and create a COVID-19 Cost and Recovery Task Force. Additionally, there are proposals being pushed to allow more construction employees to get back to work and there is a proposal to reopen retail stores if they can be run by one worker who can serve one customer at a time.

Legislation not directly related to COVID will likely be temporarily delayed.

As of 3/13/20, the Capitol is closed to the public and lobbyists, so we are working remotely via phone calls/emails. Schedules are very volatile right now, so we will keep you updated as things progress.

GOVERNOR WOLF'S MANDATORY SHUTDOWN:

We recently received some concerns from the association about the Governor's mandatory shutdown of non-essential businesses and its impact on fairgrounds and storage services. We worked directly with the Governor's office and determined that fairs are still permitted to release property to individuals since storage is considered essential.

BUDGET:

The Governor's 2020-2021 budget proposal fully-funded Pennsylvania's fairs at \$4million. Throughout the entire budget negotiation process, Milliron Goodman will continue to advocate to maintain this funding. Keep in mind, the line item is funded as an appropriation from the PA Race Horse Development Restricted Receipts Account to the Department of Agriculture. So while the Governor's budget proposal calls for using a portion of the money from the Race Horse Development Trust Fund to pay for tuition assistance, this is not our battle as long as there is \$4 million in funding appropriated to Pennsylvania's fairs (which he is proposing).

Every year after the Governor's budget address, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees hold budget hearings with the state agencies to review budgetary requests,

upcoming projects, spending, etc. This year, during the Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearing with the Department of Agriculture, one comment of interest came from Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill regarding the incident at the York Fair last year. She noted concerns that the response and report from the Department were significantly delayed. So in the future she would like to see that there is no delay and people can feel safe on rides at state and county fairs. Secretary Redding noted that all the concerns from the incident were identified and addressed.

LEGISLATION:

Representative Doyle Heffley (R-Carbon) re-introduced the mobile food truck licensing bill ([HB 671](#)) for the PA State Showmen's Association. Again, this language would establish the concept of an 'operating base location.' Mobile units would be required to pay food licensing fees based on the operating base location instead of fees in multiple jurisdictions. In addition, while conducting business in jurisdictions other than their base location, mobile units can still be inspected by that jurisdiction, but they are not responsible for inspection fees.

This past May, we were able to successfully get the bill passed out of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee with a unanimous vote. Then several county health departments came forward with their opposition and the full House vote was postponed. They voiced concerns about the elimination of inspections fees in jurisdictions outside the operating base location. So we organized a stakeholder meeting and negotiated with the House Democratic leaders and members on an amendment. It would essentially allow inspection fees on street trucks that aren't participating as part of an event, regardless of whether or not they are operating in their base location. This agreed-to amendment is ready and will be voted on when the bill is placed on the House agenda. We are advocating for a floor vote as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we continue to emphasize the importance of local legislator outreach. If legislators hear that their constituents support the bill, then there is a greater better chance for this bill to successfully move through the legislative process and across the finish line. Please visit this website for your local legislator's contact information: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/>.

Attached please find a full listing of bills we are tracking for the association. We'll continue to monitor all new proposals and keep you apprised.

REGULATIONS

We are continuing to monitor for any potential movement with the Department of Agriculture's (Bureau of Ride and Measurement Standards) draft update to the amusement regulations.

As you recall, the Amusement Ride Safety Board held one stakeholder meeting last year regarding the draft regulations. PSSA not only participated in the meeting but also

proactively sent a letter to the Bureau outlining concerns with the draft and met face-to-face with the Bureau Director. Since then, the board has remained quiet on this issue. At the last board meeting in February 2020, there was no discussion on the regulations and we have not heard of any plans to move forward with them. We'll update you if there are any changes.

Please contact our office with any questions or concerns. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

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