

MCA

Summary of Legislation

December 2008

Mandate Waiver Task Force Update

The task force that was created to review whether or not waivers granted to school districts to build under a single prime contract are saving taxpayers money met for the fourth time on December 22. A number of individuals presented testimony in support of multiple prime construction including Jim Gaffney from Goshen Mechanical on behalf of MCA and John Wanner, MCA's government affairs consultant. The Task Force also heard reports that built using single prime construction. In general, school districts have been echoing the pro-waiver position advocated by the school boards state association. The Task Force expects to have one more meeting, sometime in January, at which point a vote on the final Task Force recommendation would be made. There was no significant discussion as to what that recommendation will be.

Scarnati Sets Special Election

Lt. Governor Joe Scarnati has filed notice for a **March 3, 2009** Special Election to fill the vacancy in the 29th Senatorial District. The seat has been vacant since the October 18 death of Senator James J. Rhoades, whose name remained on the November 4 election ballot and received the most votes. The 29th Senatorial District includes all of Schuylkill County and parts of Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe and Northampton Counties. Schuylkill County Clerk of Courts Steve Lukach will likely be the Democrat, while Republicans chose state **Rep. David Argall** from among several interested candidates, including, Sen. Rhoades' son-in-law, Pottsville attorney Christopher Hobbs, and GOP Executive Committee member Gretchen Sterns, to be their candidate. Argall served as the Republican Whip in this past session, and hopes to carry his leadership record to victory.

Rendell and Legislative Leaders Meet For Mid-Year Budget Review

The first mid-year budget review open to the public in decades was a somber one this month, as Governor Rendell announced a third round of spending cuts in light of what the administration now estimates will be a budget deficit of \$1.6 billion. The governor and Budget Secretary Mary Soderberg outlined a series of budget-balancing measures based on the new estimate - which they stressed is highly speculative - including tapping half of the Rainy Day Fund to offset declining revenues. Also key to the governor's plan is the expectation of a federal fiscal relief package totaling \$450 million, based on talks with President-elect Obama at a recent meeting of the National Governor's Association.

Scarnati Appoints Final Two Leadership Positions

Filling the only two Senate Republican Leadership vacancies, Senate President Pro Tempore Scarnati appointed Senator Patrick Browne to serve as the Senate Majority Caucus Administrator. The position was previously held by Senator Terry Punt during the 2007-08 Session. Senator John Pippy (R-Allegheny) was also named Senate Majority Policy Committee Chairman, replacing Senator Jake Corman (R-Centre) who was appointed the new Appropriations Chairman.

Scarnati and Mellow Announces Senate Republican Committee Chairs

The following Senators were have been named Committee Chairs for the 2009-10 Session:

Committee	Republican Chair	Democrat Chair
Aging and Youth	Patricia Vance	LeAnna M. Washington
Agriculture and Rural Affairs	Mike Brubaker	Michael A. O'Pake
Appropriations	Jake Corman	Jay Costa
Banking and Insurance	Don White	Michael J. Stack, III
Communications and Technology	Mike Folmer	John Wozniak
Community, Economic and Recreational Development	Jane Earll	Wayne D. Fontana
Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure	Tommy Tomlinson	Lisa M. Boscola
Education	Jeffrey Piccola	Andrew E. Dinniman
Environmental Resources and Energy	Mary Jo White	Raphael J. Musto
Finance	Pat Browne	Jim Ferlo
Game and Fisheries	Richard Alloway	Richard A. Kasunic

Judiciary
Labor and Industry
Law and Justice
Local Government
Public Health and Welfare
Rules and Executive Nominations
State Government
Transportation
Urban Affairs and Housing
Veterans Affairs and Emergency
Preparedness

Stewart Greenleaf
John Gordner
John Rafferty
John Eichelberger
Ted Erickson
Dominic Pileggi
Charles McIlhinney
Rob Wonderling
Gene Yaw
Lisa Baker

Daylin Leach
Christine M. Tartaglione
Sean Logan
Raphael J. Musto
Vincent J. Hughes
Robert J. Mellow
Anthony H. Williams
J. Barry Stout
Shirley M. Kitchen
Larry Farnese

Legislative Activity

No Bills of interest were considered in the past month. The 2007-08 session ended officially on November 30. The 2009-10 begins on January 6.

Spring 2009 Session Schedules

SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY – JUNE 2009

January 6, 20 (non-voting), 21 (non-voting), 26, 27, 28
February 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11
March 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31
April 1, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29
May 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
June 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30

HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY – JUNE 2009

January 6, 26, 27, 28
February 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11
March 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31
April 1, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29
May 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
June 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30

Copies of all bills of interest can be accessed via the Internet at:
<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/BI/billroom.htm>.