

Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities Committee

Departments/Agencies

- Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection
- Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority
- Public Utility Commission (PUC)

Legislative Issues

- Health Club Act
- Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act
- Landlord and Tenant Act of 1951
- Pennsylvania Automobile Lemon Law
- Plain Language Consumer Contract Act
- Public Utility Code
- Telemarketer Registration Act
- Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law

Constituent Issues

- Broadband/Internet Access
- Cable TV
- Consumer fraud
- Debt collections
- Health club membership contract issues
- Lemon Law (new cars only)
- PUC (problems with utility bills and related issues (i.e. non-municipally owned telephone, electric, gas, water, transportation)
- Telecommunications generally
- Transportation network companies (Uber/Lyft)
- Telephone and mail solicitations

Education Committee

Departments/Agencies

- Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)
- State System of Higher Education (PASSHE)
- State Board of Education
- State Board of Private Academic Schools
- State Board of Private Licensed Schools
- State Charter School Appeal Board (CAB)
- State Public School Building Authority and Higher Education Facilities Authority
- Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)

Legislative Issues

- Basic Education (PreK-12)
 - School districts
 - School Boards/Local Board of School Directors
 - Charter, regional charter schools, cyber charter schools and multiple charter school organizations (MCSOs)
 - Home schooling/home education and private tutoring
 - Career and technical education (formerly vocational education)
 - Intermediate units (IUs)
 - School choice and vouchers (scholarships)
 - Curriculum
 - Academic standards
 - Graduation requirements
 - Special education programs and services, Individualized Education Program (IEP) and 504 service agreement
 - At risk youth (homeless and foster youth)
 - Gifted programs
 - Pre-K Counts
 - School district financial distress, including financial watch status, financial recovery status, receivership, chief recovery officers (CROs) and receivers.
 - School safety, including the School Safety and Security Committee, the School Safety and Security Grant Program, School Mental Health Grants, school police officers, school resource officers, school security guards, threat assessment
 - Student discipline, suspensions and expulsions
 - Alternative education programs
 - Student attendance, truancy and compulsory attendance/compulsory school age
 - Student records, privacy and FERPA
 - Data collection and reporting

Legislative Issues (Cont.)

- Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs
- School health issues
- School personnel, professional employees, certification, tenure, evaluation, discipline/misconduct, professional development, collective bargaining, background checks, salaries, and the Professional Standards and Practices Commission
- Transportation
- Assessments, including the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), Keystone Exams, SATs, GED
- Federal accountability, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Future Ready Index
- School construction and state reimbursements (PlanCon)
- Libraries
 - State Library
 - Commonwealth Libraries System
 - Library Code
 - Local Public Libraries
- Higher Education
 - State System of Higher Education (PASSHE)
 - Community Colleges
 - State-related institutions
 - Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology
 - Rural Regional College
 - Adult basic education and literacy programs
 - Private Licensed Schools
 - Teacher preparation/certification programs
 - Fostering Independence through Education Act (tuition waiver for foster youth)

Constituent Issues

Generally, constituent inquiries directly track the above-referenced legislative subjects, in addition to the following topics:

- Nonpublic and private schools
- School finance, including information on basic/special education funding, funding commissions, school funding equity and adequacy, and other programs funded through the education portion of the budget
- Student aid information, including state and federal grants and loans and loan forgiveness programs
- School athletics/PIAA

Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Departments/Agencies

- Department of Environmental Protection
- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Legislative Issues

- Coal and non-coal related laws and regulations, including surface and underground mining
- Land recycling and environmental remediation of hazardous sites cleanup programs
- Recycling laws
- Environmental issues, including water quality, drinking water, air quality, solid waste management, and environmental stewardship programs (Growing Greener)
- Oil and gas development, including issues associated with the Marcellus shale natural gas formation, conventional wells, fracking, and well-plugging
- Energy-related issues, such as traditional renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Other environmental issues such as conservation districts, flood plain management, storm water management, wild resources conservation, and State Parks and forests

Constituent Issues

- Oil and gas related matters
- Various environmental permit inquiries
- State Park and State Forest related questions
- Coal mining, both underground and surface mining related matters
- On-lot sewage system and municipal sewage and water system (including MS4) inquiries
- Water and air pollution related questions, including PFAS and other contaminants
- Recycling issues include e-recycling
- CO2 and climate inquiries
- Environmental regulations
- Issues related to the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Game and Fisheries Committee

Departments/Agencies

- Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC)
- Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC)

Legislative Issues

- Address all legislation affecting the Fish and Boat Code and the Game Code. Each Code creates framework for each Commission's organization and provides language detailing all laws and penalties for violations.
- Overlap with the Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Environmental Resources & Energy, Judiciary, Transportation, and Tourism and Recreational Development Committees on issues dealing with wildlife, farming, law enforcement, and recreational development.
- Receives and reviews annual performance and status reports from the PFBC and the PGC
- Reviews semi-annual reports in conjunction with the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) on fiscal affairs of the PFBC and the PGC.

Constituent Issues

- Interact with both Commissions in an effort to cut through bureaucratic red tape involving licenses, registrations and matters involving alleged violations of either code
- Respond to member and constituent requests for information on regulatory and legislative initiatives
- Serve as an intermediary between members of the General Assembly and both Commissions and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Contact with sporting groups, such as the NRA, PA Federation of Sportsmen and Conservationists, Wild Turkey Federation, Trout Unlimited, Back Country Hunters and Anglers, and Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.

State Government Committee

Departments/Agencies

- Department of State, Department of General Services, Ethics Commission, Office of Open Records, SERS and PSERS, Governor's Office of Administration, Office of Inspector General, Pennsylvania State Athletics Commission, among others

Legislative Issues

- Election Code and Voter Registration Act
- State employee and school employee retirement codes (pension issues, including COLA)
- Commonwealth Procurement Code (state contracting)
- Right-to-Know Law (open records)
- Sunshine Act (open meetings)
- Public Official and Employee Ethics Act
- Lobbying Disclosure Act
- Regulatory Review Act
- Administrative Code
- Human Relations Act
- Notary Public Law
- Conveyance or lease of state-owned land and the release of "Project 70" land use restrictions
- "Official English" Legislation
- The calling of a constitutional convention at the state and federal levels
- Intergovernmental relations and mandates
- Proposed amendments to the State Constitution for:
 - Legislative term limits
 - Reducing the size of the General Assembly
 - Legislative and Congressional reapportionment
- Interstate compacts/agencies/commissions
- State efforts relating to illegal immigration.

Constituent Issues

- State employee and retiree health care benefit coverage (administered by the PEBTF)*
- Policies affecting state employees, including leave, furloughs, and promotion/demotions policies.
- State contracting opportunities.
- State and school employee pension matters
- Information relating to the structure and history of state government.
- COLA for PSERS and SERS annuitants
- Questions relating to process/administration of elections.

*Once PEBTF receives an inquiry they will respond directly to the constituent. Due to HIPPA laws, they

cannot discuss further details with offices without a release from the constituent.

Regulatory Designation

State Government has oversight over regulations from the following agencies:

- Department of General Services
- Department of State
- Human Relations Commission
- State Employees' Retirement System*
- Governor's Office
- Independent Fiscal Office
- State Athletic Commission
- Independent Regulatory Review Commission
- Joint Committee on Documents
- Department of Community and Economic Development (Only those regulations promulgated by the Office of Open Records)

*PSERS regulations do not fall under State Government purview.

Pennsylvania Bulletin (pacodeandbulletin.gov)

Exceptions

Inquiries relating to the following do NOT fall under State Government

- American Rescue Plan
- Bureau of Professional Licensure, Department of State
- Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations, Department of State
- Marriage (licenses/officiants)
- PA Cemetery Law
- PA Municipal Retirement System
- Grants*

*With respect to grants, Act 88 of 2022 established a program for administration of an election integrity grant. While the grant itself is administered by DCED, the substance involves Department of State related matters.
