

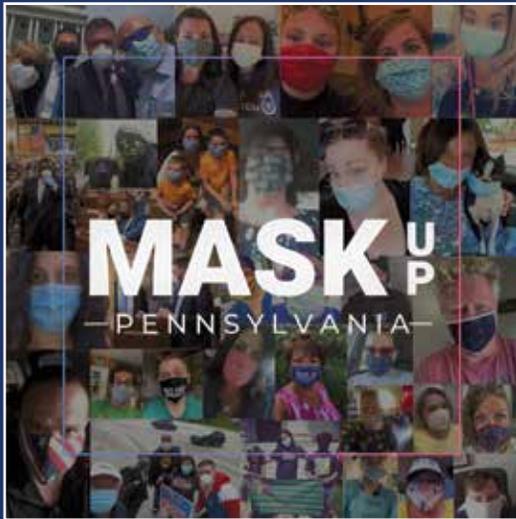


REP. RYAN BIZZARRO'S

BIZZ REPORT

FALL EDITION, 2020

PA DEPT. OF HEALTH UPDATES



Guidance for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 seems to be constantly evolving as new information emerges about this virus. For regular updates, I encourage you to visit the Pennsylvania Department of Health website at health.pa.gov.

- Masks are required in all public places. If going to a restaurant or bar, your mask may be removed once seated, but must be worn when traveling through the establishment. Restaurants and bars may operate at only 25% capacity for indoor dining. Outdoor dining is still permitted with social distancing precautions.
- Telework must continue where possible.
- To-go alcohol sales are permitted. Alcohol only can be served for on-premises consumption in the same transaction as a meal.
- Indoor gatherings must consist of fewer than 25 people.
- Outdoor gatherings must consist of fewer than 250 people.

MY LEGISLATION IN HARRISBURG

I have dedicated my time at the state Capitol working for residents of northwest Pennsylvania. Some of the legislation I have submitted includes the following:

- **HB101:** Same-Day Voter Registration
- **HB128:** First-time Homebuyers Savings Accounts
- **HB403:** Preventing the Quick Resale of Stolen Electronic Devices
- **HB535:** Elder Abuse – Powers of Attorney
- **HB537:** Enhancing Penalties for Theft of Older Adults' Prescription Medication
- **HB539:** Disabled Driver Advocate on PennDOT's Medical Advisory Board
- **HB541:** Veterans Treatment Courts
- **HB543:** Prohibiting Board Member Compensation for Public Officials
- **HB576:** Strengthening Industry Partnerships
- **HB1113:** Community Paramedicine Services Act
- **HB1366:** Your Right to Know
- **HB1406:** Administration Change for Special Occasion Permits
- **HB2143:** Codifying Veterans Treatment Courts
- **HB2283:** Animal Cruelty – Fines to Local Humane Societies
- **HB2704:** Clarifying the 180 School-Day Law

For more information on these bills, please visit RepBizzarro.com or call my office at 814-835-2880.

WORKING HARD TO BRING YOUR TAX DOLLARS BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED TO OUR REGION IN 2020: \$5,985,403

Northwest Workforce Development Board school-business partnership	\$120,000
Expanding computer science in local schools.....	\$105,000
Central Erie County Paramedics.....	\$9,192
Edinboro Fire Department	\$23,440
EmergyCare	\$9,192
Fairview Fire Department.....	\$21,250
Franklin Township Fire Department	\$11,646
Kearsarge Volunteer Fire Department.....	\$13,016
Lake City Fire Company.....	\$21,523
Lake Shore Volunteer Fire Company.....	\$16,518
McKean Hose Company.....	\$21,250
West County Paramedic Association	\$9,192
West Lake Fire Department	\$13,974
West Ridge Fire Department	\$14,248
IU5 school safety	\$403,969
Millcreek School District school safety	\$258,840
General McLane School District school safety	\$40,000
Erie County Historical Society	\$12,029
expERIEncE Children’s Museum.....	\$7,499
NW Workforce Development Board internships and training ...	\$90,129
Millcreek Township planning funding	\$130,000
U.S. Census efforts	\$178,225
McKean Township – CARES Act	\$61,454
Washington Township – CARES Act	\$61,514
Edinboro – CARES Act	\$66,725
Erie County – CARES Act.....	\$159,506
Child Care pandemic funding.....	\$1,011,700
Law enforcement coronavirus preparedness.....	\$154,780
Arts & Cultural relief.....	\$9,650
Edinboro University pandemic safety	\$239,640
Erie Institute of Technology pandemic safety	\$11,797
Gannon University pandemic safety	\$106,418
Great Lakes Institute of Technology pandemic safety	\$20,900
Mercyhurst University pandemic safety.....	\$133,472
Erie Art Museum	\$6,000
Erie Historical Society.....	\$7,000
Millcreek Township School District pandemic safety	\$378,925
General McLane School District pandemic safety	\$203,535
Erie County Technical School pandemic safety.....	\$116,101
Voices for Independence	\$100,000
GECAC.....	\$50,000
St. Martin’s Center.....	\$100,000
McKean Township – PA Small Water	\$425,000
Municipal Authority of Middleboro – PA Small Water	\$278,113
Hazard Pay Grants.....	\$353,040
COVID Small Business Assistance Program	\$340,000

State Rep. Ryan Bizzarro joins state, federal and local officials to recognize the efforts of LECOM Health on their regional COVID-19 response strategy, made possible by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services by the CARES Act (July 17, 2020).

My staff and I are committed to being good stewards of your tax dollars. We regularly work with community organizations, businesses and local and state government to bring grant funding back to Erie. These grants help improve public safety, finance our volunteer firefighters and EMS companies, prepare our schools to provide a quality educational experience for Erie kids, put people to work, and more.

If your organization believes it may qualify for a state grant, contact my office at 814-835-2880. We can provide you with a copy of our grant resource guide and may be able to provide support with the application process.

CURRENT GRANT OPPORTUNITY: SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

The COVID-19 Relief Pennsylvania Statewide Small Business Assistance program is currently accepting applications to help Pennsylvania Businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Pennsylvania’s small businesses with 25 or fewer employees and revenue of \$1 million or less, with a minimum of 51% of revenue in Pennsylvania, may be eligible to apply. Grants will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. For more information, including assistance with applying, please visit PABusinessGrants.com.



STATE LEGISLATURE PASSES TEMPORARY BUDGET

Because the emergency funding needed to manage COVID-19 in Pennsylvania

restricted the revenue necessary to put a sound, realistic budget together for the full 2020-21 fiscal year, Governor Wolf signed a five-month stopgap budget to be revisited in November. This budget includes federal CARES Act funding to help protect those most vulnerable to the virus, defend worker protections for essential employees and support our education system.



Programs funded from PA's \$2.6 billion CARES Act include:

- \$632M for vulnerable populations (including long-term care centers and nursing homes which have been impacted the most by COVID-19).
- \$150M toward worker protections.
- \$870M for business and local services relief.
- \$347M for schools.
- \$30M to health care initiatives.
- \$225M toward food and shelter resources.



The Erie Delegation working for you in Harrisburg.

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY AND POLICE ON REFORM

Two new laws, which I supported, will help make policing in Pennsylvania more effective by improving officer training and providing law enforcement agencies greater access to information when making hiring decisions. Specifically, a database will be created to track officer disciplinary actions so that police departments will be aware of past issues before hiring an officer. The new law also requires mandatory training for officers to better navigate interactions with a wide range of economic, ethnic and racial diversity, use of force and de-escalation methods. Officer evaluations for PTSD will be required after a lethal use-of-force incident.



Rep. Bizzarro visits Mr. Hoderny's criminal justice class at McDowell High School.

GIVING SCHOOLS FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

I introduced House Bill 2704, a bill that would authorize individual school districts to request an exemption from the 180-day requirement. The bill would permit brick and mortar schools to include virtual education days in meeting the 180-day requirement.

Pennsylvania's school districts need flexibility to quickly respond to emerging situations. Student safety and quality learning opportunities should remain at the forefront of decision making. If enacted, the legislation would allow a school district to submit an exemption request to the Pa. Department of Education for consideration. The Pa. secretary of education would then decide if the school district made a bona fide effort to provide a reasonable number of instruction days.

The bill awaits consideration from the House Education Committee.

CALLING FOR FIREWORKS SAFETY

Fireworks are a great display of celebration; however, they sometimes have unintended consequences and cause great disturbances to our neighbors. I've supported House Bill 1687 that would provide specific guidance to local governments, allowing them to implement reasonable regulations regarding the sale and use of fireworks and to implement constraints on when fireworks can legally be discharged.

We must consider the impact fireworks have on those who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, our veterans, parents with small children and pet owners.

The bill is awaiting review by the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.



Scan here to learn more about Pennsylvania's Fireworks Law:

POLICY COMMITTEE REVIEWS KEY ISSUES

As a vice chair of the House Democratic Policy Committee, I've had the opportunity to learn about a variety of issues facing our community and our state. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, I attended hearings on school funding and the need for volunteers to staff state fire and EMS departments.



REQUEST YOUR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

Republicans and Democrats in Harrisburg came together and enacted legislation that gives Pennsylvanians the ability to vote by mail. Voting by mail makes it safer and more convenient for you to exercise your constitutional right to vote. The state is even providing postage to make the

process even easier. Visit www.votespa.com or call my office at 814-835-2880 to register to vote by mail.



FILL OUT THE 2020 CENSUS

The United States conducts a count of U.S. residents every 10 years. This count helps determine how \$675 billion is allocated by the federal government. This money helps provide a quality education to Pennsylvania's children, improve public safety, and improve roads and bridges. If you do not respond to the census, it could cost Erie a huge share of federal dollars to help fund the things that matter most to our community.

Visit www.2020census.gov for information on how you can fill out the census or call my office at 814-835-2880.

MCDOWELL MANUFACTURING



A \$120,000 grant was awarded pre-COVID-19 to McDowell Manufacturing to bolster career readiness for Erie students and improves the pool of qualified candidates for area businesses. The grant was awarded by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry and will fund the Northwest Workforce Development Board's Student in the Workforce project, giving students real-world experiences with high-demand jobs.

PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM

The deadline for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program has been extended to Dec. 31, 2020. The program, funded by the state lottery, benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older.

The household income limit is \$35,000 annually for homeowners and \$15,000 for individuals who rent. Half of Social Security income is excluded from income calculations. The maximum standard rebate is \$650; however, supplemental rebates may get qualified homeowners an additional \$325.

Please beware of companies that charge to help process program applications. The state does not charge a fee to apply. Contact my office at 814-835-2880 for free assistance with the application process.



Rep. Bizarro and fellow Erie legislators attend the 2020 League of Women Voters meeting. (Feb. 28, 2020)



The Erie Humane Society made a Valentine's visit to Rep. Ryan Bizarro's office. Bizarro is proud to serve as an advocate for animals and encourages everyone — adopt, don't shop!



Rep. Bizarro presents a citation to Kelly Sieber for her heroism in saving her neighbor and dog from a house fire. Thanks to her bravery, no one was harmed in the fire.



ERI announced it was awarded the Small Community Air Service Development Program Grant, which will be used to secure direct flights to Washington Dulles International Airport! This will allow ERI to attract more customers and give residents more flight options close to home, bringing an additional 30,000 passengers to and from our airport annually.



While in Harrisburg for legislative session, Rep. Bizarro speaks with Democratic Leader Frank Dermody.



Pre-COVID-19, Rep. Bizarro celebrates centennial birthdays with Westlake Woods residents.



Rep. Bizarro catches up with Rep. Peter Schweyer of Lehigh County during legislative session.



Rep. Bizarro reads to Walnut Creek pre-k students.



In January 2020, Rep. Bizarro attends Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority's grant presentation to Erie County Parks, Fields and Trails in the amount of \$149,840.



Rep. Ryan Bizarro and fellow Erie Delegation members welcome Sheila Silman from Greater Erie Community Action Committee to the Pennsylvania State Capitol and House Chamber. (January 22, 2020)

THIS OFFICE IS REQUIRED TO FOLLOW STATE AND CDC GUIDELINES

- ✓ MASKS ARE REQUIRED.
- ✓ NO MORE THAN TWO (2) PEOPLE AT A TIME.
- ✓ SIX (6) FEET DISTANCE AT ALL TIMES.
- ✓ FEELING SICK? PLEASE STAY HOME.

NO MASK, NO ENTRY.



WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU BY PHONE OR MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO ACCOMMODATE YOU.
CALL US AT (814) 835-2880 OR VISIT REPBIZZARRO.COM



WORKING FOR YOU!

We are not letting a global pandemic stop us from serving you and your family! Even when businesses across Erie were closed for social distancing in March and April, my dedicated staff and I adapted to these unprecedented circumstances by communicating with constituents, especially by phone, social media and email to continue answering questions, addressing concerns and connecting those in need with critical resources. If you are having problems with government programs and need assistance, please call my office at 814-835-2880.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

RYAN A. BIZZARRO

P.O. BOX 202003

HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2003

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WWW.REPBIZZARRO.COM

(814) 835-2880



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It's been a busy and productive legislative session. The numbers to the right are a snapshot of just some of the ways my staff and I are working for you in Erie and in Harrisburg. These accomplishments serve as inspiration to continue serving you!

REP. RYAN BIZZARRO OFFICE BY THE NUMBERS

AS OF AUGUST 2020

LEGISLATION

15 BILLS INTRODUCED

95 BILLS CO-SPONSORED



2,080

UNEMPLOYMENT CASE HELP 3/15 - 8/15

* This time last year, we had 21.

89,594

TOTAL CONSTITUENTS SERVED SINCE TAKING OFFICE

11,559

CONSTITUENTS SERVED SINCE START OF COVID-19



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
RYAN BIZZARRO