



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Democratic Delegation

This newsletter contains an overview of legislation and issues relative to residents of Allegheny County that were discussed in the state House during March 2013.

Republicans pass anti-consumer bill over strong Democratic opposition

Every Democratic legislator in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives voted against a liquor privatization scheme offered this month that would end up increasing confusion and costing consumers more money.

Democratic Leader Frank Dermody said the Republican-authored bill (H.B. 790) would result in huge job losses, higher liquor prices, decreased product selection, and greater problems for law enforcement in combating underage drinking.

"This liquor bill reveals the misplaced priorities of the Republican majority and the governor," Dermody said. "At a time when unemployment is rising in Pennsylvania, they are pushing a bill that would put 5,000 more people out of work and would favor large, private liquor sellers at the expense of consumers and small businesses."

Property reassessment reform passes legislature

A bipartisan trio of legislators lauded the passage of Senate Bill 66, which would make sweeping reforms to the way property reassessments are conducted in Pennsylvania.

State Reps. Jesse White, Brandon Neuman and Rick Saccone said the bill passed the House of Representatives 196-0 and is headed to the governor's desk, where it is expected to be signed into law. The bill unanimously passed the state Senate 49-0 on Jan. 29.

Largely based on bills authored by White, Neuman and Saccone – and on the House Task Force on Property Valuation and Reassessment created under their legislation – the bill would standardize reassessment processes that wildly vary among Pennsylvania's 67 counties, and that often lead to dramatic property tax increases for home and business owners.

DeLuca measure would limit outside income for members of the Pa. legislature

State Rep. Tony DeLuca has introduced legislation that would limit the amount of income members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly could earn from employment outside of their legislative duties.

"I'm a strong supporter of Speaker Smith's efforts to shrink the size of the legislature," DeLuca said. "However, a smaller legislature will require a more full-time commitment from members. Distractions from outside employment may impede upon their ability to serve their constituents."

House Bill 368 would limit outside earned income to a maximum of 35 percent of the legislative salary for state representatives and senators.

White to offer bill requiring hospitals to test newborns for heart defects

State Rep. Jesse White has reintroduced legislation that would require hospitals to test newborns for congenital heart defects within 24 hours of birth.

Under H.B. 809, hospitals would be required to perform a pulse oximetry screening on newborn babies, which is a simple and painless test that places sensors on the baby's skin to determine the amount of oxygen in the blood and measure the pulse rate. Although some hospitals already perform pulse oximetry newborn screenings, it is not required under current law. Meanwhile, an estimated 300 infants with an undiagnosed CHD are discharged each year from hospitals in the United States.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, congenital heart defects account for nearly 24 percent of infant deaths. In addition, about 12 percent of babies born each year have one of seven critical congenital heart defects. Newborns who are not screened for CHDs are at greater risk of death or lifelong disabilities.

Rep. Dom Costa working to protect public from violent offenders

State Rep. Dom Costa has introduced legislation that would increase community safety by enacting greater restrictions concerning the parole of violent offenders.

House Bill 859 would require that violent offenders serve out the entire minimum portion of their sentences before being granted release to half-way houses or other community facilities that would allow them access to the general public for an extended period of time.

"People convicted of violent crimes should not be released prior to their minimum sentence. This legislation is designed to ensure that does not occur," Costa explained.

Leader Spotlight

Allegheny County Democratic Delegation



State Representative
Frank Dermody
House Democratic Leader
33rd Legislative District
Allegheny County
www.pahouse.com/Dermody

Frank Dermody succeeded in his first try at elected office, joining the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1990. He has been re-elected from the 33rd District every two years since then. Rep. Dermody was unanimously re-elected Democratic leader for the 2013-2014 session.

Dermody represents East Deer, Fawn, Frazer, Harmar, Harrison, Indiana, Springdale and West Deer townships and the boroughs of Brackenridge, Cheswick, Oakmont, Springdale, Tarentum and part of Plum.

1331 Freeport Rd. • Cheswick, PA 15024 • (724) 274-4770



State Representative
Dan Frankel
House Democratic Caucus Chairman
23rd Legislative District
Allegheny County
www.pahouse.com/Frankel

Dan Frankel was first elected in 1998 to represent the 23rd Legislative District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He currently serves as the House Democratic Caucus chairman.

An active community leader, Rep. Frankel is dedicated to promoting youth, urban development and environmental initiatives – including strong regulation of Marcellus Shale drilling – and has been recognized for his community service through numerous awards.

Frankel represents parts of the city of Pittsburgh including Greenfield, Squirrel Hill, Hazelwood, Oakland, Regent Square, Point Breeze and Shadyside.

2345 Murray Ave., Suite 205 • Pittsburgh, PA 15217 • (412) 422-1774



State Representative
Joe Markosek
Democratic Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
25th Legislative District
Allegheny and Westmoreland counties
www.pahouse.com/Markosek

Joe Markosek is serving a 16th term as the representative for the 25th Legislative District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He was elected in November 2010 by his peers in the Democratic Caucus to serve as Democratic chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

Markosek's district encompasses part of North Versailles Township and the boroughs of Monroeville, Pitcairn, Wall and parts of Plum and Trafford in Allegheny County. In Westmoreland County, Markosek represents parts of Murrysburg and Trafford boroughs.

Commerce Bldg., Suite 303 • 4232 Northern Pike • Monroeville, PA 15146 • (412) 856-8284

Chairman Spotlight

Allegheny County Democratic Delegation



State Representative
Dom Costa
Chairman, Allegheny Co. Democratic Delegation
21st Legislative District
Allegheny County
www.pahouse.com/DCosta

Rep. Dom Costa is a lifelong resident of Allegheny County. A public servant since 1977, Costa has dedicated most of his adult life to public safety. As a City of Pittsburgh police officer, he rose through the ranks as a patrol officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, commander and, after 28 years with the department, retired as Chief of Police. He also served as Public Safety Director for the Penn Hills municipality.

Costa remains active in several community organizations and hosts events throughout the district to connect residents with various state services and programs.

Costa was first elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2009. His legislative priorities include seniors, community safety, animal rights and child protection measures.

Costa's district encompasses part of the city of Pittsburgh, parts of Reserve, Ross and Shaler townships, and the boroughs of Etna, Millvale and Sharpsburg.

6808 Greenwood St., Suite 2 • Pittsburgh, PA 15206 • (412) 361-2040

Members

Allegheny County Democratic Delegation



State Representative
Paul Costa
Democratic Chairman, Liquor Control Committee
34th Legislative District
Allegheny County
www.pahouse.com/Costa

Paul Costa's district encompasses parts of the City of Pittsburgh, Wilkins and part of North Versailles townships and the boroughs of Braddock, Braddock Hills, Chalfant, Churchill, East McKeesport, Edgewood, Forest Hills, North Braddock, Rankin, Swissvale, Turtle Creek and Wilmerding.

Rep. Costa was first elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1999.

519 Penn Ave. • Turtle Creek, PA 15145 • (412) 824-3400



State Representative
Daniel Deasy
Vice Chairman, Allegheny Co. Democratic Delegation
27th Legislative District
Allegheny County
www.pahouse.com/Deasy

Dan Deasy's district encompasses parts of the city of Pittsburgh, Neville and part of Stowe townships, and the boroughs of Avalon, Ben Avon, Crafton, Dormont, Emsworth, Glenfield, Ingram and part of McKees Rocks.

Rep. Deasy has been a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since 2009.

436 S. Main St., Suite 100 • Pittsburgh, PA 15220 • (412) 928-9514



State Representative
Anthony M. DeLuca
Democratic Chairman, House Insurance Committee
32nd Legislative District
Allegheny County
www.pahouse.com/DeLuca

Tony DeLuca's district encompasses Penn Hills Township and the boroughs of Blawnox, Verona and part of Plum.

Rep. DeLuca has been a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since 1983.

7205 Saltsburg Rd. • Pittsburgh, PA 15235 • (412) 793-2448



State Representative
Edward C. Gainey
24th Legislative District
Allegheny County
www.pahouse.com/Gainey

Edward C. Gainey represents parts of the city of Pittsburgh's 11, 12, 13 and 14 wards and the boroughs of Aspinwall and Wilkinsburg.

The 2013-14 legislative session marks Rep. Gainey's first term in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

715 North Highland Ave., Suite 2 • Pittsburgh, PA 15206 • (412) 665-5502

Members

Allegheny County Democratic Delegation



State Representative **Marc J. Gergely**

35th Legislative District
Allegheny County
www.pahouse.com/Gergely

Marc Gergely's district encompasses the cities of Duquesne and part of McKeesport, South Versailles, and parts of North Versailles and Elizabeth townships and the boroughs of East Pittsburgh, Homestead, Lincoln, Munhall, Versailles, Whitaker, White Oak and part of West Mifflin.

Rep. Gergely has been a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since 2003.

1540 Lincoln Way • White Oak, PA 15131 • (412) 664-0035



State Representative **William C. Kortz**

38th Legislative District
Allegheny County
www.pahouse.com/Kortz

Bill Kortz's district encompasses the boroughs of Dravosburg, West Mifflin, Glassport, Liberty, Port Vue, McKeesport, Pleasant Hills and South Baldwin.

Rep. Kortz has been a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since 2007.

751 Pittsburgh-McKeesport Blvd. • Dravosburg, PA 15034 • (412) 466-1940



State Representative **Nick Kotik**

45th Legislative District
Allegheny County
www.pahouse.com/Kotik

Nick Kotik's district encompasses Kennedy and parts of Collier, Robinson, Scott, South Fayette and Stowe townships and the boroughs of Bridgeville, Carnegie, Coraopolis, Heidelberg, McKees Rocks and part of Pennsburg Village.

Rep. Kotik has been a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since 2003.

1350 Fifth Ave. • Coraopolis, PA 15108 • (412) 264-4260



State Representative **Robert F. "Rob" Matzie**

16th Legislative District
Allegheny and Beaver counties
www.pahouse.com/Matzie

Rob Matzie's district encompasses the townships of Crescent, Leet and part of Ross and the boroughs of Bell Acres, Bellevue and part of Franklin Park in Allegheny County and the city of Aliquippa, Harmony Township and boroughs of Ambridge, Baden, Conway and part of Economy in Beaver County.

Rep. Matzie has been a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since 2009.

1240 Merchant St. • First Floor • Ambridge, PA 15003 • (724) 266-7774



State Representative **Erin C. Molchany**

22nd Legislative District
Allegheny County
www.pahouse.com/Molchany

Erin Molchany represents parts of the city of Pittsburgh's 18, 19, 20, 21 and 32 wards, Baldwin Township and the boroughs of Castle Shannon and Whitehall.

The 2013-14 legislative session marks Rep. Molchany's first term in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

900 Brookline Boulevard • Pittsburgh, PA 15226 • (412) 343-2094



State Representative **Adam Ravenstahl** *Treasurer, Allegheny County Democratic Delegation*

20th Legislative District
Allegheny County
www.pahouse.com/Ravenstahl

Adam Ravenstahl's district encompasses part of the city of Pittsburgh, parts of Reserve and Ross townships and West View Borough.

Rep. Ravenstahl has been a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since 2010.

3689 California Ave. • Pittsburgh, PA 15212 • (412) 321-5523



State Representative **Harry A. Readshaw**

*Democratic Chairman,
House Professional Licensure Committee*
36th Legislative District
Allegheny County
www.pahouse.com/Readshaw

Harry Readshaw's district encompasses part of the city of Pittsburgh, Brentwood, Mount Oliver, West Homestead and parts of Baldwin and Whitehall boroughs.

Rep. Readshaw has been a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since 1995.

1917 Brownsville Rd. • Pittsburgh, PA 15210 • (412) 881-4208



State Representative **Jake Wheatley**

19th Legislative District
Allegheny County
www.pahouse.com/Wheatley

Jake Wheatley's district encompasses parts of the city of Pittsburgh including Allentown, Beltzover, Arlington, Arlington Heights, Mt. Oliver City, Knoxville, Hazelwood, Oakland, Hill District, Uptown, Downtown, Allegheny West, Manchester, Central North Side, Marshall-Shadeland, Brighton Heights, California-Kirkbride, Northview Heights, Perry Hilltop, Allegheny Center, Fineview, the North Shore and the South Side.

Rep. Wheatley has been a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since 2003.

2015-2017 1st Floor, Centre Ave. • Pittsburgh, PA 15219 • (412) 471-7760



State Representative **Jesse White**

46th Legislative District
Allegheny, Beaver and Washington counties
www.pahouse.com/White

Jesse White's district encompasses part of South Fayette Township and the boroughs of Oakdale and McDonald in Allegheny County, and Hanover Township and the borough of Frankfort Springs. In Washington County, White represents Buffalo, Canton, Cecil, Chartiers, Cross Creek, Hanover, Hopewell, Independence, Jefferson, Mount Pleasant, Robinson, Smith and South Franklin townships and the boroughs of Burgettstown, Green Hills, McDonald, Midway and West Middletown.

Rep. White has been a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives since 2007.

3855 Millers Run Rd. • PO Box 285 • Cecil, PA 15321 • (724) 746-3677

Impact of failure to expand Medicaid in Pa. discussed at public hearing

State lawmakers on the House Democratic Policy Committee heard from health experts and consumer advocates at a public hearing at Pittsburgh’s Jewish Healthcare Foundation regarding the wide-ranging negative impacts of not expanding Medicaid in the commonwealth.

State Rep. Dan Frankel requested the hearing and served as co-chairman. The hearing, which occurred just days after Gov. Tom Corbett officially decided not to expand Medicaid in Pennsylvania, focused on the effects on uninsured low-income and working Pennsylvanians, as well as the state’s health care industry and providers.

“Accepting federal funds for Medicaid expansion would be a great economic driver in the Pittsburgh region and throughout Pennsylvania by allowing for the creation of potentially thousands of quality, good-paying jobs in the health care sector; worse, failing to accept those funds would damage our economy. The Republican governors of Arizona, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio and Florida have agreed to accept federal funds to improve health care in their states because they know it’s vital for their states’ economies, it’s vital for keeping hospitals open and it’s the right thing to do,” Frankel said.

Readshaw bill would give licensing boards and commissions authority to collect unpaid fines

House Bill 261, introduced by state Rep. Harry Readshaw, has been unanimously approved by the House Professional Licensure Committee.

The bill would provide specific authority to all 29 licensing boards and commissions within the Department of State’s Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs to suspend or revoke a license for failure to pay a fine or cost assessed as a result of a disciplinary process.

“My bill would provide a new method for BPOA for collecting all unpaid fees, costs, fines and penalties plus interest. As well, any associated unpaid fines, costs and interests that are equal or greater to \$1,000 may be reduced to a judgment at the Commonwealth Court,” Readshaw said. “This process is used for collection of unpaid criminal fines and taxes. The boards and commissions under BPOA are self-funded and do not receive money from the General Fund for operational expenses. Revenue is generated through collection of fines and licensing fees. Collecting these fines will alleviate the financial burden on licenses not subject to disciplinary action.”

Frankel reintroduces Medicaid expansion bill

House Democratic Caucus Chairman Dan Frankel reintroduced legislation that would require Pennsylvania to expand Medicaid to cover uninsured residents living below 133 percent of the federal poverty level, as provided for in the federal Affordable Care Act.

“Pennsylvania needs to do the right thing, accept the \$37 billion in federal funding over the next 10 years for this expansion, and benefit from the 41,000 resulting new jobs,” Frankel said. “We just learned that our own legislature must keep its commitment to use some of our income from tobacco companies for health care for working low-income adults. This is the obvious way to do that.”

HDPC looks at DEP reporting procedures for environmental testing results

The House Democratic Policy Committee heard from local residents and environmental advocates at a public hearing in Washington County to examine the guidelines for the state Department of Environmental Protection’s reporting of results of environmental tests following natural gas drilling.

State Rep. Jesse White requested the hearing and served as its co-chairman. White recently introduced H.B. 268 that would require DEP to disclose full testing results, including raw data and documentation, of any environmental tests conducted by the department on a landowner’s or leaseholder’s property in Pennsylvania.

Democratic Policy Committee looks at Corbett’s transportation plan

Members of the House Democratic Policy Committee heard from local officials, business leaders and transportation experts at a public hearing in Pittsburgh regarding Pennsylvania’s transportation funding obstacles.

State Rep. Erin Molchany requested the hearing and served as co-chairwoman. The hearing analyzed Gov. Corbett’s plan to fund transportation projects introduced as part of his 2013-14 state spending plan and also considered the recommendations of the governor’s Transportation Funding Advisory Commission’s report from August 2011 which are the basis of legislation backed by House Democrats.

DeLuca measure would protect students from exposure to drugs

At a Capitol news conference, state Rep. Tony DeLuca unveiled his most recent legislative effort to improve the safety and well-being of students throughout the commonwealth.

DeLuca discussed the details of his H.B. 810, which would require pre-employment drug screening for all prospective employees of public and private schools, intermediate units and area vocational technical schools.

“This straightforward piece of legislation would ensure that prospective employees are healthy, alert and productive, a reasonable expectation of those responsible for the safety and well-being of children,” DeLuca explained.