



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 February 2013.

House Democrats applaud attorney general on lottery outsourcing decision

Introduce bill to guarantee more than \$120 million in new funding for senior programs

House Democrats applauded Attorney General Kathleen Kane on her decision to reject Gov. Tom Corbett's contract with United Kingdom-based Camelot Global Services to manage the Pennsylvania Lottery, and they urged the Republican leaders of the General Assembly to swiftly pass legislation guaranteeing more than \$120 million in additional funding for senior programs.

"We applaud Attorney General Kane for making the right legal decision on this ill-conceived and illegal contract to

outsource our lottery to a British company," said House Democratic Leader Frank Dermody. "We urge Governor Corbett to end his wrong-headed, outsourcing crusade and start making Pennsylvania workers, taxpayers and seniors his top priority."

House Democrats dismissed Corbett's claims that failing to outsource the state's successful lottery operations would jeopardize the proposed \$50 million in new senior funding Corbett announced in January. They said the Pennsylvania Lottery has a projected surplus of \$187 million this year, which can be used to fund senior programs. That surplus is projected to rise to \$200 million next year.

Democratic Caucus legislators have announced a proposal that would provide more than \$120 million in additional state funding for senior programs next fiscal year – more than double Corbett's commitment – without the need to privatize the Pennsylvania Lottery.

Under the House Democratic proposal, state funding for senior programs would be guaranteed to increase in the next fiscal year, 2013-14, by at least the same amount funding increased this year – more than \$120 million in 2012-13, due to record growth in Pennsylvania Lottery profits under state-employee management.

Legal effort will oppose lottery scheme that will hurt Pa. seniors

House and Senate Democrats plan to file a "friend of the court," or amicus brief, supporting a lawsuit brought in December by AFSCME against Gov. Tom Corbett's scheme to privatize management of the Pennsylvania Lottery. In addition to the union, the petitioners on the suit include a handful of House and Senate members, lottery employees who stand to lose their jobs if the privatization goes forward, and senior citizens who receive benefits from the commonwealth funded by lottery proceeds.

The suit alleges, among other claims, that Corbett does not have the statutory authority to enter into the management contract with Camelot Global Services, the United Kingdom-based private company which was the lone bidder for the lucrative management contract.

Corbett refuses federal funds but 5 other GOP govs expand Medicaid

House Democratic Caucus Chairman Dan Frankel issued a statement in response to an announcement by Gov. Tom Corbett that he will refuse the federally funded Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act:

"Governor Corbett chose to pander to the far right and willfully inflict damage on Pennsylvania's economy – he has undermined any promises he makes about jobs. Accepting federal funds for expansion would be a great economic driver in Pennsylvania by allowing for the creation of potentially thousands of quality, good-paying jobs in the health care sector.

"The Republican governors of Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota and now neighboring Ohio 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."

House Liquor Control Committee approves direct wine shipment legislation

In his first voting meeting as Democratic chairman of the House Liquor Control Committee, state Rep. Paul Costa announced the committee approved legislation that would authorize the direct shipment of wine to Pennsylvania consumers.

"The direct shipment of wine is a step toward modernization of our state system. If a store doesn't carry a specific wine a consumer wants to purchase, it offers them a win-win scenario where the consumer, the winery and the commonwealth benefit from the transaction," Costa said.



Rep. Paul Costa responds to governor's liquor privatization plan

State Rep. Paul Costa, Democratic chairman of the House Liquor Control Committee, released

the following statement in response to Gov. Tom Corbett's liquor privatization plan:

"While we haven't yet seen the specifics of the governor's proposal, the numbers just don't add up. On first blush, the governor's scheme looks eerily similar to the failed liquor privatization experiment that happened in Washington state last year, resulting in significantly higher prices and much less selection. Meanwhile, Pennsylvania taxpayers will lose hundreds of millions of dollars every year in reliable revenue for critical state and local needs.

"Under the governor's booze scheme, Wal-Mart and other multi-billion-dollar retail giants would gain an unfair advantage and force small, mom-and-pop businesses to close their doors. We should be empowering our small businesses with the tools they need to grow and be more competitive. That's why I'm developing a responsible plan that modernizes Pennsylvania's alcohol laws while saving jobs and maintaining responsible control – resulting in improved efficiencies and more revenue for the state. My plan will make taxpayers and consumers the top priority – not corporate interests."



Readshaw bill would allow communities to control liquor license transfers

State Rep. Harry Readshaw has introduced H.B. 262, which would allow local communities to control the number and type of liquor-license establishments that are located in a specific community.

Current law only limits liquor licenses on a countywide level.

"Under my bill, municipalities would have the right to control the number of these establishments, not the state," Readshaw said. "Local communities are better judges of the needs and abuses of alcohol on a more personal level. While I have heard numerous complaints about bars in the South Side, this bill would give all communities an avenue to say enough is enough."

Leader Spotlight



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.

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

Rep. 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. • 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 G. 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. • Pittsburgh, PA 15206 • (412) 665-5501



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. 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



DERMODY SEEKS QUICK ACTION TO PROTECT MONEY FOR PA. ABUSE VICTIMS

House Democratic Leader Frank Dermody is asking Republican leaders to move quickly on a bill passed by the state Senate to make sure that a record-breaking fine being paid by Penn State University stays in Pennsylvania to provide medical and counseling services to victims of child sexual abuse and fund prevention efforts.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association imposed a \$60 million fine on Penn State for actions that enabled former coach Jerry Sandusky to abuse numerous boys, sometimes in university facilities, but the NCAA named a national task force to set guidelines for using the money across all 50 states. Only after Dermody wrote to NCAA president Mark Emmert in August seeking to keep the entire fine in Pennsylvania did the NCAA pledge that one-fourth of the money would be used here.

"This endowment, created in the wake of a Pennsylvania tragedy, is funded by Pennsylvania money. There is no question that every single dollar should be used to fund Pennsylvania-based child sexual abuse programs," Dermody said. "The NCAA's actions to date fall short of the expectations of Pennsylvania's child advocates, fall short of the need, and fall short of fairness. With no sign that the NCAA is rethinking its decision, it's time for our state to assert its authority."

UPDATE: The state House acted quickly to pass the measure, S.B. 187, and Gov. Tom Corbett signed the bill into law.

White introduces bill forcing DEP to disclose environmental test data to landowners, leaseholders



State Rep. Jesse White has introduced legislation that would require the state Department of Environmental Protection to disclose the full and complete 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.

According to H.B. 268, DEP would have to make the information available at no cost and within five business days of receiving a written request from the landowner or leaseholder, or face civil penalties of up to \$1,500 if the department fails to make the information available. White, who previously called on DEP to make public the full testing data and other details related to air and water quality tests amid concerns of nearby Marcellus Shale drilling operations, said his legislation would ensure that Pennsylvania residents can access their complete test results, and prevent that information from being withheld through bureaucratic maneuvering.

"Pennsylvanians have a right to know the entire truth about what DEP discovers from testing on their property; nothing more, nothing less," said White. "DEP has used exemptions in the Open Records Law to deny requests for testing data and has even claimed there was a greater interest in withholding data than in releasing it to the public, which is fundamentally wrong. There is no justification whatsoever for disclosing anything less than 100 percent of the information about the substances in the air and water of Pennsylvania residents."

House OKs bill to extend kids' health coverage program

State Rep. Tony DeLuca said the House of Representatives passed legislation that would extend Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program an additional two years.

DeLuca, Democratic chairman of the House Insurance Committee, said the legislation (H.B. 108) would extend the expiration date for the program to Dec. 31, 2015. The program provides health insurance coverage to nearly 200,000 Pennsylvania children at little or no cost.

"The extension of CHIP is imperative to the well-being of children throughout the commonwealth," DeLuca said. "It ensures that hundreds of thousands of children continue to have access to the quality care they need without their families having to worry about being able to afford it."

House passes child abuse training expansion measure

The state House passed legislation introduced by state Rep. Dom Costa that would require expanded training for law enforcement in cases regarding child abuse.

House Bill 378 would mandate police and magisterial district judges to receive training in child abuse recognition and forensic interviewing of victims of abuse. The measure would encourage law enforcement to use Child Advocacy Centers in their investigations of alleged abuse.

"We must give law enforcement and judicial officials the tools they need to successfully investigate allegations of child abuse," Costa said. "With proper training, they will be better able to recognize signs of abuse and better protect children from dangerous situations."



Rep. Dom Costa continues crusade to protect animals from abuse

State Rep. Dom Costa has introduced legislation that would strengthen animal cruelty laws and make sure perpetrators are prosecuted and punished.

The proposed Angel's Law, H.B. 760, would increase the grading for all summary offenses relating to animal cruelty to misdemeanor offenses. This change would allow law enforcement to ensure all offenders are processed through the criminal justice system where their crimes are monitored.

"Crimes against animals are currently not entered into any centralized database system. Therefore, it's difficult to track and prosecute offenders. My bill would increase the penalties for repeat offenders and give law enforcement the ability to do both," Costa explained.



Ravenstahl stands up for consumers with 'swipe fee' legislation

State Rep. Adam Ravenstahl is drafting legislation that would prohibit retailers from imposing credit card transaction fees or surcharges on consumers.

"Beginning Jan. 27, merchants could start tacking on fees to cover processing costs, or about 1.5 percent to 3 percent of a buyer's total purchase," Ravenstahl said. "I'm sick of consumers being nickel-and-dimed and I am preparing legislation to help address that."

Ravenstahl said his legislation would add Pennsylvania to the 10 other states that prohibit the swipe fees. Under the measure, retailers would be allowed to offer discounts if consumers choose to pay with cash, check or means other than a credit card.

Growing LGBT Equality Caucus welcomes Pa. support for civil rights

The Pennsylvania legislature's LGBT Equality Caucus announced its membership has grown dramatically, corresponding with the strong support shown in a new Pennsylvania poll for equal civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens.

The LGBT Equality Caucus now has 58 members, more than double the 26 from the last session. The bipartisan group includes legislators from the House and Senate. Legislators from throughout the commonwealth are lending their voice to equal rights. Allegheny is one of many counties represented in the caucus.

State Rep. Dan Frankel co-chairman of the caucus, said: "Passing nondiscrimination legislation for employment and housing is the right thing to do, and Pennsylvanians know it. That's why it has enjoyed roughly 70 percent support in Pennsylvania for the last decade. The rapid growth of the LGBT Equality Caucus is an encouraging sign of growing support in the General Assembly for equal civil rights, and shows we have gotten a slow start, but we're playing quick catch-up."

Wheatley welcomes citizen lobbyists to Capitol for bill to boost minority, women and disadvantaged businesses' participation in state contracts

State Rep. Jake Wheatley welcomed residents from across Pennsylvania to the Capitol for his fourth annual Minority/Women/Disadvantaged Businesses Lobby Day.

Small-business owners and other Pennsylvanians came to the Capitol to lobby for Wheatley's H.B. 291, which is designed to improve the participation of minorities, women and the disadvantaged in state contracts and purchasing.

"Similar legislation already has passed the House unanimously in the past. These are things we can agree to on a bipartisan basis. I believe we can and should get this enacted into law in this session. Pennsylvania small businesses are counting on us," Wheatley said.

