

MEMO



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To: PCCYFS Public Policy Committee
From: Alex Rahn, Wanner Associates
Date: January 5, 2009
Subject: Legislative Report for January 12th Public Policy Meeting

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. This shrinks the current \$28.3 billion budget to a \$27.7 billion spending plan after the current reductions and cuts are counted against it. 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. In early January, Acting State Revenue Secretary Stephen H. Stetler reported that Pennsylvania collected \$156.6 million (6.9%) less than anticipated.

Given that the governor was insisting on and receiving billion-dollar budget increases the last few years, it looks like a tough budget year when the state may face mounting costs in welfare and corrections, with only \$27 billion or less in revenues this year. The House Appropriations Committee will start their normal hearings on the budget prior (DPW March 3rd) to the Governor's budget address, but in the meantime House Appropriations Majority Chairman Dwight Evans (D-Philadelphia) and the House Democratic Caucus will host a series of forums on the economy and its impact on the state budget during the week of January 12. Schedule below.

- Monday, January 12, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Community College of Allegheny County – Western Hills Center (Allegheny County)
- Monday, January 12, 2009, 6:00 p.m., Mt. Aloysius College Cosgrave Center (Cambria County)
- Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 11:00 a.m., Susquehanna Health System – Williamsport Hospital (Clinton County)
- Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 6:00 p.m., Marywood University – Swartz Conference Center (Lackawanna County)
- Wednesday, January 14, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Tredyffrin Township Building (Chester County)

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. Most of the Senate Republican Leadership retained their same positions, but as mentioned from the previous report there was a race to replace Gib Armstrong as Chair of the Appropriation's Committee. Jake Corman (Centre) successfully won that position against several opponents. Joe Scarnati (Jefferson) retains his position as President Pro Tempore, which means he also serves as Lt. Governor due to the death of Catherine Baker Knoll. Dominic Pileggi (Delaware) was reelected Majority Leader, Jane Orie (Allegheny) as Whip, Mike Waugh (York) as Caucus Chairman and Rob Robbins (Mercer) as Caucus Secretary,

For the Senate Democrats there was some shuffling due to the retirement of long time Appropriation Chair, Vince Fumo. Bob Mellow (Luzerne) was elected Minority Leader, Jay Costa (Allegheny) as Appropriations Chair, Mike O'Pake (Berks) as Whip, Vince Hughes (Philadelphia) as Caucus Chair, Sean Logan (Allegheny) as Caucus Secretary, Rich Kasunic (Fayette) as Policy Chair, and Christine Tartaglione (Philadelphia) as Caucus Administrator.

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
▪ 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	Stewart Greenleaf	Daylin Leach
▪ Labor and Industry	John Gordner	Christine M. Tartaglione
▪ Law and Justice	John Rafferty	Sean Logan
▪ Local Government	John Eichelberger	Raphael J. Musto
▪ Public Health and Welfare	Ted Erickson	Vincent J. Hughes
▪ Rules and Executive Nominations	Dominic Pileggi	Robert J. Mellow
▪ State Government	Charles McIlhinney	Anthony H. Williams
▪ Transportation	Rob Wonderling	J. Barry Stout
▪ Urban Affairs and Housing	Gene Yaw	Shirley M. Kitchen
▪ Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness	Lisa Baker	Larry Farnese

Keith McCall and Sam Smith Announces Committee Chairmen

State House Speaker Keith McCall (D-Carbon), on January 6th formally appointed his caucus' committee chairmen to serve during the 2009-10 legislative session. House Minority Leader Sam Smith (R-Jefferson) also announced on December 29th Republican (Minority) committee chairmen:

Committee	Republican Chair	Democrat Chair
▪ Aging & Older Adult Services	Tim Hennessy	Phyllis Mundy
▪ Agriculture & Rural Affairs	Sam Rohrer	Mike Hanna
▪ Children & Youth	Dennis O'Brien	Louise Williams Bishop
▪ Commerce	Dick Hess	Peter Daley
▪ Consumer Affairs	Bob Godshall	Joseph Preston
▪ Education	Paul Clymer	Joseph Roebuck
▪ Environmental & Energy	Scott Hutchinson	Camille "Bud" George
▪ Finance	Dave Argall	David Levdansky
▪ Game & Fisheries	Craig Dally	Edward Staback
▪ Gaming Oversight	Curt Schroder	Dante Santoni
▪ Health & Human Services	Matt Baker	Frank Oliver
▪ Insurance	Nick Micozzie	Tony DeLuca
▪ Intergovernmental Affairs	Chris Ross	Curtis Thomas
▪ Judiciary	Ron Marsico	Thomas Caltagirone
▪ Labor Relations	Gene DiGirolamo	Robert Belfanti
▪ Liquor Control	John Taylor	Robert Donatucci
▪ Local Government	Julie Harhart	Robert Freeman
▪ Professional Licensure	Bill Adolph	Mike McGeehan
▪ State Government	Kerry Benninghoff	Babette Josephs
▪ Tourism & Recreational	Steve Barrar	Thaddeus Kirkland
▪ Transportation	Rick Geist	Joe Markosek
▪ Urban Affairs	John Perzel	Frank Dermody
▪ Veterans Affairs & Emergency	Russ Fairchild	Tony Melio

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.

Members Sworn in January 6th

All House Members and half of the Senate were sworn in on January 6th. They return the week of January 26th. Below is a list of freshman Senate and House Members

2009-2010 Freshmen Senators

Richard Alloway (R-33)
Lawrence Farnese, Jr. (D-1)
Daylin Leach (D-17)
Lloyd Smucker (R-13)
Elder Vogel, Jr. (R-47)
Kim Ward (R-39)
Gene Yaw (R-23)

Tom Houghton (D-13)
Jim Christiana (R-15)
Robert Matzie (D-16)
Dom Costa (D-21)
Daniel Deasy, Jr. (D-27)
Steve Santarsiero (D-31)
Tim Krieger (R-57)
Mike Reese (R-59)
Donna Oberlander (R-63)
Carl Walker Metzgar (R-69)

2009-2010 Freshmen House Members

Matthew Bradford (D-70)
Bryan Barbin (D-71)
Frank Burns (D-72)
Matt Gabler (R-75)
Richard Mirabito (D-83)
Sheryl Delozier (R-88)
Kevin Murphy (D-113)
Frank Farry (R-142)
Tim Briggs (D-149)

Paul Drucker (D-157)
Nick Miccarelli (R-162)
Brendan Boyle (D-170)
Kenyatta Johnson (D-186)
Gary Day (R-187)
Vanessa Brown (D-190)
Will Tallman (R-193)
Seth Grove (R-196)

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>