

# Connections

## Budget Progress

While the legislature was in session on Sunday, the budget bill was not passed out of Appropriations. This is not because the Senate hasn't agreed on the bill but due to paperwork, drafts, charts, etc. that needs to be completed before the bill moves further. The bill is expected to be voted out the Senate Appropriations Committee today.

Senate Democrats are continuing to press for a severance tax on the natural gas drillers but it is unlikely that such a tax or an "impact fee" will be included in the final budget deal. Senate and House Republican Leaders are intent on getting the budget done by the end of the month - with or without Democratic support. This would represent the first time in eight years that a budget has been enacted "on time" and it would provide Governor Tom Corbett an administrative victory in his first season of governing.

## Tort Reform Bill Moves Through House

Yesterday the House moved legislation that would change the way damages are rewarded in civil lawsuits - a bill that was already approved by the Senate. "The Fair Share Act" would award damages in civil litigation based on a defendant's actual level of responsibility for an injury. Current law states that a defendant could be held liable for a jury's damage award regardless of his actual level of responsibility. House Majority Leader Mike Turzai said 35 other states already have this type of law in place. There is a full House votes expected today.

*Remember to check The Winter Group website for all the latest news from the office! <http://www.wintergrouppa.com/>*

## Legislative Session Days 2011

Today the Senate will convene at 11:00 am and the House at 10:00 am.

2011 HOUSE SPRING SESSION SCHEDULE  
June 27, 28, 29, 30

2011 SENATE SPRING SESSION SCHEDULE  
June 27, 28, 29, 30

## Committee Calendar

### MONDAY - 6/27/11

#### House Health

9:30 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

To consider: SB 732 Vance Act regulating abortion facilities & duties

#### House Labor and Industry

10:00 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

To consider: SB 552 Brubaker Amends Workforce Dev. Act re partnerships

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**Pennsylvania Office**  
234 North Third Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
Phone: 717.909.9560  
Fax: 717.909.9563

**Washington, D.C. Office**  
575 Seventh Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
Phone: 202.465.4341

## **Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Development**

### **Off the Floor, Rules Committee Conference Room**

To consider: [HB 67](#) Schroder Amends Title 18 re greyhound racing offenses

## **Senate Education**

### **Off the Floor, Rules Committee Conference Room**

To consider: [SR 147](#) Scarnati Resolution re LB&FC study of education progs. [HB 1330](#) Quigley Amends Public School Code re EITC [HB 1352](#) Stephens Amends Public School Code re background checks

## **Senate Judiciary**

### **Off the Floor, Rules Committee Conference Room**

To consider: [HB 924](#) Stephens Amends Title 18 re institutional sex. assault

## **TUESDAY - 6/28/11**

### **House Education**

#### **9:00 a.m., Room B31 Main Capitol**

To consider: [SB 200](#) Browne Act re concussions & brain injury w/ students [SB 389](#) Brubaker Amends Public School Code re agriculture edu [SB 1127](#) White, D Amends Public School Code re mun. election [HB 1610](#) Vereb Act est. std to prevent student cardiac arrest

### **House Gaming Oversight**

#### **9:30 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building**

To consider: [HB 1716](#) Brown, R Amends Title 4 re Cat. 3 slot machine license

## **Joint Legislative Budget & Finance Committee**

### **10:00 a.m., Room 461 Main Capitol**

Meeting to discuss and release reports on Pennsylvania's Current Real Property Tax Collection System, and Summary of the Financial and Academic Status of the Duquesne City School District

## **THURSDAY - 6/30/11**

### **Independent Regulatory Review Commission**

#### **10:00 a.m., 333 Market Street, 14th Floor Conference Room, Harrisburg**

To consider: 2743 PA Public Utility Commission #57-265: Standards and Billing Practices for Residential Utility Services

## **WEDNESDAY - 7/6/11**

### **House Judiciary**

#### **11:00 a.m., South Buffalo Volunteer Fire Department, 695 Freeport Road, Freeport**

Public hearing on: [HB 1289](#) Pyle Amends Title 42 re trafficking drugs; minor