

Connections

Panel to explore privatization for some state run services

Soon a panel appointed by Governor Tom Corbett will begin to explore the possibilities of selling state assets and outsourcing some public services to save taxpayer dollars. Other states have already analyzed some cost savings and can offer plenty of ideas to Pennsylvania. While PA already contracts for some services, like road construction and some technology, other sector will be examined for potential savings. Budget deficits across the nation have sparked an interest in finding savings where possible and often those savings can be found by outsourcing. States such as Arizona have outsourced lottery management and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie recently received a report outlining a potential \$210 million in savings by leasing operations of state parks, turnpike toll collections, some corrections services, etc.

Gov. Corbett has said that he values the state's corrections officers and would not consider privatizing that sector but would consider ideas for prison food services and other programs that operate inside the prison system. Other areas up for consideration would be management services for state parks while the state retains ownership and selling the state liquor stores—which Corbett fully supports. Further savings could be found by contracting out services for the lottery and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency.

Some caution though, that real cost-analysis will need to be examined to ensure privatization will produce real savings for the state. There is always the potential for additional and unplanned for costs that may arise as a result of subcontracting or privatizing services.

Gov. Corbett in favor of PA film tax credit

Early this year, when Governor Tom Corbett gave his very first budget address, people in the film industry were holding their breath; waiting to find out what the fate would be of Pennsylvania's film tax credit. As it turns out, Corbett is fully in favor of the film tax credit and says "there was no doubt" that Pennsylvania needed to retain this tax in order to bring new film business to the Commonwealth.

Ideally, Corbett would like to see the tax credit grow in the future, should the state budget allow it; though he says that will depend on the economy. To qualify for the film tax credit, a film must spend sixty percent of its production budget inside the Commonwealth. The state benefits from the influx of jobs that new production brings and the film industry in Pennsylvania has grown over the last 40 years.

Legislative Session Days 2011

2011 HOUSE FALL SESSION SCHEDULE
September 26, 27, 28
October 3, 4, 5, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 31
November 1, 2, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23
December 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14

2011 SENATE FALL SESSION SCHEDULE
September 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28
October 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 31
November 1, 14, 15, 16
December 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14

Continued on next page

Committee Calendar

TUESDAY - 8/2/11

Senate Democratic Policy Committee (PUBLIC HEARING)

10:00 a.m., Community College of Philadelphia Northeast Regional Center, Community Room, 12901 Townsend Road, Philadelphia

Public hearing on school choice

House Consumer Affairs (INFORMATIONAL)

1:00 p.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

Informational meeting on the status of competitive energy markets in PA

House Democratic Policy Committee (PUBLIC HEARING)

2:00 p.m., Waynesburg Central High School, Auditorium, 30 Zimmerman Drive, Waynesburg

Public hearing on Marcellus Shale

WEDNESDAY - 8/3/11

House Consumer Affairs (INFORMATIONAL)

9:00 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

Informational meeting on the status of competitive energy markets in PA

House Education (INFORMATIONAL)

10:00 a.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Informational meeting on legislative proposals addressing the Charter

School Act and school choice

House Aging and Older Adult Services (INFORMATIONAL)

1:00 p.m., Columbia Cottage Assisted Living Facility, 103 N. Larkspur Drive, Palmyra

Informational meeting on issues impacting the assisted living community

House Democratic Policy Committee (PUBLIC HEARING)

1:00 p.m., Conway Volunteer Fire Department, #2 Banquet Hall, 900 Gross Street, Conway

Public hearing on the State Budget Cuts

House Labor and Industry (PUBLIC HEARING)

1:00 p.m., Room 205, Ryan Office

Public hearing on: [HB 927](#) Delozier re Act regulating child labor

THURSDAY - 8/4/11

House Democratic Policy Committee (PUBLIC HEARING)

10:00 a.m., Greater Johnstown High School, Auditorium, 222 Central Avenue, Johnstown

Public hearing on the State Budget Higher Education Cuts

House Education (INFORMATIONAL)

10:00 a.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Informational meeting on legislative proposals addressing the Charter

School Act and school choice

Public Employee Retirement Commission

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

Commission Meeting and legislative review of: [HB 418](#) Krieger re Amends Title 71 (State Government) further providing for mandatory and optional membership; [HB 1676](#) Boyd re Amends Title 71 (State Government), in retirement for State employees & officers; [HB 1677](#) Boyd re Amends Title 24 (Education), in retirement for school employees

House Aging and Older Adult Services (INFORMATIONAL)

1:00 p.m., Country Meadows of Hershey Retirement Community, 451 Sand Hill Road, Hershey

Informational meeting on issues and challenges facing long-term careproviders

TUESDAY - 8/9/11

House State Government (PUBLIC HEARING)

1:00 p.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Public Hearing on: [HB 153](#) Smith, S re joint proposal to reduce the size of the legislature; [HB 55](#) Mustio re providing for terms and legislative districts; [HB 56](#) Mustio re providing for terms and legislative districts; [HB 57](#) Mustio re providing for terms and legislative districts; [HB 183](#) Godshall re reducing the size of the General Assembly; [HB 876](#) Kauffman re providing for legislative districts; [HB 936](#) Reese re reducing the size of the General Assembly

House Labor and Industry (PUBLIC HEARING)

1:00 p.m., Room 418 Main Capitol

Joint public hearing with Senate Labor & Industry Committee on: [HB 1754](#) Miller re providing for ineligibility for compensation in unemployment

TUESDAY - 8/9/11 cont'd

Senate Labor and Industry (PUBLIC HEARING)

1:00 p.m., Room 418 Main Capitol

Joint public hearing with Senate Labor & Industry Committee on: [HB 1754](#) Miller re providing for ineligibility for compensation in unemployment

WEDNESDAY - 8/10/11

House Labor and Industry (PUBLIC HEARING)

9:30 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

Public hearing on: [HB 1754](#) Miller re Amends PA Prevailing Wage Act providing for administration; [HB 1685](#) Bear re Amends PA Prevailing Wage Act providing for definitions and administration

Senate Law and Justice (PUBLIC HEARING)

12:30 p.m., Room 156 Main Capitol

Public hearing on the direct shipment of wine

THURSDAY - 8/11/11

Independent Regulatory Review Commission (PUBLIC HEARING)

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

Public meeting to consider the following Regulation: Reg. No. 2772 PA Public Utility Commission #57-269: Natural Gas Distribution Companies and the Promotion of Competitive Retail Markets

House Republican Policy Committee (POSTING CHANGE)

2:00 p.m., Thiel College, Sawhill Georgian Room, Howard Miller Student Center, 75 College Avenue, Greenville (Note time change from 1:30 p.m.)

Public hearing on the cost of doing business in PA

TUESDAY - 8/16/11

House Labor and Industry (PUBLIC HEARING)

1:00 p.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

Public hearing on: [HB 50](#) Metcalfe re providing that employment will not be conditional upon union membership; [HB 51](#) Rapp re provides for fair share fee for employees of public employers; [HB 52](#) Creighton re eliminating authority for the fair share fee for employees of Commonwealth entities; [HB 53](#) Cox re relieving certain employee organizations of certain duties and obligations

WEDNESDAY - 8/17/11

House Labor and Industry (PUBLIC HEARING)

9:30 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

Public hearing on: [HB 1271](#) Marsico re Amends PA Prevailing Wage Act further providing for definitions

TUESDAY - 8/23/11

House Republican Policy Committee (PUBLIC HEARING)

9:00 a.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Public hearing on business tax reform

WEDNESDAY - 8/24/11

House Labor and Industry (PUBLIC HEARING)

9:30 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

Public hearing on: [HB 709](#) Kampf re Amends Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act further providing for definitions and school district options; [HB 1409](#) Marsico re Amends Prevailing Wage Act providing for definitions and referendums

House Republican Policy Committee (PUBLIC HEARING)

10:00 a.m., Luzerne County, venue to be determined

Public hearing on job creation

THURSDAY - 8/25/11

Senate Education (PUBLIC HEARING)

10:00 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

Public hearing on: [SB 904](#) Piccola re providing for charter and cyber charter schools

TUESDAY - 8/30/11

House State Government (PUBLIC HEARING)

1:00 p.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Public hearing on illegal alien issues

WEDNESDAY - 8/31/11

House State Government (PUBLIC HEARING)

9:30 a.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Public hearing on illegal alien issues

TUESDAY – 9/13/11

House Finance (INFORMATIONAL)

10:00 a.m., Holiday Inn, 210 Ludlow Street, Warren

Informational meeting on the Marcellus Shale industry

TUESDAY – 9/20/11

House Republican Policy Committee (PUBLIC HEARING)

10:00 a.m., Beaver County, venue to be determined

Public hearing on workforce development

WEDNESDAY – 9/21/11

House Tourism and Recreational Development (PUBLIC HEARING)

9:30 a.m., Ramada Inn, 1450 South Atherton Street, State College

Public hearing on proposed independent PA Tourism Commission