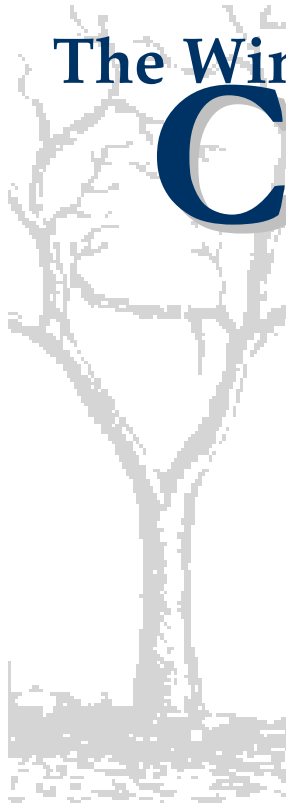


# Connections



## Transportation Commission Suggests Hiking Variety Of Fees

The state's Transportation Commission presented its report last week and it contained some solutions to raise the \$2.5 billion needed to update and sustain roads, bridges and mass transit projects across the state. The report recommends the following: increasing the vehicle and licensing fees in line with inflation, increasing drivers license and registration renewal fees, and raising the state's fuel tax. The suggestions in the report now need to be approved by the legislature and the Governor before they would become effective.

## Unemployment Slowly Improves in July

According to the U.S. Labor Department, the nation added 117,000 new jobs in July. The unemployment rate is at 9.1%, which is down from 9.2% in June.

## July Revenues

Earlier this month Rep. Joe Markosek, minority chair of the House Appropriations Committee, reported that PA collected over \$1.71 billion in total revenue in July. This is a 1.2% increase from July of last year. Also in his report, Rep. Markosek states that July is typically a quiet month but September will be a better indicator of the economy because it is when quarterly estimated payments for corporation taxes and personal income taxes are due. Not only will those numbers help to gauge the state of the economy but also help to see how well the state will be able to meet this fiscal year's budget goals.

## 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

## Committee Calendar

### TUESDAY - 8/9/11

#### House State Government

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

Public hearing on: HB 153 Smith, S Jt. Resolution re reduce size of Gen. Assembly HB 55 Mustio Joint Resolution re terms/members/leg district HB 56 Mustio Joint Resolution re terms/members/leg district HB 57 Mustio Joint Resolution re members & leg districts HB 183 Godshall Jt. Resolution re reducing size; Gen. Assembly HB 876 Kauffman Jt. Resolution re legislative districts HB 936 Reese Jt Resolution reducing size of Gen. Assembly

#### House & Senate Labor and Industry

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

Joint public hearing on: HB 1754 Miller Amends Unemployment Comp Law re eligibility

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## **WEDNESDAY – 8/10/11**

### **House Labor and Industry**

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

Public hearing on: HB 1367 Miller Amends PA Prevailing Wage Act re admin. HB 1685 Bear Amends PA Prevailing Wage Act re defs & admin

### **Senate Law and Justice**

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

Public hearing on the direct shipment of wine

## **THURSDAY - 8/11/11**

### **House Liquor Control**

**10:00 a.m., Township of Derry, Municipal Complex, 600 Clearwater Road, Hershey**

Public hearing on: HB 11 Turzai Amends Liquor Code re LCB privatization

### **House Republican Policy Committee**

**2:00 p.m., Thiel College, Sawhill Georgian Room, Howard Miller Student Center, 75 College Avenue, Greenville**

Public hearing on the cost of doing business in PA

## **TUESDAY – 8/16/11**

### **House Labor and Industry**

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

Public hearing on: HB 50 Metcalfe Act re employment; labor org.; memberships HB 51 Rapp Amends Admin. Code re fair share fee; employer HB 52 Creighton Amends Admin. Code re employees fair share fee HB 53 Cox Act re Public Employee Fair Share Fee Law

### **House & Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs**

**4:30 p.m., Nittany Lion Inn, Board Room #2, 200 West Park Avenue, State College**

Joint informational meeting on the College of Agricultural Sciences budget matters presented by Dean Bruce McPheron

## **WEDNESDAY – 8/17/11**

### **House Labor and Industry**

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

Public hearing on: HB 1271 Marsico Amends PA Prevailing Wage Act re definitions

### **House & Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs**

**10:30 a.m., Theatre Area, College of Ag. Sciences Exhibits Building, Penn State Ag. Progress Days Site, Rock Springs**

Joint informational meeting on stinkbug infestation and control

### **House Gaming Oversight**

**2:00 p.m., Sheraton Erie Bay Front Hotel, 55 West Bay Drive, Erie**

Informational meeting on Horsemen's Audit

## **TUESDAY - 8/23/11**

### **House Republican Policy Committee**

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

Public hearing on business tax reform

## **WEDNESDAY - 8/24/11**

### **House Labor and Industry**

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

Public hearing on: HB 709 Kampf Amends PA Prevailing Wage Act re schl district HB 1409 Marsico Amends PA Prevailing Wage Act re referendum

### **House Republican Policy Committee**

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

Public hearing on job creation

## **THURSDAY - 8/25/11**

### **House Insurance**

**9:30 a.m., Gold Room, Allegheny County Courthouse, 107 County Office Building, Pittsburgh**

Public hearing to review the dispute between University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) & Highmark regarding their health care provider contract

### **Senate Education**

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

Public hearing on: SB 904 Piccola Amends Public School Codes re charter schools

*Continued on next page*

## **TUESDAY – 8/30/11**

### **House State Government**

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

Public hearing on illegal alien issues

## **WEDNESDAY – 8/31/11**

### **House State Government**

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

Public hearing on illegal alien issues

## **TUESDAY - 9/13/11 House Finance**

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

Informational meeting on the Marcellus Shale industry

## **TUESDAY - 9/13/11**

### **\*\*\*Senate Banking and Insurance (New)**

**1:00 p.m., Penn State Greater Allegheny Campus, Ostermayer Room, Student**

**Community Center, 4000 University Drive, McKeesport**

Public hearing to accept testimony regarding the ongoing contractual dispute between Highmark and UPMC and

Highmark's proposed acquisition of West Penn Allegheny Hospital

## **TUESDAY - 9/20/11**

### **House Republican Policy Committee**

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

Public hearing on workforce development

## **WEDNESDAY – 9/21/11**

### **House Tourism and Recreational Development**

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

Public hearing on proposed independent PA Tourism Commission

## **TUESDAY – 9/27/11**

### **House Human Services**

**10:00 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building**

To consider: HB 1651 DiGirolamo Amends Title 44 re Pharm. Accountability Sysm.

## **WEDNESDAY - 10/19/11**

### **Senate Education**

**10:30 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building**

Public hearing to receive testimony from Secretary of Education Ronald Tomalis on results of PDE investigation and analysis of 2009 PSSA testing anomalies