



The Bulletin

The official publication of the Pennsylvania Federation of Fraternal and Social Organizations

Winter

2021-22

PA Federation of Fraternal and Social Organizations

Winter 2021-22

**PROTECTION
THROUGH
LEGISLATION
THROUGH
EDUCATION**

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Erie Unit to Host 2022 Convention, June 3-5

After a difficult, three-year wait, the Erie County Federation of Clubs invites one and all to the 81st annual PA Federation of Fraternal & Social Organizations Convention. The Convention will be held in the Erie Area June 3-5, 2022, at the **Holiday Inn Erie, 2260 Downs Drive, Erie, PA.** **Room cost is \$119.00 per night plus tax. You must make your own reservation** by calling the hotel at **814-205-0271** and indicate that you are with PFFSO (Erie County Federation of Clubs) in order to get the group rate.

Reservation deadline is **May 2, 2022**. Rooms are also reserved for Thursday arrivals. Each room has a Keurig coffee maker, microwave and compact refrigerator. Several restaurants are located in the area. The cost to register for the convention is **\$25 per person**, including guests. This is SEPARATE from the room rate, and the awards banquet. Banquet tickets can be purchased for **\$25**. For more details, contact **Karen Skarupski, (814) 456-3246**.

2022 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Friday - June 3rd, 2022

12 noon - 4:00 pm Registration - Hospitality Suite – *Holiday Inn Erie 2260 Downs Drive, Erie, PA 16509*

3:00 pm Directors' Meeting – Hospitality Suite Location

4:00 pm - 6:30 pm Hospitality Suite Open

6:30 pm Bus departs Days Inn – *TBD*

7:00 pm Dinner and Cash Bar

7:30 pm Committee Meetings

9:00 pm Bus departs for Holiday Inn Erie

Hospitality Suite Open till Midnight

Saturday - June 4th, 2022

8:00 am Bus departs Days Inn for Knights of St. John –
660 West 26th Street

Coffee and doughnuts

**Convention Business Meeting – including elec-
tions and by-laws changes**

9:00 am Guests depart **TBD**

11:30 am Guests return to the Knights of St. John

12:00 noon Lunch Served at the Knights of St. John

1:00 pm Convention Meeting (*continues if necessary*)

Bus departs for Club Tour:

Polish Falcons Nest 123 – 602 East 19th Street

Society of Holy Trinity – 604 East 23rd Street

4:00 pm Bus returns to Holiday Inn Erie

5:30 pm Bus departs St. Francis Ushers Club – **9085
South Main Street, McKean, PA 16426**

6:00 pm Happy Hour (*Cash Bar*)

7:00 pm Banquet Dinner, Awards and Prizes

9:00 pm Bus returns to Country Inn & Suites

Hospitality Suite Open

Mihalek Introduces Legislation to Privatize Pennsylvania's State-Run Liquor System; Consumers Would Vote in Constitutional Amendment

Rep. Natalie Mihalek (R-Allegheny/Washington) has introduced legislation that calls for a constitutional amendment to privatize Pennsylvania's state-run liquor system.

"We are one of two states in the entire nation with a government monopoly on the sale of liquor and the only state in the nation to shut down the sale of spirits entirely during the pandemic," said Mihalek. "The pandemic exposed many flaws in our government and our liquor system was no different. It is time for this Commonwealth to modernize the sale of liquor once and for all."

In 2016, the General Assembly passed historic legislation to privatize the sale of wine and spirits, but ultimately, it was vetoed by Gov. Tom Wolf. Since then, the LCB has worked to broaden sales options and services for the public, while the General Assembly continues its perennial assault on a vital economic asset in Pennsylvania.

"Earlier this year, the House Liquor Control Committee passed legislation that I authored that would simply increase the amount of wine allowed to be sold by restaurants, hotels and grocery stores that hold wine expanded permits," Mihalek continued. "Not only

does this improve customer convenience, but its underlying premise is based on a free-market economy and the idea that government should not be dictating to consumers what they can purchase and how."

Mihalek introduced this as a constitutional amendment due to circumvent the Governor's consistent opposition to privatization. A constitutional amendment must pass two consecutive sessions of the General Assembly, in the same form, before it can be put to the voters. There is no role for the Governor in this process.

"The best way to move forward on legislation we know matters to our constituents is to allow them to have the final say on it," Mihalek concluded. "I look forward to bringing our liquor code into the 21st century by ending the government's control of it."

It is unclear how soon Mihalek's bill, [HB 2272](#) will be brought up for House and Senate votes, however both Committee Chairs, Rep. Carl Metzgar, and Sen. Mike Regan, have indicated their support for the issue. There is considerable opposition, from the state store employee unions, and numerous other interests. A public hearing on the issue was held on January 24. Read story below. Stay tuned.

House Liquor Control Committee Holds Hearing on Amendment to Abolish State Stores

The committee held a public hearing on January 24 to receive testimony on [HB 2272](#), which proposes a constitutional amendment to privatize state-run liquor stores. The bill is a Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the state constitution that prohibits the commonwealth from manufacturing or selling liquor. A Joint Resolution proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania Constitutional amendments require approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum.

Minority Chairman Daniel Deasy (D-Allegheny) asked how many hearings will be held on House Bill 2272 and asked whether all members will be afforded the opportunity to ask questions during the hearing.

Chairman Carl Metzgar (R-Somerset) stated, "This is a product of an executive branch that will not work with the legislature." He continued, "We're trying to take our case directly to the people of Pennsylvania, that's what today is about."

Rep. Mary Isaacson (D-Philadelphia) made a motion to postpone the hearing to February 7. She said, "My motion is just to postpone this for a couple of weeks until we're back in session so that everybody can get their head around what we're trying to do here." She noted, "We just got this language four days ago." Chairman Deasy seconded the motion. **The motion to postpone the hearing failed.**

Rep. Natalie Mihalek (R-Allegheny, the bill's prime sponsor, discussed Pennsylvania's current liquor sale laws as a result of prohibition. "While privatization efforts have been discussed in Harrisburg over the decades, I can't think of a more relevant time to reignite this discussion," she said. "My proposal seeks to answer a more specific question...should the government of this commonwealth be engaged in the sale of liquor?"

Wendell Young, president, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1776, testified against the privatization of alcohol sales as the legislation is currently written. He said the current system "actually delivers money to other places, including the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), drug and alcohol programs, local municipalities, the Treasury itself and direct transfers." He discussed liabilities, such as pension liability, and said the "supposed increase of profits" in a private market is a misrepresentation. "The only way it becomes an issue is if you get rid of this system because then those liabilities have to be paid for," remarked Young. He opined the ballot question would have to say, "In order to have a little more convenience in the private sector, you would have more taxes, higher prices and less selection." He affirmed, "I'll go for that ballot referendum any day, but you're not being honest with people."

Rep. Mihalek said, "You provided us with some very helpful statistics regarding revenue and taxes and inventory and the monetary contribution from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB)." She inquired if Young is testifying on behalf of PLCB or UFCW. Young said, "My members work for the PLCB and their jobs are at stake by your proposal, so I'm here supporting the system and their jobs." Rep. Mihalek rattled off a laundry list of proposed changes to the current system, and asked if UFCW is in support of each of them. Young said no. Rep. Mihalek questioned, "If the UFCW isn't supporting these very small, super-focused changes shouldn't we allow the voters to weigh in?" Young said, "**Your proposal doesn't allow the voters to weigh in on any of those issues.**"

Rep. Steven Malagari (D-Montgomery) mentioned **state pensions** received by PLCB members and asked about the costs to taxpayers. Young said, "If the system continues there's no cost at all." He asserted pension only becomes an issue if PLCB is "put out of the business of wholesaling and retailing and lost its revenue source." He stated the legislature would have to find a new source of revenue without the system, which would "trigger the need for the taxpayers to pick up the bill."

Rep. Valerie Gaydos (R-Allegheny) noted Young's concern regarding job loss in the commonwealth following the privatization of alcohol sales. She questioned, "What makes you think that with those skillsets, they would not be capable of getting a job?" Young explained retailers typically reallocate the workforce within their store rather than hire new employees. He used privatization in West Virginia and Ohio as examples of why he does not support it

in the commonwealth. "They have a fraction of the selection of product that our regular stores have here in Pennsylvania," said Young. He reiterated no new jobs will be created.

Rep. Russ Diamond (R-Lebanon) remarked, "I disagree with your speculation about the future, but I do appreciate your testimony."

Rep. Manuel Guzman (D-Berks) mentioned Young's concern about how the ballot question was worded and inquired about its consequences. Young said, "You're not giving them an option. There is no option without telling them the facts." He stated a legislator would never vote for a bill without knowing what is in the bill. Rep. Guzman remarked, "You talked about 6,000 jobs potentially at risk at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic that we're still currently facing as a country."

Rep. David Delloso (D-Delaware) said taxpayers "shouldn't be on the hook" for making up for funds lost through privatization. "We shouldn't be casting aside these good jobs and we shouldn't be casting aside the ancillary workers that work alongside them," stated Rep. Delloso.

Rep. Mark Rozzi (D-Berks) discussed what this would mean for rural Pennsylvania. "I think that is something that we have to bring to the attention of our constituents here in Pennsylvania," he said. "If you do live in rural Pennsylvania, you pretty much are screwed."

Chairman Metzgar questioned why they should not let the voters decide what they want. Young responded, "You want them to vote for something without them knowing what the alternative is." Chairman Metzgar remarked, "In the legislature, I find that sometimes it works only under pressure, not best under pressure."

Tim Holden, chairman, PLCB, discussed what PLCB currently does, such as sell wine and spirits, regulate the alcohol industry, provide alcohol education, and address social responsibility. "Last year we were able to generate **\$2.91 billion in sales and taxes,**" said Holden. He stated PLCB provides funds for PSP, drug and alcohol programs, and the General Fund.

Chairman Deasy noted a **wine and spirits privatization commission** was created in 2016 but they never met. "I just think this constitutional amendment is such a drastic measure," he said. "And I would love to see that commission."

Rep. Mihalek asked about anticipated loss of revenue due to the border leave. Holden said, "We do not believe the "border bleed" is as extensive as people say it is."

Rep. Malagari referenced license fees, both prior to the pandemic and current. He asked if license fees will need to increase signifi-

cantly to cover losses if PLCB's retail wholesale distribution system is divested. Holden said, "It's very difficult for us to comment on anything."

Rep. Gaydos stated Pennsylvania is one of the largest purchasers of liquor in the nation. She mentioned keeping wholesale together but privatizing the retail portion and asked how that would affect revenue to the state. **Mike Negra, board member, PLCB**, said, "If I remember that analysis, it has us making around \$400 million on just wholesale. But again, the numbers have changed dramatically, and I don't know if it's relevant to today."

Rep. Guzman questioned where drug and alcohol program funding would come from if liquor sales become privatized. Holden said he cannot answer but noted \$5.3 million goes to the Department of Drug and Alcohol programs from PLCB. Rep. Guzman remarked, "So \$5.3 million goes to help prevent families like mine from suffering from alcohol addiction." He also noted there is no guarantee that wineries and distilleries would have equal access to consumers under the legislation.

Rep. Brian Smith (R-Jefferson) commented other states that are privatized have more access to spirits.

Rep. Diamond discussed the revenue generated by PLCB and questioned why it does not all go to the General Fund. He opined that if the purpose of having a state liquor system is for the revenue from the liquor system, then it should be turned over to the General Assembly.

Rep. Dellosa explained there are close to 6,000 Pennsylvanians employed through the state-run liquor system. He reiterated the funds go to PSP and liquor enforcement.

Rep. Abby Major (R-Armstrong) said Holden "mentioned that you provide \$5.3 million in alcohol education" and asked how much money is spent on marketing "considering you have no real competition." Holden said PLCB spends \$7 million on marketing. Rep. Major remarked, "That money would be better spent elsewhere."

Chairman Metzgar noted, "One of my criticisms of the existing system is that there is an inherent conflict of interest whenever you're trying to sell and regulate."

David Wojnar, senior vice president and head of state public policy, Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, discussed the issue of retailing. "We think the commonwealth is woefully underserved," stated Wojnar. "It is mind-boggling to me to hear that the state actually operates stores that do not generate a

profit." He said there's room to grow in a state like Pennsylvania on the retail side.

Matt Dogali, president and CEO, American Distilled Spirits Alliance, discussed **flexible pricing** and supply chain. "The PLCB can and has on several occasions accepted the lower case price and still raises the retail price," he said. "There are far too few rules and controls around flexible pricing in Pennsylvania." He added, "We ask again that the PLCB suspends the fines like every other control state until the supply chain is normal."

Chairman Deasy inquired, "Do you guys consider yourselves to be a special interest of the liquor industry?" Wojnar said, "We do have an interest in working with Pennsylvania, we do have an interest in working with you in the legislature, but our interest most importantly is the Pennsylvania consumer." Dogali added, "I'm not going to weigh in on whether or not we're special interest, but we're doing what we're supposed to do, which is represent the collective."

Rep. Jim Rigby (R-Cambria) requested a discussion on states that the legislature could look to as models for privatization. Wojnar stated, "I think there's a lot of shining examples, especially within the control state system." He noted **Michigan** did an "excellent job."

Rep. Malagari asked, "Can you **just tell us a little bit about how you circumvented this nationwide issue in others states with supply chain issues?**" Dogali responded, "We didn't necessarily circumvent. I can certainly provide some examples of interesting ventures that companies have taken." Rep. Malagari remarked that a lot of the examples provided are not a fault of the system but of the overall global supply chain crisis.

Rep. Gaydos mentioned PLCB raising prices on a bottle of liquor and questioned if that means companies can still sell it for whatever price they want. Dogali stated, "PLCB has no obligation to do anything, they can still raise the retail price and that is the problem." Rep. Gaydos remarked, "It almost sounds like the PLCB is controlling your business plans."

Rep. Dellosa said there is an advantage to the products that the PLCB system puts on store shelves. "Some of your vendors appreciate the fact that we can put their product where it otherwise wouldn't be." Dogali agreed but commented it's "very difficult to compare market to market." He noted, "We do not take a position on privatization."

Rep. Guzman called the liquor system in the commonwealth "complex and intricate." He mentioned issues discussed earlier by Wojnar and Dogali and asked if the constitutional amendment

ballot question "would solve your immediate challenges." Wojnar and Dogali both said they have no comment.

Gene Barr, president and CEO, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, said the current system is a monopoly that does not allow for competition and is designed to not be consumed. "Our view is that the PLCB should focus solely on the enforcement side," said Barr. He said if the commonwealth were to move liquor sales to the private sector, they will be able to figure it out. "I believe that we can do this...knowing that those people want to utilize their great talents and abilities," he said.

Alex Baloga, president and CEO, Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association (PFMA), discussed possible changes to the system, including "a lot more modernization and ultimately, potentially privatization." He discussed the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on retailers. "The key part for us as retailers is to keep our customers safe, to keep the associates safe, and to be able to get people in and out as quickly as possible," he said.

Zak Pyzik, director of government affairs, Pennsylvania Restaurant and Lodging Association (PRLA), remarked, "Members and most operators throughout the commonwealth unequivocally support the privatization of liquor sales." He explained privatization of liquor sales could possibly reduce the cost of alcohol for consumers and license holders. "This constitutional amendment would bring Pennsylvania into the 21st century, allowing consumers to benefit from free market competition," added Pyzik.

Rep. Jesse Topper (R-Bedford) discussed retail workforce shortage issues. He questioned, "Would it be safe to say that, at this point salaries and hourly wages have never been higher in your industry?" Pyzik said, "It's safe to say we've seen a significant amount of increases in salaries and wages across the board." Rep. Topper added the government should not be in retail business.

Chairman Deasy highlighted the wine and spirits privatization commission and said, "**I would encourage you to write a letter to leadership and ask what the status is about that commission.**"

Chairman Metzgar discussed lowering taxes to increase revenue and compared it to the privatization of liquor sales. He asked, "Is there a possibility that doing this might actually increase revenue, not decrease revenue?" Barr said, "Competition helps drive prices down." Pyzik stated, "I imagine in a privatized system Pennsylvanians we can trust and your constituents we can trust." He continued, "I think they would be equal and judicious and methodical in the future as we see that now in the current system."

Regan Makes Another Run at RTDs

The Senate was only in session for one week in December, but they took full advantage of the time to resurrect the RTD issue. On December 15, the Senate gave final consideration to legislation sponsored by Senate Law and Justice Committee chair **Mike Regan (R-Cumberland/York)** to establish a yearly excess auction for liquor licenses that did not receive bids during the Liquor Control Board's regular license auctions.

Under [Senate Bill 566](#), all available licenses in an excess auction would be up for bid by any entity in any county of Pennsylvania. However, no more than one license would be awarded within a county per year. The bill also allows for full payment to be made within six months of a winning bid, rather than the current two weeks, which prevents smaller entities from competing with bigger, wealthier businesses that have easy access to large amounts of capital.

Prior to final passage, Regan offered an amendment to SB 566 that authorizes licensees, including restaurants, bars, hotels, grocery stores, convenience stores, and beer distributors to sell Ready-to-Drink cocktails (RTDs), which are spirit-based beverages manufactured and sold in sealed containers, such as cans or bottles.

The legislation caps the total maximum alcohol by volume content at 12.5%, similar to many beer products. Anything above that would have to still be sold through the state stores.

The bill passed by the slightest of partisan margins, a 26-24 vote. All Democrats opposed the amended bill, along with **Sens. John Yudichak (I-Luzerne), and Tommy Tomlinson (R-Bucks)**.

SB 566 as amended is now before the House of Representatives for final approval.

Stefano Bill Awarding \$25 Million to First Responders Becomes Law

Legislation sponsored by **Sen. Pat Stefano (R-Fayette)** that would implement the decision of Pennsylvania voters to allow municipal-owned fire companies to participate in the Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Loan Program received support from the General Assembly and received the governor's signature on February 10.

[Senate Bill 739](#) ensures that all fire companies – whether volunteer, paid or combination department – are eligible for the low-interest loans. The bill was also amended to allocate a total of \$25 million in federal disaster relief funds that will be distributed

under the **Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program**. EMS companies will be able to receive these funds through the Office of the State Fire Commissioner.

“We are extremely thankful that Pennsylvania EMTs and paramedics provide emergency care every day and night while enduring difficult conditions. Ambulance services struggled to maintain operations even before the COVID-19 Pandemic and Senate Bill 739 will provide much needed help! The Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute (PFESI) commends the members of the General Assembly for passing Senate Bill 739 that will provide \$25 million in grant funding to ambulance services. We are very appreciative for their efforts,” said **Jerry Ozog, executive director of PFE-SI**.

The funding will be distributed on a pro rata basis to EMS companies.

“First responders never stopped working during the pandemic, even in the beginning before we had enough information to make our own determinations about the severity of the virus. Costs to our EMS companies increased and access to medical-grade masks decreased as we dealt with shortages all over the state,” Sen. Stefano said. “It was a challenging time to serve the community.”

Fire and EMS companies have struggled financially for years, which is why the [Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee](#) has been working to pass legislation based on the recommendations made by the Senate Resolution 6 Commission. The commission, which was established by Senate Resolution 6 of 2017, was tasked with making recommendations about how to avert a crisis in the delivery of fire and emergency medical services in Pennsylvania.

“As chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, I am focused on supporting our fire and EMS companies so Pennsylvanians have the critical support they need in life-threatening emergencies,” Sen. Stefano said.

Speaker Announces Special Elections for the 24th and 116th Districts

Speaker of the House Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) has ordered a special election to be held on Tuesday, April 5, to fill the vacant seat in the 24th Legislative District in Allegheny County. The seat was vacated when **Rep. Ed Gainey** was sworn as the Mayor of Pittsburgh.

House rules state the speaker shall issue a writ for a special election to be held on a date which shall occur on or before the date of the first municipal election which occurs not less than 60 days after the issuance of the writ.

Cutler also ordered a special election to be held that same day to fill the vacant seat in the 116th Legislative District in Luzerne County. The seat was vacated when **Rep. Tarah Toohil** was sworn in to

serve on the Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas.

Candidates for the office will be selected by a process designated by their respective political parties, and the winner of the special election will take office after the results are confirmed.

“Voters in Pennsylvania are already receiving a lot of information about new districts and major elections this year,” Cutler said. “This special election is to complete the term under the current, or old, map. Therefore, holding the election on its own unique date, and not coinciding this special election with the primary, eliminates potential confusion for voters.”

Legislative Activity

[The following bills of interest were introduced and acted upon in the General Assembly since the last Bulletin.](#)

HB 287 RE: Clubs Six Packs Sales (by Rep. Tim O’Neal, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations and liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, establishing that clubs may sell malt or brewed beverages not exceeding 192 fluid ounces in any one sale to their members at off-site locations except for between 2 a.m. to 7 a.m. on any day.

PFFSO Position: SUPPORT

No activity

HB 2049 RE: Public Venue Licenses (by Rep. Ryan Mackenzie, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions, amending the definition of "public venue" by adding an amusement park defined in the Amusement Ride Inspection Act to the list of areas and the public venue shall be situated on at least 40 acres of land; and, in public venue license, adding amusement parks to the list of venues that must follow liquor sale requirements and providing that an amusement park may exchange a restaurant liquor license for a public venue liquor license and the definition of "amusement park" as having the same meaning as defined in the Amusement Ride Inspection Act.

PFFSO Position: Neutral

Reported as committed from House Liquor Control Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 12/15/2021

HB 2059 RE: Wine Expanded Permit Register Sales (by Rep. Jason Ortity, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations and liquor, eliminating square footage requirements for off-premises consumption. Provides for sales clerks under 18 years of age to perform a sale if assisted by an employee over 18 years of age. Provides a wine expanded permit holder may use a register that is not located on the licensed portion of the premises but is located within the same building as the licensed premises.

PFFSO Position: Neutral

Reported as committed from House Liquor Control Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 12/15/2021

HB 2175 RE: [Eligibility For Special Occasion Permits In The Liquor Code](#) (by Rep. Abby Major, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code, in preliminary provisions, establishing the nonprofit organizations eligible to sell alcohol during fund-raising events without being specifically referenced in the Liquor Code. Provides eligibility to a city of the third class, a hospital, a church, a synagogue, a **volunteer fire company**, a volunteer ambulance company, a volunteer rescue squad, a **unit of a nationally chartered club which has been issued a club liquor license, a club which has been issued a club liquor license and which, as of December 31, 2002, has been in existence for at least 100 years**, a library, a nationally accredited Pennsylvania nonprofit zoological institution licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture, a nonprofit agricultural association in existence for at least ten years, a **bona fide sportsmen's club in existence for at least ten years, a nationally chartered veterans' organization and any affiliated lodge or subdivision of such organization, a fraternal benefit society and any affiliated lodge or subdivision of such fraternal benefit society**, any nationally recognized community-based voluntary health organization committed to fighting cancer which has been in existence for at least 100 years, a museum operated by a nonprofit corporation, a nonprofit corporation engaged in the performing arts, an arts council, a nonprofit corporation that operates an arts facility or museum, and more as eligible entities.

PFFSO Position: SUPPORT

Introduced and referred to House Liquor Control Committee, 12/16/2021

HB 2133 RE: [Skill Video Gaming Act](#) (by Rep. Jeff Wheeland, et al)

Establishes a program to be implemented and administered by the Department of Revenue to regulate the distribution, sale, transportation, storage and use of **skill video games systems**. Provides for the issuance of licenses for skill video gaming. Further provides for the general authority and duties of the department. **Imposes a tax of 16 percent of all gross profits** generated by skill video game system play to be paid to the commonwealth by the distributor. Provides for the distribution of the revenue received by the department. Further provides for certification requirements; distributors; operators; establishments; players; administration; offenses related to operation of illegal gambling devices and unlicensed skill video games; and offenses related to illegal manufacturing, distribution or operation of skill video games. Requires the department to provide notice to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin of the department's date of commencement of licensing. This provision is effective immediately and the remainder of the act shall take effect in 90 days.

PFFSO Position:

Introduced and referred to House Gaming Oversight Committee, 12/7/2021

HB 2272 RE: [Abolishing State Stores](#) (by Rep. Natalie Mihalek, et al)

Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the state constitution that prohibits the commonwealth from manufacturing or selling liquor. A Joint Resolution proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania Constitutional amendments require approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum.

PFFSO Position: OPPOSED

Introduced and referred to House Liquor Control Committee, 1/21/2022

Discussed during public hearing, House Liquor Control Committee, 1/24/2022

HB 2342 RE: [Direct Shipment of Spirits](#) (by Rep. Valerie Gaydos, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations and liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, providing for shipment of spirits; providing guidelines for applying for and acquiring a shipping license from the Liquor Control Board; and outlining restrictions, duties and taxes related to shipping spirits. Allows a person or manufacturer with a direct spirits shipper license to ship spirits to a resident, who is at least 21, for the residents' personal use and not for resale.

PFFSO Position:

Introduced and referred to House Liquor Control Committee, 2/11/2022

SB 504 RE: [Veterans Vehicle Fees Exemption](#) (by Sen. Pat Stefano, et al)

Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in fees, further providing for exemption of persons, entities and vehicles from fees. Provides no fee shall be charged for titling or registration of vehicles registered to an individual who has served in the United States Armed Forces, including a reserve component of the National Guard, and who was discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable.

PFFSO Position:

Read second time, and rereferred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 1/18/2022

SB 533 RE: [State Agency / Regulatory Action During a Disaster Emergency](#) (by Sen. Gene Yaw, et al)

Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), in Commonwealth services, providing that the consideration, adoption, or publication within the Pennsylvania Bulletin of a proposed regulation, a final-form regulation, or a final-omitted regulation subject to the Regulatory Review Act and conducting a department or agency advisory committee meeting are prohibited during a period of disaster emergency as declared by the governor that involves the statewide closure of any government offices or businesses for a period of more than five days unless directly related to respond-

ing to the disaster emergency or adhering to a federal or state statutory timeline or court order. Establishes provisions for waiver.

PFFSO Position: No Position

Removed from the table, 1/24/2022

Read second time, and Rereferred to House Appropriations Committee, 1/25/2022

[SB 566](#) RE: Dead Licenses; RTDs (by Sen. Mike Regan, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code, providing for the definitions of "ready-to-drink cocktail" and "spirits." Authorizes stores across the state to sell ready-to-drink cocktails. Amends, replaces, and adds language to reflect the addition of ready-to-drink cocktails to liquor stores. Details the fees, regulations, sale, and other activities for the sale of ready-to-drink cocktails. Provides related definitions.

PFFSO Position: Opposed

Reported as committed from Senate Appropriations Committee, 12/13/2021

Amended on Senate floor, read third time, and passed Senate, 12/15/2021 ([26-24](#))

[SB 739](#) RE: Definition of Fire Company (by Sen. Pat Stefano, et al)

Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), in commonwealth services, providing for the definition of fire company to include a volunteer non-profit chartered fire company or municipal-owned fire company or department. Provides for an application review committee to review loan applications and specifications for the composition of the committee.

PFFSO Position: SUPPORT

Reported as committed from House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 1/24/2022

Removed from the table, 1/25/2022

Read second time, and rereferred to House Appropriations Committee, 1/26/2022

Reported as amended from House Appropriations Committee, 2/7/2022

Read third time, and passed House, 2/8/2022 (200-0)

Received as amended in Senate and rereferred Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, 2/8/2022

Re-reported on concurrence as committed from Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, and Senate concurred in House amendments, 2/9/2022 (49-0)

Signed in the House and in the Senate, 2/9/2022

Approved by the Governor, 2/10/2022 (Act No. [10](#) of 2022)

[SB 948](#) RE: Discounts; Mixed Drinks to Go; Off-premise Sales (by Sen. Wayne Fontana, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code making numerous changes including increasing the wholesale discount from 10 percent to 15 percent but the discount shall revert to 10 percent discount three years after the expiration or termination of the governor's COVID-19 proclamation of disaster emergency and any renewal of the pro-

clamation of the state of disaster emergency; allowing a person holding and possessing a valid restaurant or hotel liquor license to sell prepared beverages and mixed drinks for off-premises consumption where meals prepared for pick-up or curbside pick-up are also available; allowing an unlimited number of off-premise catering permits; waiving safekeeping fees, and allowing closing restaurants and taverns the ability to sell their liquor inventory to other liquor licensees.

PFFSO Position: Amend to include club licensees!

Introduced and referred to Senate Law and Justice Committee, 11/22/2021

[SB 950](#) RE: Skill Video Gaming Act (by Sen. Gene Yaw, et al)

Establishes a program to be implemented and administered by the Department of Revenue to regulate the distribution, sale, transportation, storage and use of skill video games systems. Provides for the issuance of licenses for skill video gaming. Further provides for the general authority and duties of the department. Imposes a tax of 16 percent of all gross profits generated by skill video game system play to be paid to the commonwealth by the distributor. Provides for the distribution of the revenue received by the department. Further provides for certification requirements; distributors; operators; establishments; players; administration; offenses related to operation of illegal gambling devices and unlicensed skill video games; and offenses related to illegal manufacturing, distribution or operation of skill video games. Requires the department to provide notice to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin of the department's date of commencement of licensing. This provision is effective immediately and the remainder of the act shall take effect in 90 days.

PFFSO Position: PFFSO Supports legal skill games

Introduced and referred to Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Development Committee, 12/1/2021

[SB 983](#) RE: COVID-19 Business Closure Relief (by Sen. Ryan Aument, et al)

An Act Requiring the State Treasurer to offer no-interest loans to businesses with 500 employees or less and were not considered "life-sustaining" and ordered to cease operations under the COVID-19 business closure order issued by the Governor on March 19, 2020. The power to award loans shall expire 180 days after the termination of the COVID-19 disaster emergency. The program shall be funded through a long-term bond and be capped at \$500 million.

PFFSO Position: Clubs Need this relief as well

Introduced and referred to Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Development Committee, 12/29/2021

[SB 986](#) RE: [Small Business Assistance Package](#) (by Sen. Ryan Aument, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code adding language waiving the 2021 license fee for hotel and restaurant liquor licensees which were

closed as the result of the disaster emergency proclamation issued by the governor on March 6, 2020, and any renewal of the state of disaster emergency. Further provides if a hotel or restaurant licensee paid the 2021 license fee, the fee shall be credited toward the 2022 license fee. Effective in 60 days.

PFFSO Position: Clubs Need this relief as well

Introduced and referred to Senate Law & Justice Committee, 12/29/2021

SB 1019 RE: Temporary Regulatory Flexibility Authority (by Sen. Michele Brooks, et al)

Amends the Administrative Code, in temporary regulatory flexibility authority, providing by no later than May 31, 2022, each agency shall issue a permanent suspension report identifying any regulatory statute, rule or regulation that was temporarily suspended pursuant to the declaration that the authority believes should be considered for a permanent suspension.

PFFSO Position: Clubs Need this relief as well

Introduced and referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee, 1/14/2022

Reported as committed from Senate Health and Human Services Committee, read first time, 1/18/2022

Read second time, and Rereferred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 1/19/2022

Reported as committed from Senate Appropriations Committee, read third time, and passed Senate, 1/24/2022 (49-0)

Received in the House and referred to House State Government Committee, 1/25/2022

Reported as committed from House State Government Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 1/26/2022

SB 1031 RE: Refusing Breath or Chemical Testing (by Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill, et al)

Amends Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure and 75 (Vehicles), in licensing of drivers, providing those who refuse testing of breath or chemical testing of blood pursuant to a warrant, court order, or any other basis are liable for total confinement after imbibing alcohol or utilizing drugs; and in sentencing, providing a court may impose a determinate sentence where the violation is graded as a summary offense and the maximum sentence of total confinement is 90 days or less. Provides ignition interlock systems shall be installed on a vehicle upon proof of the financial responsibility and that notice shall be sent to the department which shall notify the person of the violation in turn. The attorney may not submit a charge for Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition unless certain criteria are met. Amendments to Title 75 shall take effect in 11 months and the rest of the act is effective immediately.

PFFSO Position: PFFSO Supports Efforts to Curb Drunk Driving

Introduced and referred to Senate Transportation Committee, 1/24/2022

Cosponsor Memos

The following memos have been circulated in the House and Senate for future legislation.

SCO1368 (Laughlin) - [Small Business Assistance - Cocktails-to-Go](#) Considers permanently allowing Cocktails-To-Go to provide restaurants and bars an opportunity to maintain cash flow and expand offerings. Creates revenue for business that continue to struggle and aid in their recovery from the pandemic.

Filed, 1/28/2022

Upcoming meetings of Interest

Some House Committee meetings and session can be viewed online at: <http://www.pahousegop.com/>

Senate Committee meetings and session can be streamed at: <http://www.pasenategop.com/>

TUESDAY - 3/1/22

**House Appropriations
10:00 a.m., House Floor**

Budget hearing - State Police

House 2022 Session Days

****Subject to Change****

February: 7, 8, 9

March: 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30

April: 11, 12, 13, 25, 26, 27

May: 23, 24, 25

June: 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30

September: 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21

October: 24, 25, 26

November: 14, 15, 16

Senate Spring 2022 Session Days

****Subject to Change****

February: 7, 8, 9

March: 28, 29, 30

April: 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13

May: 23, 24, 25

June: 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30

Public Meetings of the Liquor Control Board

Public meetings commence at 11:00 AM in **Room 117 of PLCB** Headquarters in the Northwest Office Building in Harrisburg, PA.

Meetings are open for in person attendance by members of the public and are also conducted telephonically. The telephone conference call can be accessed by dialing 1-234-720-6995, then entering access code 3906561# to listen to these meetings.

2022 Meeting dates: February 9, February 23, March 9, March 23, April 13, April 27, May 18, June 8, June 22, July 13, July 27, August 10, August 31, September 21, October 5, October 26, November 10, November 30, December 14

Note: Thank you for paying your 2022 membership dues. Dues Bills for clubs and units for 2022 will be have been mailed. **Direct member dues are \$75 annually**, Unit Dues are up to the County Unit. If you know a club that should be a direct or Unit member, please have them contact the PFFSO office, or direct them to the PFFSO website: www.pffso.org. All PA clubs have been mailed a solicitation to join the federation. Your help in bringing them in the fold is appreciated!

Thank you all for your continued support of the Federation. We still have a lot of work to do, and we do it better together!

Would you like to receive this Bulletin in electronic format, to speed up dissemination to other clubs? Send an email to our State Executive Director, Ted Mowatt, at: tmowatt@wannerassoc.com. Thanks.



Since 1873.
#145STRONG-ER

Membership in the PFFSO has its benefits!

Are you a member of the PFFSO, or looking to become a member? We have put together a program to help save your club money, just for being a member of the PFFSO! Your membership could entitle you to a **10% discount** on multiple lines of insurance.

You will work directly with me, Jason Bidish, AAI, along with our experienced staff members who will complete a full review of your insurance needs.

At Barr's Insurance we are not just about saving you money, we are about protecting what matters, your club and your people!



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