



Summer

2024

PROTECTION
THROUGH
LEGISLATION
THROUGH
EDUCATION

Richard Olvitt
President

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Executive Director

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Harrisburg, PA 17102

The Bulletin

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

2024 State Convention: Beaver/ Butler Team Up and Get Results

The 2024 Federation convention was hosted jointly by the Federation’s Beaver and Butler County Units, based at the **Hampton Inn** in Monaca, PA June 7-9. 23 delegates and 8 guests enjoyed a wonderful weekend in Western PA.

On Friday afternoon, the Board of Directors met, prior to the convention business meeting, at the hotel. **President Mike Snyder (Blair)** led the meeting, which included discussions of various matters, including legislation of interest to clubs, and various ways to rebuild membership at the state and local unit levels after the COVID pandemic, to improve attendance at meetings, and to increase public awareness of who we are, and what we do. The Board discussed the possibility of adding a corporate partner member category, which would require a by-laws amendment. It was also noted that no member of a direct member club had run for any of the three open Board seats. Anyone interested in Board service from a direct member club should contact the PFFSO and your name will be considered for appointment. **Once again, Ted Mowatt and Jim Snell were retained as Executive Director and Solicitor, respectively for 2024-25.**

Later on Friday, the Committees convened at the Monaca American Legion to conduct their business, then repaired to the hospitality suite for food and entertainment provided by the host Units.

On Saturday morning, the Federation held its annual business meeting. 23 voting delegates were recorded in attendance. Guests were treated to a tour of the local area.

Delegates heard a presentation from Rep. Josh Kail (R-Beaver). Kail updated the group on the various issues being discussed in Harrisburg of interest to clubs and fire companies, such as Games of Skill, the Clean Indoor Air Act, and others. He discussed the difficult political climate in Harrisburg, and encouraged members to use their influence locally, making legislators aware of issues of importance to clubs.

President Mike Snyder gave a brief rundown of the prior afternoon’s board meeting, then turned to Committee reports.

Committee Reports:

The Rules Committee chair Anne Cryder did not recommend any changes in the Rules Governing the convention.

Lauren Lorah gave the report of the Legislative/Legal Committee, with their positions on a host of bills before the General Assembly. Those positions were ratified by the delegates, and will be conveyed to the Legislature by ED Mowatt.

The Audit and Finance Committee, chaired by Jeff Davis, reviewed the financial statements, and found the budget is in order, and PFFSO is in sound financial condition.

The By-Laws Committee chairman Harry Leshner reported a new suggested change to provide for corporate membership and sponsors. This will be developed and brought to the 2025 convention for consideration.

The Grievance Committee chair Patti Shafer received no grievances this year.

The Expansion/Public Relations Committee chair Rick Olvitt reported on behalf of the committee several suggestions for units and PFFSO to build their membership, including: creating affiliate and partner level dues categories, with corresponding benefits; accepting credit card payments for dues submission, with a link on the PFFSO website; using Zoom meetings to increase attendance at Unit meetings; reaching out to golf clubs and fire companies for membership.

Finally, the Nominating Committee moved that the following slate of officers be elected for the next year.

- President - Rick Olvitt (York)
- First Vice President – Harry Leshner (Berks)
- Second Vice President – Mike Snyder (Blair)
- Secretary/Treasurer – Patti Shafer (Beaver)

The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously. Congratulations to the officers.

President Mike Snyder gave a brief rundown of the prior afternoon’s board meeting.

Executive Director Mowatt thanked the attendees for coming to the convention, and referred the members to his written report, in the convention book. He mentioned the ongoing work on legislation of interest to clubs, and encouraged the members to keep in touch with their local legislators, as Rep. Kail had advised.

PFFSO Solicitor Jim Snell, Esq., expressed his appreciation for the remarks of Rep. Kail. He reported on recent Commonwealth Court rulings, and noted that the Supreme Court is still weighing it’s opinion on Skills games.

Under New Business, Mike Snyder announced that Blair County will host the 2025 convention. Mowatt requested that units consider hosting the 2026 convention, either jointly like this year, or on their own, with help from the state and other units.

Good and Welfare

1. It was noted that Lancaster Bingo hosted the convention lunch, but were not able to have a representative in attendance.

Convention Sponsor Social Club Pro (<https://socialclubpro.com/>) gave a presentation on social media products they offer that could be beneficial to clubs and units.

After lunch members enjoyed a bus tour of local clubs, before returning to the hotel.

On Saturday evening, the attendees and guests boarded a bus and headed to the Monaca Legion for the annual Awards Banquet. Members and guests enjoyed a wonderful buffet and festive beverages, then Mowatt and Snyder presented the Clubperson of the Year Awards, voted by the local units. Those winners were as follows:

Larry Altoff	American Legion Post 321	Adams
Kenny “Uncle Kenny” Barto	Monaca Legion Post 580	Beaver
Mark Hill, Jr.	Rochester Owls	Beaver
Jack Thompson	Rochester Owls	Beaver
Scott Hartman	Monaca Legion Post 580	Beaver
Mark Kilpatrick	Riverside Beneficial	Berks
Timothy Ajay	Allegheny Club	Blair
Les Bauer	Butler Elks Lodge 170	Butler
Betsy Bauer	French and Belgian Club	Butler
Daryl Wood	Fulton Athletic Club	Erie
Dawnle Scheetz	Mercer County Federation of Clubs	Mercer
Larry Scheetz	Mercer County Federation of Clubs	Mercer
John Domer	Eagles #1406	York

Congrats and thanks to all for your support of your clubs, and your Federation.

Also, Solicitor Jim Snell gave the traditional swearing-in ritual for the newly elected officers and directors of the Federation.

Then the attendees returned to the hotel for more fun and fellowship, and door prize drawings. All in all, a very successful convention weekend! Look for more information about the 2025 convention, and other important announcements from PFFSO, in the fall Bulletin, and on the Federation website, www.pffso.org, and Facebook page; <https://www.facebook.com/PFFSOStateOffice>

Several Liquor Bills Advance to Governor’s Desk

The House Liquor Control Committee met on June 25 to consider several bills, which were later acted on by the full House prior to the summer budget break. The following bills were subsequently signed into law by Governor Shapiro.

SB 688 amends the Liquor Code, further providing for definitions of “ready-to-drink cocktail” and “spirits;” in Pennsylvania Liquor Stores, providing sales of ready-to-drink cocktails by Pennsylvania Liquor Stores; and, in licenses and regulations, liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, providing liquor licenses may sell ready-to-drink cocktails. A05122, by Deasy, introduces a permit for restaurants, hotels and distributors to sell ready-to-drink cocktails for off-premise consumption, establishes a \$2,500 application fee and a renewal fee of two percent based on sales and applies the same operational hours to 11 p.m. The amendment was adopted, on a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.

Minority Chairman Mindy Fee (R-Lancaster) stated her intention to vote against the amendment, preferring the original bill’s framework.

Rep. Dawn Keefer (R-York) asked whether the amendment would allow small independent distilleries to sell in larger volumes to local restaurants or resorts, in addition to on-premise sales. Lynn Benka-Davies, Democratic executive director, specified that the amendment would permit off-premise sales through the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB), which were not previously allowed by licensees.

Rep. Robert Leadbeter (R-Columbia) discussed the success of the three-tier system since 1933 and PLCB, expressing concern over the amendment that could alter the dynamic between consumers and retailers. He hoped for future collaboration to address these concerns.

Rep. Valerie Gaydos (R-Allegheny) agreed on the need for improvement in collaboration and stakeholder engagement, emphasizing labor concerns, support for Pennsylvania-based manufacturers and consumer convenience. She acknowledged the current situation as a compromise and looked forward to future work on the bill. She also questioned the logistics of liquor stores delivering beverages to restaurants and how the process would accommodate restaurants’ needs. Benka-Davies explained that there are multiple methods for getting products to licensees, including pickup and delivery, depending on the licensees’ needs.

Chairman Fee expressed support for competition in the liquor industry and criticized the restrictions on distilleries selling ready-to-drink spirits directly off-premise. She hoped for a resolution that supports Pennsylvania's economy and businesses.

Chairman Daniel Deasy (D-Allegheny) emphasized the importance of consumer needs and the goal of moving the state forward, stating his openness to further discussions. **The bill was reported as amended, along a party-line vote, with Republicans voting in the negative.**

The bill then proceeded to the House floor, where it was again amended, and referred to the House Appropriations Committee, where it was amended a third time, sent back to the House and passed with a bipartisan (163-38) vote. **The Senate agreed to the House amendments, and sent it to the Governor for his signature, and was signed on July 17.**

The Senate Law & Justice Committee also met to consider four bills on June 26. Three of the bills are of interest to PFFSO.

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HB 829 - This legislation amends Act 21 of 1951 (Liquor Code) to:

§ **Allows an employee or distributor or importing distributor to also work at other licensees' establishments.**

§ **Allows all manufacturers (limited wineries, distilleries, breweries) to allow employees who have an owner interest in the manufacturer to also be employed by an entity that holds a hotel, restaurant, eating place or club license.**

§ **Special Occasion Permit - Amends the definition of eligibility entity to include a 501(C) 3 nonprofit organization whose purpose is to provide canine assisted activities for children and adults with special needs.**

§ **Backhauling - requires the PLCB to establish a program to provide discounts to whole sale licensees that pick up their own purchase at board-specified locations, including it warehouse. Also allows the board to set parameters including the amount of discount or discounts and minimum purchase requirements.**

§ **Happy Hour - Increases the number of hours a retail licensee can offer Happy Hour discounts from 14 to 24 hours per week. Permits up to 2 food and alcohol beverage combination specials on any day.**

§ **Self-Sponsor Events - Allows a hotel, restaurant or club licensee that self-sponsors an event to include the price of not more than 2 alcoholic beverages in the cost of the ticket as long as the event is scheduled more than 24 hours in advance.**

§ **Outdoor Seating - makes permanent the outdoor seating provisions for licensed club, catering club, restaurant, retail dispenser, hotel, limited distillery, distillery, brewery, or limited winery, permitted during the Covid 19 pandemic which are set to expire on December 31, 2024. Additionally, the bill would reinstate the ability of the PLCB to collect a fee at time of application.**

§ **Wine Marketing and Malt and Brewed Beverage Industry Promotion Boards - moves the approval of grants recommended by both the Malt and Brewed Beverages and Wine Marketing and Promotion Boards to place the boards under the purview of the Department of Agriculture rather than the PA Liquor Control Board.**

§ **Club Safekeeping - allows clubs and catering clubs licenses to remain in safekeeping for up to two years. The bill further allows club and catering club licensees to remain in safekeeping upon written application to the board for subsequent years. The fee schedule for a subsequent year is as follows: o Counties of the first through fourth class: \$5,000 o Counties of the fifth through eighth class: \$1,000 o For additional years, the fee as set forth above is doubled. Additionally, as is the case for other classes of licenses, no fee shall be required if the licensee can prove that he or she is unable to use the license through no fault of his or her own.**

§ **Brewery Extended Hours - breweries would be able to remain open for extended hours on December 31st each year until 2AM on January 1st for the New Year's holiday celebration. Allows the PLCB to create an extended hours permit for breweries: o A brewery could apply for only one permit to remain open for extended hours until 2AM the following calendar day one day during the year o Fee for the permit is \$50 dollars o Local law enforcement must be notified in writing at least 48 hours before the date of the extended hours**

§ **Point of Sale Display/Branding - allows for point-of-sale advertising relating to one brand to have a value up to \$750.**

§ **Advertise Quantity Discounts for Malt and Brewed Beverages - allows distributors and importing distributors to offer and advertise quantity discounts on the purchase of malt or brewed beverages.**

§ **Winery Discounts: a limited winery may offer to non-licensees discounted pricing on products that the limited winery may sell for off premises consumption and may condition the pricing on the purchase of a specific amount of alcohol.**

§ Product Placement - amends Section 493 of the Liquor Code relevant to Unlawful Acts Relative to Liquor, Malt and Brewed Beverages and Licensees by adding a new paragraph, which prevents products that contain alcohol from being sold next to non-alcoholic beverages unless certain signage requirements are met.

§ **Club Extended Hours Permit - permits clubs and catering clubs to obtain an extended food permit, beyond the current 6 days already permitted, to sell food during the hours of 3am to 7am.**

§ Limited Distillery Hours - allows distilleries extended hours on New Years Eve until 2AM and allows distilleries to obtain a permit to extend hours on one additional day until 2AM for a \$50.00 permit fee. Local law enforcement must be notified in writing at least 48 hours before the date of the extended hours.

§ Distilled Spirits Promotion Board - Establishes the PA Distilled Spirits Industry Promotion Board under the Department of Agriculture composed of 5 members appointed by each of the following: o Governor o President Pro tempore of the Senate o Minority Leader of the Senate o Speaker of the House; and o Minority Leader Each member must be a resident of Pennsylvania and have expertise in the distillery industry

§ Allocates \$1 million from the PLCB for the purpose of awarding grants under the legislation.

The bill was unanimously reported as amended, passed by the Senate, and the amendments were concurred in the House. Governor Shapiro signed it into law on July 15.

SB 117 - Amends the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations and liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, providing that the display, sale, storage and purchase of wine and malt brewed beverages in any area of the business which is connected to the licensed premises by an interior connection or connections approved by the board. Provides that unless presented with a valid armed forces of the United States identification card, a wine expanded permit holder shall utilize a transaction scan device to verify the age of an individual who appears to be under thirty-five years of age at the point of sale. Further provides that a salesclerk who is under eighteen years of age may operate a register if the salesclerk is presented with wine or malt or brewed beverages to be purchased by a customer and obtains the assistance of an employee who is at least 18 years of age and the sale otherwise conforms to the requirements under the section.

Sen. Judy Ward (R-Blair), the bill's primary sponsor, provided an overview of her bill and asked for an affirmative vote.

Minority Chairman Jim Brewster (D-Allegheny) voiced opposition and said, "More work needs to be done."

The bill was reported as committed with Sen. Frank Farry (R-Bucks) and all Democrats voting in the negative.

SB 349 - (PN 280) Amends the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations and liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, further providing for non-profit organizations operating in a city of the second class (Pittsburgh) that provides educational programming designed to provide culinary and life skills, together with support services and resources, to criminal-justice-system-involved juve-

niles and young adults to employ minors 15 years old to perform duties in rooms or areas of the licensed premises. Effective in 60 days.

Sen. Camera Bartolotta (R-Washington), the bill's primary sponsor, explained her bill and provided clarification of what her bill does not do.

The bill was unanimously reported as committed.

The latter two bills were not considered by the full Senate, but may be in the fall.

From the PA Bulletin

IRRC: NOTICE OF FILING OF FINAL RULEMAKING

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission announced that it is considering the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's Duties and Rights of Licensees regulation for final rulemaking on **August 15, 2024**, at 10 a.m., at 333 Market Street, 14th Floor, Harrisburg at 10 a.m. To obtain a copy of the regulation, interested parties should first contact the promulgating agency. If a copy obtained from the promulgating agency, IRRC will provide a copy or it can be viewed on IRRC's website. <http://www.irrc.state.pa.us/>

Legislative Activity

The following bills of interest were introduced and acted upon in the General Assembly since the last Bulletin.

Charity, Small Games of Chance Bills

HB 2286 RE: Limited Liability for Donating Food Past Recommended Label Codes (by Rep. Tarik Khan, et al)

Amends the Donated Food Limited Liability Act, further providing for donor immunity. Makes technical adjustments and includes age and labeled date code recommended by the manufacturer to immunity applicable to the good faith donation of food not readily marketable. Effective immediately.

PFFSO Position: Support

Introduced, 5/13/2024

Referred to House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee, 5/14/2024

Reported as committed from House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee, read first time, and recommitted to House Rules Committee, 6/25/2024

Re-reported as committed from House Rules Committee, read second time, and re-committed to House Appropriations Committee, 7/3/2024

Re-reported as committed from House Appropriations Committee, read third time, and passed House, 7/8/2024 (201-0)

Referred to Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee, 7/12/2024

[HB 2444](#) RE: Small Games of Chance Modernization (by Rep. Thomas L. Mehaffie, et al)

Amends the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in games of chance, further providing for prize limits and for sales limited, providing for pull-tab deals, further providing for distributor licenses, for registration of manufacturers, for regulations of department and for licensing of eligible organizations; in club licensees, further providing for distribution of proceeds; and, in enforcement, further providing for revocation of licenses and providing for other penalties and for licensed eligible organizations subject to audit by Auditor General. Provides several definitions and revises the definitions of “games of chance” and “passive selection device.” Increases the maximum individual prize limit which may be awarded for any single chance to \$10,000. Adds a subsection providing for progressive or subset pull-tab games. Increases the aggregate prize limit to no more than \$150,000 from a daily or weekly drawing. Increases the raffle prize limit to up to \$50,000. Removes the language providing for the total limit. Increases prize values in exception for raffles, additional award, daily drawing carryover and weekly drawing carryover exception. Adds language to section 303(b) to include a progressive pull-tab game or subset pull-tab game and changes \$2,000 to \$10,000. Outlines pull-tab deals, providing for sale or transfer, paper pull-tabs and last remaining tickets. Adds language to ineligibility to include an affiliated person or entity and inserts further provisions for ineligibility regarding distributor licenses. Provides whom the department shall not issue or renew a certificate under section 305 for the sale of games of chance to. Makes editorial and technical changes to the language providing for authorization in section 306. Adds paragraphs to section 307(d) stating that each licensed eligible organization shall be prohibited from conducting electronic pull-tab games utilizing more than 10 devices if occupancy limits for the location are greater than 250, seven devices if occupancy limits for the location are more than 100 and up to 250 or five devices if occupancy limits for the location are less than or equal to 100, or from utilizing an electronic pull-tab system that has not been tested by an independent gaming test laboratory approved by the department as meeting the standards adopted by the department. Replaces 60 percent with 40 percent in paragraph (1) of section 502(a) and 40 percent with 60 percent in paragraph (2). Adds operation of an electronic pull-tab device that was not obtained from a licensed distributor to grounds for suspension, revocation or nonrenewal of a license. Asserts that in addition to any other penalty specified under this chapter, a person who conducts, finances, manages, supervises, directs or owns an electronic gambling device intended for use in this commonwealth in violation of this act shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$25,000 for each device, which shall be payable to the county where the device was operated. Allows the Attorney General or district attorney of the county to cause an action in equity to be brought in the name of the commonwealth or county, providing guidelines. Requires the Attorney General to conduct random audits of licensed eligible organizations to ensure compliance with this act and other laws of this commonwealth. Effective in 60 days.

PFFSO Position: Support

Introduced and referred to House Gaming Oversight Committee, 6/24/2024

[HB2456](#) RE: Small Games of Chance Drawings (by Rep. Barry J. Jozwiak, et al)

Amends the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, in preliminary provisions, further providing for the definitions of “daily drawing” and “weekly drawing” to replace \$1 with \$10 and defining “monthly drawing.” Effective in 60 days.

PFFSO Position: Support

Introduced and referred to House Gaming Oversight Committee, 6/26/2024

[SB667](#) RE: [Mobile Payment Services for Small Games of Chance](#) (by Sens. Devlin Robinson & Wayne Fontana)

Amends the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, in games of chance, providing for payment, detailing payment methods, and for online raffle sales providing for operations, payments and applicability; and abrogating the provisions of 61 Pa. Code 901.506 insofar as they are inconsistent with the addition of section 301.2 of the act. Defines "mobile payment service" as a service in which a money payment is made electronically through a money transfer service such as Venmo, PayPal, Cash App or an equivalent money transfer service.

PFFSO Position: Support

Laid on the table (Pursuant to Senate Rule 9), 6/4/2024

[SB 1263](#) RE: [E-Tabs Provisions in the Small Games of Chance Act](#) (by Sen. Devlin J. Robinson, et al)

Amends the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in games of chance, further providing for prize limits, for sales limited, for distributor licenses, for registration of manufacturers and for regulations of department; in club licensees, further providing for club licensee and for distribution of proceeds; in enforcement, further providing for revocation of licenses, for local option and for advertising; in tavern gaming, further providing for licenses, for application, for approval, for prize limits, for distribution of net revenue, for tavern games tax, for invoice, for reports and for enforcement. Amends the definitions of “games of chance,” “passive selection device” and “tavern games.” Adds definitions for “**electronic pull-tab**” and “**electronic pull-tab device.**” Makes editorial changes to assert that there is **no limit on prizes awarded from games of chance by a licensed eligible organization in any seven-day period and the prize limit of any individual raffle ticket shall be 500 times the amount of the purchase price of the ticket, with the maximum prize not exceed \$5,000.** Removes language stating general rule and providing for limitation in sales limited. Adds that a registered manufacturer may obtain a distributor license to license required. Revises ineligibility to add a firm, partnership or entity and a shareholder and person related by blood or through marriage. Replaces five years with 10 years. Adds an eligible organization or tavern and that a registered manufacturer may apply to be a

licensed distributor to registration required. Outlines the requirements a software supplied by a manufacturer of electronic pull-tabs must meet. Provides provisions for ineligibility. Makes editorial changes to authorization relating to regulations of department and adds that the department shall promulgate regulations to require distributors and manufacturers of electronic pull-tabs to have the electronic pull-tab device and software tested under the standards used by a laboratory approved by the department. Provides for if a licensee offers the use of electronic pull-tabs.

Changes 60 percent to 35 percent and 40 percent to 65 percent in distribution of proceeds. Repeals section 704 relating to advertising. Provides for reimbursements up to \$250, for an application fee of \$250, for an investigative fee of no more than \$250 and for costs not to exceed \$250. Provides for a license fee of \$250 upon approval and an annual renewal fee of \$2,000. **Asserts that there shall be no maximum prize relating to individual prize limit and that there shall be no prize limit for prizes relating to aggregate prize limit. Replaces 60 percent with 45 percent and 35 percent with 50 percent in distribution of net revenue.**

Changes 60 percent to 45 percent in tavern games tax imposition. Provides for electronic pull-tabs relating to reports. Adds provisions for electronic pull-tabs in penalties and in criminal penalty. Effective in 60 days.

PFFSO Position: Support

Introduced and referred to Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Development Committee, 6/20/2024

Clean Air Act

HB1657 RE: Clean Indoor Air Act Amendments (by Rep. Dan Fran-el, et al)

Bans smoking – including the use of e-cigarettes – in the state’s bars, clubs and casinos that were allowed to permit smoking due to loopholes included in the Pennsylvania’s Clean Indoor Air Act when it was passed in 2008.

PFFSO Position: OPPOSED

Laid on the Table (Pursuant to House Rule 71), 6/11/2024

First Responders

HB 1463 RE: [Defining Dispatchers as First Responders \(by Rep. Jessica Benham, et al\)](#)

Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in Commonwealth services, further providing for definitions relating to intrastate mutual aid; and, in emergency responder mental wellness and stress management, further providing for definitions. Removes several definitions.

Removes the definitions for "emergency medical services company," "fire company" and "volunteer fire company." Removes language related to certified emergency medical service providers and 911 dispatcher, adding telecommunicator. Removes definitions for "emergency medical services company," "EMS company," "fire company," "volunteer fire company" and "volunteer rescue service." Removes the definition for "airport fire compa-

ny." Makes editorial adjustments. Effective in 60 days.

PFFSO Position: Support

Read third time, and passed House, 4/30/2024 (184-16)

Referred to Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, 5/17/2024

HB 2407 RE: Reauthorizing and Expanding the Fire Company and EMS Grant Programs (by Rep. Jared G. Solomon, et al)

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions relating to emergency management services, further providing for definitions; in Commonwealth services, further providing for definitions and for State Fire Commissioner; in grants to fire companies and emergency medical services companies, further providing for definitions, for publication and notice, for award of grants, for consolidation incentive, for publication and notice and for award of grants, repealing provisions relating to COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program and to Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program, providing for Supplemental Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program, further providing for expiration of authority, repealing provisions relating to expiration of authority relating to COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program and to expiration of authority relating to Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program and further providing for special provisions and for annual reports; and, in emergency medical services system, further providing for definitions

PFFSO Position: Support

Introduced and referred to House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, 6/11/2024

Reported as amended from House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, read first time, and re-committed to House Rules Committee, 6/24/2024

Re-reported as committed from House Rules Committee, amended on House floor, read second time, and re-committed to House Appropriations Committee, 6/26/2024

Re-reported as amended from House Appropriations Committee, read third time, and passed House, 6/27/2024

Referred to Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, 7/12/2024

SB365 RE: [Workers' Compensation for First Responders With PTSD](#) (by Sen. Camera Bartolotta, et al)

Amends the Workers' Compensation Act, in interpretation and definitions, further providing for definitions by inserting definitions for first responder and post-traumatic stress injury. In liability and compensation, further providing for compensation for post-traumatic stress injury by clarifying a post-traumatic stress injury suffered by a first responder shall be determined if there is evidence the injury resulted from normal or abnormal working conditions and was sustained in the individual's employment as a first responder; the injury shall be examined and diagnosed by a

psychologist or psychiatrist; an injury claim must be filed within three years of the date of diagnosis' when an injury is diagnosed after the last date of employment, the act shall not prohibit a claim against an employer at the time of the direct exposure to the traumatic event that cause the injury. Amendments to the act shall apply to claims filed on or after the effective date.

PFFSO Position: Support

Read second time, in Senate, 2/7/2024

Laid on the table, removed from table, 7/2/2024

SB 1099 RE: Fire & EMS Grant Reauthorization (by Sen. Doug Mastriano, et al)

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in grants to fire companies and emergency medical services companies, further providing for publication and notice and for award of grants, repealing provisions relating to COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program and to Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program, further providing for expiration of authority, repealing provisions relating to expiration of authority relating to COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program and to expiration of authority relating to Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program and further providing for annual reports.

PFFSO Position: Support

Re-reported as committed from Senate Appropriations Committee, and amended on Senate floor, 6/11/2024

Read third time, and passed Senate, 6/12/2024

Referred to House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, 6/13/2024

SB 1193 RE: [HazMat Eligibility for Local Tax Credits](#) (by Sen. Doug Mastriano, et al)

Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), in commonwealth services, further providing for assistance to fire companies and emergency medical services (EMS) companies; and, in incentives for municipal volunteers of fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical services agencies. Provides a section for assistance to fire companies and EMS companies, providing a general rule and for loans. Revises definitions of "active volunteer" and "volunteer" and adds a definition for "HAZMAT Team." Further provides for volunteer service credit program, for service record, for certification and for duties of State Fire Commissioner. Adds language throughout the act to provide for volunteer HAZMAT Teams. Revises stipulations for eligible active volunteers of a volunteer HAZMAT team to receive a tax credit under this subchapter once for each governing body. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number(s): 1578) (PN 1578) Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), in incentives for municipal volunteers of fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical services agencies, further providing for the definitions of "active volunteer" and "volunteer" and adding a definition for "HAZMAT Team," further providing for volunteer

service credit program, for service record, for certification and for duties of State Fire Commissioner. Adds language throughout the act to provide for volunteer HAZMAT Teams. Stipulates that an eligible active volunteer may only receive a tax credit under this subchapter once for each governing body. Effective in 60 days.

PFFSO Position: Support

Introduced and referred to Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, 5/3/2024

Reported as amended from Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, and read first time, 6/11/2024

Read second time, and re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 6/12/2024

SB1204 RE: [Mandating Access to Cancer and Cardiovascular Screenings for First Responders](#) (by Sen. Frank Farry, et al)

Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), in miscellaneous provisions relating to emergency management services, **providing for health screenings for firefighters and emergency medical services (EMS) providers. Provides full-time paid firefighter or EMS provider employees of a fire department or political subdivision to have a cancer and cardiovascular health screening exam conducted by a physician no less than once every three years during the course of employment.** Covers all costs associated with a health screening via a health care benefits plan included with employment, an insurance fund, joint insurance fund or other manner. Requires an employer to cover the cost of copayments, deductibles, coinsurances or other employee out-of-pocket expenses for a health screening under the section. Provides definitions. Effective immediately.

PFFSO Position: SUPPORT

Referred to Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, 5/28/2024

Games of Skill/VGTs

NONE

Liquor Code Bills

HB 829 RE: Liquor Code Amendments (by Rep. Matt Gergely, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code, further providing for definition; in Pennsylvania liquor stores, further providing for sales by Pennsylvania liquor sales. Further provides sales by liquor licensees and restrictions, for relating to liquor and alcohol (not including manufacturers), **for extension of license service area and issuance of off-premises catering permits**, for malt and brewed beverages manufacturers', distributors' and importing distributors' licenses, for interlocking business prohibited relating to malt and brewed beverages (including manufacturers) and for Pennsylvania malt and brewed beverages industry promotion board, repealing provisions relating to surrender of club licenses for benefit of licensee, for Pennsylvania wine marketing and research

program board, for unlawful acts relative to malt or brewed beverages and licensees, for hours of operation relative to manufacturers, importing distributors and distributors for unlawful acts relative to liquor, malt and brewed beverages and licensees and for premises to be vacated by patrons; and, distilleries, wineries, bonded warehouses, bailees for hire and transporters for hire, further providing for limited distilleries and distilleries and providing for Pennsylvania distilled spirits industry promotion board. Revises definition for "eligible entity." Effective in 60 days.

House Fiscal Note: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/BI/FN/2023/0/HB0829P3426.pdf>

PFFSO Position: Support

Reported as amended from Senate Law & Justice Committee, and read first time, 6/26/2024

Amended on Senate floor, read second time, and re-referred to - Senate Appropriations Committee, 6/27/2024

Re-reported as committed from Senate Appropriations Committee, 7/1/2024

Read third time, and passed Senate, 7/2/2024

Referred to House Rules Committee, and re-reported on concurrence, as committed from House Rules Committee, 7/2/2024

House concurred in Senate amendments, 7/3/2024

Approved by the Governor, 7/15/2024 Act No. 57 of 2024

HB2068 RE: [Protecting Our Clubs](#) (by Rep. Ryan A. Bizzarro, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations and liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, repealing provisions relating to surrender of club licenses for benefit of licensees and further providing for surrender of restaurant, eating place retail dispenser, hotel, importing distributor and distributor license for benefit of licensee and for premises to be vacated by patrons. Amends Section 474.1's heading, (a) and (g) and 499(B.1) to provide for clubs and catering clubs. **Stipulates that the fees for clubs and catering clubs shall be \$5,000 for licenses placed in safekeeping from counties of the first class, second class, sec-**

ond class A, third class and fourth class and \$1,000 for licenses placed in safekeeping from counties of the fifth through eight classes. Requires the board to issue a club extended hours food permits upon application and issue regulations governing the application's terms. Specifies the permits shall be used solely for the purpose of serving food between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Requires all patrons of a licensee to leave that part of the premises habitually used for the serving of liquor or malt or brewed beverages to guests or patrons, without any previously served liquor or malt or brewed beverages in their possession, no later than half an hour after the time the licensee is required by the act to cease serving liquor or malt or brewed beverages. Specifies that all regulations and parts of regulations are abrogated to the extent of any inconsistency with the act. Effective in 60 days.

PFFSO Position: Support

Reported as amended from House Liquor Control Committee, read first time, and re-committed to House Rules Committee, 6/4/2024

HB 2212 RE: [Placement of Crossover Alcoholic Beverages](#) (by Rep. Danielle Friel Otten, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations and liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, further providing for unlawful acts relative to liquor, malt and brewed beverages and licensees. Defines "nonalcoholic beverages." Requires clear and distinct signage to identify nonalcoholic beverages versus alcoholic beverages when they contain the same or similar brand name, logo or packaging in areas immediately adjacent to one another.

PFFSO Position: Support

Reported as committed from House Liquor Control Committee, read first time, and re-committed to House Rules Committee, 6/4/2024

SB 117 RE: [Consumer Access to Wine and Beer at Grocery Stores](#) (by Sen. Judy Ward, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations and liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, providing that the display, sale, storage and purchase of wine and malt brewed beverages in any area of the business which is connected to the licensed premises by an interior connection or connections approved by the board. Provides that unless presented with a valid armed forces of the United States identification card, a wine expanded permit holder shall utilize a transaction scan device to verify the age of an individual who appears to be under thirty-five years of age at the point of sale. Further provides that a salesclerk who is under eighteen years of age may operate a register if the salesclerk is presented with wine or malt or brewed beverages to be purchased by a customer and obtains the assistance of an employee who is at least 18 years of age and the sale other-

SB 688 RE: [Ready-to-Drink Beverages](#) (by Sen. Mike Regan, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions of “ready-to-drink cocktail;” in Pennsylvania Liquor Stores, providing sales of ready-to-drink cocktails by Pennsylvania Liquor Stores as a special order; in licenses and regulations, liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, providing liquor licenses may sell ready-to-drink cocktails to licensees that do not possess a ready-to-drink cocktail permit if the products are not sold for off-premises consumption; and, in distilleries, wineries, bonded warehouses, bailees for hire and transporters for hire, further providing for limited distilleries and distilleries. Makes technical changes. Provides for Liquor Importers’ Licenses to purchase ready-to-drink cocktails from other states and foreign countries. Provides for a ready-to-drink cocktail permit, provides for restrictions and prohibitions, provides for storage requirements and provides for a fee of \$2,500 for a permit to be paid into the state treasury, then beginning June 1, 2024, and every June 1 thereafter, the money will be deposited into the General Fund. Allows for purchase in any quantity and forbids resale for non-permit holders. Specifies an entity that meets the definition of a “licensed Pennsylvania manufacturer” under Section 415.1(l) must, upon request, offer to sell to the board any ready-to-drink cocktail the licensed Pennsylvania manufacturer sells and shall report certain information quarterly to the board. Effective in 60 days.

PFFSO Position: Opposed

Re-reported as committed from Senate Appropriations Committee, read third time, and passed Senate, 6/5/2024 [\(26-24\)](#)

Referred to House Liquor Control Committee, 6/7/2024

Reported as amended from House Liquor Control Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 6/25/2024

Removed from table, 6/26/2024

Amended on House floor, read second time, re-referred to House Appropriations Committee, and re-reported as committed from House Appropriations Committee, 6/27/2024

Re-referred to House Appropriations Committee, 6/28/2024

Re-reported as amended from House Appropriations Committee, read third time, and passed House, 7/2/2024 [\(163-38\)](#)

Referred to Senate Rules & Executive Nominations Committee, 7/3/2024

Re-reported on concurrence, as committed from Senate Rules & Executive Nominations Committee, and Senate concurred in House amendments, 7/11/2024

Signed in Senate and in the House, 7/11/2024

Approved by the Governor, 7/17/2024 Act No. [86](#) of 2024

SB1180 RE: [Making Outdoor Seating Provisions Permanent](#) (by Sen. Lisa M. Boscola, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations and liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, further providing for an extension of licensed service area and issuance of off-premises catering permits. Allows for a filing fee. Makes permanent the outdoor COVID-19 dining provisions that are set to expire at the end of 2024. Effective in 60 days.

PFFSO Position: Support

Referred to Senate Law & Justice Committee, 05/16/2024

Veterans Issues

HB 2417 RE: [Ensuring the Best Care of Our Veterans through DMVA](#) (by Rep. Lisa A. Borowski, et al)

Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in the Adjutant General, further providing for appointment of Adjutant General, deputies and assistants and for general powers and duties of Adjutant General; in State Veterans' Commission and Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, further providing for State Veterans' Commission, for Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, for qualifications and status, for specific duties and for accreditation; in veterans' organizations, further providing for grants to veterans' service officer programs; and making editorial changes. Changes the title of Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs to Deputy Secretary for Veterans Affairs. Removes the requirement that an individual be a commissioned military officer to serve in the role of Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs, providing that the Deputy Secretary for Veterans Affairs shall be selected and appointed by the Adjutant General and outlining what an individual must possess to be eligible for appointment. Removes language providing for status. The amendment of the following shall be effective upon the first vacancy of the office of Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs following the effective date of paragraph (2): Chapter 17 heading, Section 1702(b)(1) and (2) introductory paragraph, (c) and (e), Subchapter B heading of Chapter 17, Section 1731(c)(5) (i) and (d) introductory paragraph. The remainder of this act shall be effective immediately.

PFFSO Position: Support

Introduced and referred to House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, 6/13/2024

SB 126 RE: [Disabled Veterans' Benefit Payment Exclusion](#) (by Sen. Doug Mastriano, et al)

Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) providing for the exclusion of veterans' benefit payments from income for commonwealth programs. Establishes Chapter 99 regarding Veterans' Benefit Payment Exclusion. One hundred percent of a veterans' benefit payment may not be included as income for any commonwealth program. Revises definition for "commonwealth program," adding the term does not include a federally funded program that requires a state to meet federal criteria. Provides under the section for income exclusion, stating notwithstanding any other provision of law, unspent veterans' benefit payments may not be considered a resource in determining eligibility for a commonwealth program under section 432.5 of the Human Service Code. The exclusion shall also apply to an unmarried surviving spouse upon the death of a veteran for any compensation or payment the unmarried surviving spouse is entitled to receive. Effective in 60 days.

PFFSO Position: Support

Reported as committed from House Finance Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 5/21/2024

Removed from table, 6/3/2024

Amended on House floor, read second time, and re-referred to House Appropriations Committee, 6/4/2024

Re-reported as committed from House Appropriations Committee, read third time, and passed House, 6/5/2024

Referred to Senate Rules & Executive Nominations Committee, re-reported on concurrence, as committed from Senate Rules & Executive Nominations Committee, and Senate concurred in House amendments, 6/11/2024

Signed in Senate and in the House, 6/12/2024

Approved by the Governor 6/17/2024 - Act No. [27](#) of 2024

SB 1160 RE: Vietnam War Veterans Day (by Sen. Doug Mastriano, et al)

Amends Title 38 (Holidays and Observances), in veteran recognition, adding a section to provide for Vietnam War Veterans Day. Outlines what the General Assembly finds and declares. Designates March 29 of each year as Vietnam War Veterans Day in this commonwealth. Directs the governor to issue annually a proclamation encouraging all public schools and educational institutions to observe Vietnam War Veterans Day and conduct exercises recognizing the contributions of all those involved in the Vietnam War and remembering the sacrifices they made for their country. Stipulates that the proclamation may not mandate a public school or educational institution to participate in the observance. Effective in 60 days.

PFFSO Position: Support

Reported as committed from Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, and read first time, 6/11/2024

Read second time, and re-referred to Senate Appropriations

Committee, 6/27/2024

Re-reported as committed from Senate Appropriations Committee, 7/1/2024

Read third time, and passed Senate, 7/10/2024 (49-0)

Referred to House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, 7/11/2024

SB1192 RE: [Enhancing Programs for Service Member Veterans and Their Families](#) (by Sen. Chris Gebhard, et al)

would create a non-lapsing fund for Service Member Veterans and their Families Quality of Life programs. The legislation would also allow the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to lease real estate at Fort Indiantown Gap and use the proceeds to fund these programs. This amendment aims to enhance the quality of life for service members, veterans, and their families through the establishment and funding of the Service Member Veterans and their Families Fund (SMVF Fund). Authorization to Lease Real Estate: The amendment authorizes the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to lease real estate at Fort Indiantown Gap to enhance the quality of life for service members, veterans, and their families (SMVF), as well as the support the local community.

Financial Support for SMVF Fund: The leasing of real estate and operation of facilities at Fort Indiantown Gap will generate financial support for the SMVF Fund, which is dedicated to funding quality of life programs for the military community. Quality of Life Programs: The amendment outlines the establishment of quality-of-life programs, including physical fitness, personal growth, social interaction, and recreational activities, all aimed at supporting the readiness and well-being of the service members, veterans, and their families.

Transparency and Accountability: It also includes provisions for annual reporting on the revenues, expenditures, and activities funded by the SMVF Fund, ensuring transparency and accountability in the fund's operations.

PFFSO Position: Support

Referred to Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, 5/13/2024

Reported as committed from Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, and read first time, 6/11/2024

Read second time, and re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 6/12/2024

Re-reported as amended from Senate Appropriations Committee, 6/25/2024

Read third time, and passed Senate, 6/26/2024 (50-0)

Referred to House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, 6/27/2024

Workforce Issues**NONE****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/>

Fall 2024 House Session Schedule (Subject to Change)

September 23, 24, 25, 30

October 1, 2, 21, 22, 23

November 12, 13

Fall 2024 Senate session schedule

September 16, 17, 18, 30

October 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 21, 22, 23

November 13, 14

Public Meetings of the Liquor Control Board

The LCB meets twice monthly. Minutes of past meetings can be viewed at: <https://www.lcb.pa.gov/About-Us/Board/Pages/Public-Meetings.aspx>

Remaining 2024 meeting dates: July 31, August 21, September 11, September 25, October 9, October 30, November 13, December 4, December 18, 2024

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, and meetings are broadcast via Microsoft Teams over [internet](#). The telephone conference call can be accessed by dialing (267-332-8737, code 240 679 670)# to listen to these meetings.

Note: Thank you for paying your 2024 membership dues. Dues Bills for clubs and units for 2024 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.

PA Federation of Fraternal and Social Organizations
908 North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102
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