



Fall

2024

**PROTECTION
THROUGH
LEGISLATION
THROUGH
EDUCATION**

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The Bulletin

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Fraternal and Social Organizations*

Senate Approves Legislation That Would Allow Electronic Payment For Charity Raffles, House Fails to Pass It

Legislation that would have allowed non-profit organizations and social clubs to accept electronic forms of payment for fund-raising raffles came within a whisker of passing the General Assembly, but fell short at the end of the session. Under current law, charities holding fund-raising raffles can only take payment in the form of cash or checks. [Senate Bill 667](#) would have allowed the groups to accept payment "via credit card, debit card, mobile payment service or other electronic payment methods for the purchase of a raffle ticket," according to the fiscal note attached to the bill. The measure was approved by a 47-1 vote and was sitting on the House calendar when the House adjourned for the year.

Bartolotta Bill Supporting First Responders Enacted

This fall the General Assembly passed legislation sponsored by **Sen. Camera Bartolotta (R-Greene)** to allow first responders to access workers' compensation benefits for a post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI). [Senate Bill 365](#) was signed into law by Gov. Josh Shapiro on October 29, and is now Act No. [121](#) of 2024.

Under the new law, firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians and paramedics would be entitled to benefits under the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation law for psychological traumas arising from individual traumatic events or cumulative highly stressful experiences resulting from their employment – even in the absence of physical injuries requiring medical treatment. Current Pennsylvania law requires a first responder to prove there were "objective abnormal working conditions" to establish a PTSI claim. This standard is often difficult to meet.

"First responders commonly experience the most harrowing moments in others' lives as part of their jobs. Because it's typical for them – as opposed to something that would be very out of the ordinary for most other jobs – they are barred from accessing important care. We cannot continue to ask them to help us through extremely upsetting experiences without giving them crucial support," Bartolotta said.

SB 365 creates clearer criteria for establishing a PTSI claim. It requires diagnosis from a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist per the American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition.

"We allocate resources to train, educate and prepare first responders to protect us and respond to crises but often fail to provide sufficient resources to support these individuals' mental health. My bill would set reasonable standards to establish a workers' compensation PTSI claim so our first responders receive the treatment they need and deserve," Bartolotta said.

Trump Defeats Harris in PA and Nationwide; Republicans Win State Row Offices; State House and Senate Retain 2024 Majorities

Former President Trump won Pennsylvania with his results in the Commonwealth leading directly to his return to the White House in 2025. Trump's win also [influenced](#) other campaigns within Pennsylvania.

While not officially declared, it appears that **Dave McCormick (R)** has [defeated](#) longtime incumbent **Bob Casey** for the US Senate seat. Republican candidates also [won all three statewide row offices](#) – **Dave Sunday** for the open Attorney General position, incumbents **Stacy Garrity** for Treasurer and **Tim DeFoor** for Auditor General respectively. Republican challengers also bested two incumbent Democrat US House members in the 7th ([Mackenzie](#)) and 8th ([Bresnahan](#)) Congressional districts. Incumbent Republican Scott Perry also [likely prevailed](#) in his re-election.

Despite many close races in the PA General Assembly, Senate Republicans will return next session with the same 6 seat Republican majority in the Pennsylvania Senate (28-22), while the House Democrats managed to stem the “Red Wave”, and maintain their one seat Democrat majority, after neither party was able to flip any state House seats this cycle.

Two seats did flip in the Senate. In the 5th Senate District, incumbent Democrat and freshman [James Dilion](#) (Philadelphia) was defeated by Republican [Joe Picozzi](#). This was countered by Democrat [Patty Kim](#) winning in the 15th SD replacing Republican John DiSanto in Dauphin County.

House and Senate Wrap up 2023-24 Legislative Session, Elect 2025 Leaders

The PA General Assembly returned to session briefly after the November 5 elections, to wind up its legislative business, and set up the respective caucus leadership teams for the new session, which begins on January 5. As has become customary in recent sessions, only a small handful of bills were voted on after the election break, none of interest to PFFSO.

With the results of the elections returning the House and Senate to the same split majorities as the current one, there

were some shakeups in the leadership rosters, particularly in the House Republican caucus, as **Republican Leader Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster)** announced he would not run for another term in leadership, and was replaced by **Jesse Topper**. Topper is considered a conservative who is known for “reaching across the aisle” to work with his colleagues on important issues. House Republicans also replaced their Appropriations Chairman, **Seth Grove**, with **Indiana Rep. Jim Struzzi**, while **David Rowe of Union County** unseated **Policy Chair Josh Kail**, while **Whip Tim O’Neal of Washington County** held on to his position. **Tioga County Rep. Clint Owllett** rounded out the new team, succeeding the retiring **George Dunbar on the leadership team**.

Meanwhile, the House Democrats, who defied the national “red wave” trend to maintain their one seat majority, reinstalled most of their existing team, with the exception of the Whip position, formerly held by Dan Miller, who did not seek a re-appointment.

In the Senate, the Republican leadership team remained intact, while Senate D’s elected a new Caucus Chair and Policy Committee Chair.

The House and Senate Committee chairs will be appointed in December, and announced probably in January, along with the committee rosters.

2025 House Leadership

Speaker: Joanna McClinton (D-Philadelphia)

Democratic Leadership:

Leader: Matt Bradford (D-Montgomery)

Whip: Mike Schlossberg (D-Lehigh)

Appropriations Chairman: Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia)

Caucus Chair: Rob Matzie (D-Beaver) – Mike Schlossberg

Caucus Secretary: Tina Davis (D-Bucks)

Caucus Administrator: Leanne Krueger (D-Delaware)

Policy Chair: Ryan Bizzarro (D-Erie)

2025 Republican Leadership:**Leader:** Jesse Topper (R-Bedford)**Whip:** Tim O'Neal (R-Washington)**Appropriations Chairman:** Jim Struzzi (R-Indiana)**Caucus Chair:** Martina White (R-Philadelphia)**Caucus Secretary:** Clint Owlett (R-Tioga)**Caucus Administrator:** Sheryl Delozier (R-Cumberland)**Policy Chair:** David Rowe (R-Union)**2025 Senate Leadership****President Pro Tempore:** Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland)**Senate Republican Leadership:****Leader:** Joe Pittman (R-Indiana)**Whip:** Ryan Aument (R-Lancaster)**Appropriations Chair:** Scott Martin (R-Lancaster)**Caucus Chair:** Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York)**Caucus Secretary:** Camera Bartolotta (R-Washington)**Caucus Administrator:** Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne)**Policy Committee Chair:** Dan Laughlin (R-Erie)**Senate Democratic Leadership:****Leader:** Jay Costa (D-Allegheny)**Whip:** Tina Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia)**Appropriations Chair:** Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia)**Caucus Chair:** Maria Collett (D-Montgomery)**Caucus Secretary:** Steve Santarsiero (D-Bucks)**Caucus Administrator:** Judy Schwank (D-Berks)**Policy Chair:** Nick Miller (D-Lehigh)**From the PA Bulletin****PLCB: RULEMAKING; DUTIES AND RIGHTS OF LICENSEES**

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board amended Pennsylvania Code to add definitions, update citations and provide clarity for the regulated community. It also increases the prize limits for activity on licensed premises to be consistent with the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, effective immediately. Questions regarding this final-form rulemaking should be addressed to Jason Worley, chief

counsel, or Norina Foster, assistant counsel, Office of Chief Counsel, Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, Room 401, Northwest Office Building, Harrisburg, PA 17124-0001. Additional information is available on the Pennsylvania Bulletin. <https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol54/54-39/1377.html>

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

HB2520 RE: Expansion of Live Poker Game (by Rep. Benjamin Waxman , et al)

This legislation will expand the availability and potential of poker beyond solely casinos, allow more businesses to partake in this industry, and allow more Pennsylvanians to conveniently play this game.

Allows bars, taverns, and clubs, and other entities permitted to conduct small games of chance, to conduct live poker on their licensed premises. Entities would be required to be certified by the PGCB and comply with their regulations, which include security and training procedures.

PFFSO Position: SUPPORT, but should NOT amend SGOC law.

Referred to House Gaming Oversight Committee, 7/30/2024

HB2551 RE: Expansion of Live Poker Games (by Rep. Benjamin Waxman, et al)

This legislation will expand the availability and potential of poker beyond solely casinos, allow more businesses to partake in this industry, and allow more Pennsylvanians to conveniently play this game.

Allows bars, taverns, and clubs, and other entities permitted to conduct small games of chance, to conduct live poker on their licensed premises. Entities would be required to be certified by the PGCB and comply with their regulations, which include security and training procedures.

PFFSO Position: SUPPORT, but should NOT amend SGOC law.

Referred to House Gaming Oversight Committee, 9/6/2024

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, 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, CashApp or an equivalent money transfer service.

PFFSO Position: Support

Removed from the table, 9/16/2024

Passed Senate, 9/16/2024 (49-1)

Referred to House Commerce Committee, 9/19/2024

Reported as committed from House Commerce Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 10/1/2024

Removed from table, 10/8/2024

Clean Air Act

NONE

First Responders

HB1541 RE: [Banning PFAS Chemicals In Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment](#) (by Rep. Patrick J. Harkins, et al) Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), in commonwealth services, providing for firefighting personal protective equipment. Prohibits persons from distributing, manufacturing, offering for sale, producing or selling firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE) that contains an intentionally added per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) beginning January 1, 2028, barring certain exceptions. Tasks the Attorney General with enforcing the act and imposes penalties for violations of the act. Provides definitions for firefighting personal protective equipment and PFAS chemical. Effective immediately.

PFFSO Position: Support

Re-committed to House Appropriations Committee, 10/7/2024

HB1571 RE: [PFAS Chemicals in Firefighter Protective Gear](#) (by Rep. Gregory Scott, et al)

Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), in commonwealth services, to provide for firefighting protective equipment. Requires warning labels to be affixed to products containing PFAS chemicals, requires the manufacturer to provide written notice to the purchaser at the time of sale and requires manufacturers and purchasers of the equipment to retain a written notice on file for at least three years from

the date of purchase. Directs the Office of the State Fire Commissioner to enforce the act. Outlines violations for the act. Inserts definitions for the act. Effective immediately.

PFFSO Position: Support

Re-committed to House Appropriations Committee, 10/8/2024

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

Read second time, in Senate, 10/9/2024

SB365 RE: [Workers' Compensation for First Responders With PTSI](#) (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

hall 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

Re-reported as amended from Senate Rules & Executive Nominations Committee, 10/8/2024

Re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, Re-reported as committed, read third time, and passed Senate, 10/9/2024 (49-0)

Referred to House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, 10/9/2024

10/21/2024

Reported as committed from House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, read first time, laid on the table, and removed from table, 10/21/2024

Read second time, and re-referred to House Appropriations Committee, 10/22/2024

Re-reported as committed from House Appropriations Committee, read third time, and passed House, 10/23/2024 (201-1)

Signed in Senate and in the House, 10/23/2024

Approved by the Governor, 10/29/2024 Act No. [121](#) of 2024

Games of Skill/VGTs

NONE

Liquor Code Bills

[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, second 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

Laid on the table, 9/23/2024

[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

Laid on the table, 9/23/2024

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

Laid on the table, 9/30/2024

Workforce Issues

HB2559 RE: [Updating the Workers' Compensation Act and Providing Fairness to Surviving Spouses](#) (by Rep. Lindsay Powell, et al)

Amends the Workers' Compensation Act, in damages by action at law, further providing for recovery; in liability and compensation, further providing for schedule of compensation, repealing provisions relating to computation of benefits and providing for computation of benefits; in procedure, further providing for compromise and release, for collective bargaining agreement and for workers' compensation insurance; in additional coverages, further providing for irrebuttable presumption; in Self-Insurance Guaranty Fund, further providing for definitions and for prefund account; and, in Uninsured Employers Guaranty Fund, further providing for definitions. Repeals section 307 and adds section 307.1. Establishes compensation of wage distributions for instances when there is a widow, no widow and the different amount of children in the household. Provides compensation distribution for siblings and provides exceptions. Defines "child" and "children." Provides cease requirements for a widow or widower of a first responder, defining "first responder." Permits the board, if the best interest of a child or children shall so require, to at any time order and direct the compensation payable to a child or children, or to a widow or widower on account of a child or children, to be paid to the guardian of the child or children, or, if there is no guardian, to other persons as the board may direct, subject to the following: If there is no guardian or committee of a minor, a dependent or an incapacitated employe or dependent on whose account compensation is payable, the amount payable on account of the minor, dependent or incapacitated employe or dependent may be paid to a surviving parent or other persons as the board may order and direct. Allows the board to require a person,

other than a guardian or committee, to whom it has directed compensation for a minor, a dependent or an incapacitated employe or dependent to be paid, to render, as and when it shall so order, accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the person and to file with it a satisfactory bond in a sum sufficient to secure the proper application of the money received by the person. Effective in 60 days.

PFFSO Position:

Referred to House Labor & Industry Committee, 9/17/2024

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/>

The 2023-24 Session Ended Officially on November 30

2025 House Session Schedule

January 7, 27, 28, 29

February 3, 4, 5

March 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26

April 7, 8, 9, 22, 23, 24

May 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14

June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30

September 22 (NV), 23 (NV), 24 (NV), 29, 30

October 1, 6, 7, 8, 27, 28, 29

November 17, 18, 19

December 8 (NV), 9 (NV), 10 (NV), 15, 16, 17

2025 Spring Senate Session

January- 7, 27, 28, 29

February- 3, 4, 5

March- 24, 25, 26, 31

April- 1, 2

May- 5, 6, 7, 12, 13

June- 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

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: Wednesday, December 17, 2025

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 2025 will be mailed shortly. **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
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