



Spring
2026

Protection
Through
Legislation
Through
Education

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President

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The Bulletin

Fraternal and Social Organizations

2026 State Convention to be Held in Mercer County, June 5-7

The 2026 Federation convention is right around the corner, and you will not want to miss it! Hosted by the Federation's Mercer County Unit, the convention will be based at the **QUALITY INN**

Address: **3200 South Hermitage Rd, Hermitage, PA 16148, June 5-7, 2026.**

Register for the convention here: <https://pffso.org/convention>

Call the hotel direct line at **(724) 418-2394** Mention the code **PFFSO**. The hotel will hold the rooms until **6pm May 23**. Breakfast is included with your room reservation.

2026 PFFSO Convention Schedule:

HOTEL/HOSPITALITY ROOM - QUALITY INN

3200 South Hermitage Rd, Hermitage, PA 16148

Friday

Registration and Hospitality Room – starting 12 noon

Director's Meeting - 3 p.m. at the hotel

Committee Meetings/Dinner (pizza/salad) – West Middlesex VFW, Post # 6233
3747 New Castle Rd., West Middlesex, PA 16159

Hospitality Room will be open upon returning from the committee meetings

Saturday

Continental breakfast is free at the hotel in the morning before leaving

Bus departs the hotel – 8 a.m. /Business meeting at Greenville VFW, Post # 3374
54 Conneaut Lake Rd, Greenville, PA 16125. Donuts/Coffee/Open bar upon arrival.
Lunch provided.

Bus departs – noon to 12:30 for the Club Tours/Club Crawl

Greenville Elks – 28 Sixth Avenue, Greenville, PA 16125

Greenville Moose – 32 Shenango Street, Greenville, PA 16125

Maennerchor Club – 391 South Dock Street, Sharon, PA 16146

Return to hotel – 4 to 4:30 p.m.

Bus departs – 5:30 p.m./ Dinner at Sharon Elks Lodge # 103, 260 East Connelly Blvd., Sharon, PA 16146

Cash Bar – 6 p.m./Dinner at 7 p.m./There will be a wonderful speaker!

Bus departs for the hotel at 8:30- 9 p.m.

Hospitality Room will be reopened for some libations, socialization, rip-off tickets, drawings for basket raffles, door prizes, etc.

Sunday

Free continental breakfast at the hotel before departing

ENTERTAINMENT FOR FRIDAY EVENING, AND SATURDAY MORNING UNTIL LUNCH
AT THE GREENVILLE VFW, WILL BE PROVIDED FOR NON-DELEGATES.

House Liquor Control Committee Holds Hearing on Beverage Delivery

The committee held a public hearing on **HB1451**, allowing for third party delivery services (DoorDash, GrubHub, etc.) to obtain a license to deliver beer and wine to consumers.

Chair Dan Deasy (D-Allegheny) opened the discussion by highlighting the focus on HB 1451, which aims to allow the direct delivery of wine, beer and ready-to-drink (RTD) to consumers. He emphasized the need for education on the bill's changes and said he was looking forward to hearing input from stakeholders.

Rep. Marci Mustello (R-Butler), the bill's prime sponsor, emphasized the bill's goal of modernizing Pennsylvania's liquor laws by introducing a "transporter-for-hire class D license" for alcohol delivery businesses, focusing on consumer convenience, safety and regulatory clarity. She argued the bill would close legal gaps and potentially generate revenue by regulating existing delivery activities while maintaining safety standards.

Major Robert Bailey, liquor control bureau director, Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), expressed concerns about HB 1451, particularly the challenges of ensuring compliance with age verification and the potential for increased underage alcohol access through deliveries. He suggested considering the use of minors in compliance checks to strengthen enforcement.

Jason Worley, chief counsel, Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB), discussed the current regulatory framework for alcohol transportation in Pennsylvania. He offered "neutral comments based on our review" for HB 1451, highlighting areas needing clarification, such as payment for alcohol, ID verification, exemptions from vehicle lettering for Class D licensees, the impact of ramp training requirements and the fairness of license fees.

Chair Deasy thanked the speakers for their testimony on HB 1451 and emphasized the importance of the age compliance program.

Rep. Mustello inquired about the number of active cases, citations and still active cases related to underage purchases within liquor stores in the commonwealth over the past two years for comparison purposes. Bailey

said he did not have the data available but offered to provide it later.

Rep. Jose Giral (D-Philadelphia) asked who would be charged with administrative action under the bill for violations. Bailey explained vehicle operators would be trained to verify IDs and would be held liable if they fail to do this properly.

Rep. Steve Malagari (D-Montgomery) asked Worley about the changes allowing third-party carriers to deliver beer to consumers, noting this was a new development since the last hearing. Worley explained that Class C licenses have always permitted third-party alcohol delivery for a fee, but recent technological and business model changes have altered the operation of these services.

Minority Chair Mindy Fee (R-Lancaster) discussed the delivery of beer to consumers. She mentioned that 37 other states have similar practices and expressed optimism that safety challenges could be addressed.

Alex Mooney, legal counsel and policy advisor, regulatory and emerging issues, DoorDash, discussed the company's commitment to safe alcohol delivery. He highlighted policies for drivers, advanced ID verification technology and economic benefits for merchants.

Tom Kerr, general counsel, Adult Beverage Alliance, emphasized the safety and benefits of third-party alcohol delivery, detailing the delivery process and compliance with the three-tier system.

Chairman Deasy asked about the retention of data from ID scanners. Mooney explained that third parties store database check information while his organization keeps records of the recipient and other transaction details.

Rep. Jim Rigby (R-Cambria) suggested the bill should assert that delivery drivers must also be 21, not just the recipients.

Rep. Malagari inquired about the specifics of delivery under the bill, particularly regarding the prohibition on leaving alcohol at a doorstep. Mooney explained DoorDash's requirements for a face-to-face interaction for alcohol delivery, where the recipient's ID is scanned and visually checked. Rep. Malagari asked about protocols for when an alcoholic product fails to be delivered, inquiring about reimbursement and product

handling. Mooney assured that returns are made and reimbursements are given if there is an issue with a product. Rep. Malagari asked about support for including language for age compliance programs in legislation to ensure enforcement by third-party delivery services. He mentioned that their committee unanimously voted to reinstate the age compliance program, which allows minors to act as consumers to test the enforcement of age compliance in purchasing. Mooney stated DoorDash would support the inclusion of language for age compliance programs and already implements it in some states, but does not have a specific position on it, provided it aligns with the committee's view from an enforcement perspective.

Rep. Giral inquired if the Zip platform could restrict deliveries to certain locations, like college campuses. Mooney confirmed DoorDash does and is a practice in a number of states.

Rep. Mustello asked about the logistics of delivering alcohol in states similar to Pennsylvania, focusing on age verification and the management of the delivery process. Mooney explained that the order process is integrated into the store's point of sale system and is the same regardless of the type of alcohol sold. Kerr added that every state has a version of a three-tier system for alcohol sales, and the delivery process from state-controlled stores is fundamentally the same across states, with DoorDash delivering for the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) stores as an example. Rep. Mustello inquired about interactions with liquor stores to ensure compliance with "do not sell" lists. Mooney responded that DoorDash has account representatives who maintain communication with liquor stores to address customer issues.

Chair Fee asked if there were any more stringent measures than those proposed in the current legislation being implemented in other states. Mooney replied that the bill they contributed to is as stringent as any, covering age verification, training and enforcement oversight. Kerr agreed, noting that while every state has unique legislation, the bill aligns with relevant standards.

Chair Deasy inquired about the liability or fines for establishments regarding the delivery system's licensure. Kerr explained the bill includes escalating fines for violations, and PLCB has discretion in enforcement measures.

Michelle Dangelo Arnoni, vice president of sales and marketing, Brentwood Distributing, and secretary, Malt Beverage Distribution Association (MBDA), expressed concerns about HB 1451, stating it creates an uneven playing field by allowing non-resident tech companies and big box chains to deliver alcoholic beverages under less stringent regulations than those imposed on distributors. Arnoni highlighted the need for accountability, fairness and parity in the industry, pointing out the lack of clarity in the bill regarding liability for liquor code violations and the competitive disadvantage faced by distributors due to restrictions on delivering ready-to-drink beverages. She raised concerns about a loophole allowing unlicensed delivery of alcoholic beverages without a delivery fee and the omission of the 192-ounce rule from the bill, suggesting amendments for clarity and regulation.

Chair Deasy asked about the dram shop liability insurance for small businesses and the compliance of third-party operators with similar requirements. Arnoni acknowledged a "gray area" in contracts with DoorDash for alcohol delivery and suggested legal counsel for clarity.

Rep. Mustello asked Arnoni for clarification on the mention of free delivery in the proposed bill. Arnoni referred to section five, lines eight through nine, stating a license might not be required for offering free delivery, though she was unsure if this was included in their written testimony. Rep. Mustello further inquired if purchasing a non-alcoholic item with a six-pack from Amazon would qualify for free delivery. Arnoni confirmed that no license would be required for offering free delivery under the bill's conditions. Lynn Benka-Davies, Democratic senior executive director, read from the bill and said that if there's no charge for the transportation of alcohol, it's under consideration. Arnoni added that this would eliminate the need for a transporter for hire license, bypassing all related regulations.

Rep. Joe McAndrew (D-Allegheny) asked for a repetition of the testimony regarding amending retail licenses to prevent third-party delivery companies from having ownership stakes in the retailers they deliver for. Arnoni deferred the question to the attorney for MBDA and offered to follow up with him.

Rep. Mustello inquired about safeguards for home delivery, focusing on age verification. Arnoni explained

that their delivery technology scans barcodes to verify the recipient's age before completing alcohol delivery. She highlighted issues with DoorDash, noting a 50% failure rate in returning undelivered alcohol. Rep. Mustello asked about age compliance for delivery drivers. Arnoni stated their drivers are Responsible Alcohol Management Program (RAMP) certified and must be at least 21 years old.

Chair Fee asked about the percentage of failed deliveries from DoorDash. Arnoni noted her company's low failure rate and high customer retention rate of about 60%, contrasting with DoorDash's lower retention rate of 25% to 30%. She mentioned a specific instance of a high cancellation rate with DoorDash orders before her trip to Harrisburg.

Mike Howells, vice president of association services, Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association (PFMA), advocated for HB 1451, which would allow third-party deliveries of wine, beer and cocktails on behalf of licensed retailers. He emphasized the bill's alignment with over 30 states and its focus on public safety and liability protection for sellers. Howells argued that the bill supports both businesses and consumers by facilitating efficient operations and maintaining high age verification standards.

Chair Deasy asked Howells about the inclusion of an age compliance program in the bill's safety measures. Howells responded that he would need to discuss the matter with the association's members but remained optimistic about resolving any issues. Chair Deasy highlighted the importance of ongoing discussions among stakeholders to refine the legislative process.

Rep. Mustello inquired about the potential revenue increase from the bill for members. Howells indicated that while exact outcomes are uncertain, any assistance would be beneficial given the slim profit margins of local grocers.

Rep. Malagari raised concerns about enforcing a 192-ounce limit for alcohol deliveries and preventing multiple purchases for the same address. Howells acknowledged the need for discussion on implementing these safety measures. Rep. Malagari questioned whether retailers would support a policy to avoid incentivizing alcohol delivery over food by not implementing a delivery fee. Howells stated he would need to revisit the issue with his members.

Chair Deasy thanked participants for their time and contributions, expressing a desire to continue collaborative efforts on the bill. He then adjourned the meeting.

No Seats Flip In Five Special Elections in House, One to Go

Democrats **Ana Tiburcio (D-Lehigh)** and **Jennifer Mazzoco (D-Allegheny)** each won their respective races in special elections held on February 24. With these results, the House Democrats restore their majority complement in the chamber to 102 seats.

Two St. Patrick's Day special elections to replace departed House members resulted in no big surprises. In the 193rd district, in **Adams County**, Republican **Catherine Wallen (R)** defeated Democrat **Todd Crawley**. In Blair County's 79th district, **Andrea Verobish (R)** received around 57% of the vote, besting Democrat opponent **Caleb McCoy**.

West Manchester Township supervisor **George Margetas** won a fifth special election to represent the 196th State House district in York County on May 19, defeating Democrat Ron Ruman. The race was to fill the remaining months of former State **Rep. Seth Grove's** term after Grove resigned in January, having taken a job in the private sector. Bottom of Form Both Margetas and Ruman will face off again in November's general election, as both ran unopposed in a separate primary election to serve a full two-year term.

One vacancy remains in the House (District 12 in Butler County), which will have a special election on August 18, to fill the seat vacated earlier this year by Republican Rep. **Stephenie Scialabba**, who resigned in March. Republican Scott Timko narrowly defeated **Ethan Nicholas May 19 Republican primary** to fill Scialabba's seat in the full two-year term that begins 2027. **Timko will likely face Democrat Brandon Dukes, who faces no primary challenger, in both the August special election and again in November.**

PFFSO members are encouraged to reach out to these new House members, and let them know what clubs, and the Federation, are all about. Many of these new legislators succeeded friends of the clubs, and we don't want to lose any ground in that regard.

Pennsylvania's Official Summer Adult Cocktail of 2026 Announced

(Press Release- May 4, 2026)

The Pennsylvania Licensed Beverage and Tavern Association (PLBTA) and the Pennsylvania Federation of Fraternal and Social Organizations (PFFSO) along with Holla Spirits, a Pennsylvania-based spirits producer, have named the Carnival Crush as Pennsylvania's Official Summer Adult Cocktail of 2026.

The two associations have been declaring the state's official adult summer beverage for the past several years as part of a fundraiser to benefit rare disease research through **Uplifting Athletes**, a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit.

"This is an opportunity for bars and clubs to not only help a worthy cause but also give their patrons another good reason to visit their establishments," said Chuck Moran, executive director of the PLBTA. "We are asking all Pennsylvania taverns and licensed restaurants to participate to help the cause."

Ted Mowatt, executive director of the PFFSO said, "Our clubs fully support this effort. With summer approaching, this drink will be a great way to make the summer more enjoyable while helping fund research for rare diseases."

Both organizations urge bar and club patrons to ask their bartenders for a Carnival Crush this summer.

Raising Funds For Rare Diseases

As part of the summer promotion, Holla Spirits, based in York County, will make a donation to Uplifting Athletes for every bottle of their Holla Cotton Candy vodka sold to a bar or club this summer to make the official drink, or ordered online at www.hollaspirits.com from consumers.

Patrick Shorb, founder of Holla Spirits, has personal reasons to participate in this fundraiser. He is a rare disease survivor.

"I'm very thankful for the care I received when I was diagnosed," said Shorb. "It's an honor to be able to give back by raising funds for research and patient assistance."

Rob Long, executive director of Uplifting Athletes based in Doylestown, knows how life changing a rare disease can be. The former Syracuse punter saw his life change after being diagnosed with anaplastic astrocytoma, a rare and aggressive form of brain cancer.

Our organization is humbled to know that there are clubs, taverns, and businesses like Holla who want to help," said Long.

Uplifting Athletes

[\(https://www.upliftingathletes.org/\)](https://www.upliftingathletes.org/) is a nonprofit organization founded in 2007 that harnesses the power of sport to build a community that invests in the lives of the more than 30 million Americans impacted by rare diseases today, tomorrow and in the future. Uplifting Athletes has now served more than 2,500 people impacted by rare diseases through the Uplifting Experiences program, funded more than \$1.4 million in research grants, and empowered thousands of student athletes with the tools and resources to be lifelong champions of the rare disease community.

Carnival Crush Recipe

1.5oz Holla Cotton Candy Vodka

.5oz Crush Buddy (or any triple sec would work)

Balance equal parts pink lemonade and lemon lime soda

From the PA Bulletin

NO new regulations at this time

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

HB2432 RE: Small Games of Chance Updates (by Rep. Marci Mustello, et al)

This legislation would:

- Increase individual prize limits;
- Increase raffle prize limits, including special raffles for volunteer fire, ambulance, rescue and conservation organizations;
- Clarify use of premise for auxiliary groups;
- Lessen the for approval of an application by the county treasurer;
- Increase limits for special permits; and
- Modify the distribution of proceeds for club licensees.

PFFSO Position: SUPPORT

Referred to House Gaming Oversight Committee, 4/21/2026

SB398 RE: Pilot Program for Fire Companies with SGOC License to Conduct Two Online Raffles Per Year (by Sen. Michele Brooks, et al)

Amends the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, in games of chance, providing for online raffles by fire companies. Permits online raffles by fire companies. Provides an expiration date of December 31, 2026.

PFFSO Position: SUPPORT

Read third time and passed Senate, 7/16/2025 (49-0)

Referred to House Gaming Oversight Committee, 7/17/2025

SB416 RE: Mobile Payment Services for Small Games of Chance (by Sen. Devlin J. Robinson, et al)

Amends the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, in games of chance, providing for payment; and abrogating a regulation. Directs that a licensed eligible organization may accept payment via credit card, debit card, mobile payment services or other electronic payment method for the purchase of a raffle ticket. Adds that a licensee under Chapter 9 may not accept mobile payment services for the playing of games of chance. Defines "mobile payment service."

PFFSO Position: SUPPORT

Referred to House Gaming Oversight Committee, 7/17/2025

SB995 RE: Increasing the Limit for Local Small Games of Chance (by Sen. Chris Gebhard)

Amends the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, in games of chance, further providing for prize limits. Increases the aggregate prize limit for local small games of chance to no more than \$60,000 in any seven-day period. This bill could be amended to add E-pull tabs language.

PFFSO Position: SUPPORT

**Referred to Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee, 9/12/2025
Reported as committed from Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee, read first time, and re-committed to Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee, 11/19/2025**

Clean Indoor Air Act

SB1016 RE: Protecting Workers from Secondhand Smoke Act (by Sen. Jay Costa)

Amends the Clean Indoor Air Act, further providing for title of act, for definitions, for prohibition, for signage, for enforcement, for preemption of local ordinances and for repeal; and making editorial changes. Provides, amends and removes definitions. Provides additional exceptions for subsection (a). Outlines additional conditions and qualifications for exceptions. Requires that smoking signage must depict "Smoking Permitted," "No Smoking" or the international "No Smoking" symbol with a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette and electronic smoking device in a circle with a bar across it. Provides that signage requirements do not apply to parties exempt under section 3(b)(1). Requires the Department of Health (DOH) to file an annual report with the respective House and Senate Health and Human Services Committees. Prohibits this act from being construed to restrict the power of a political subdivision to adopt and enforce any rule or ordinance that exceeds this act's minimum applicable standards. Asserts that sections 10.1 and 15.1 of the Fire and Panic Act, insofar as they relate to clean indoor air, are repealed. Extends the required length of time a club must be in existence to qualify for the exemption, and removes fire, ambulance and rescue companies from the exempted clubs definition.

PFFSO Position:

Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee, 9/19/2025

First Responders

HB1261 RE: Protecting Firefighters and Communities from Toxic Forever Chemicals in Foam (by Rep. Brian Munroe, et al)

Would prohibit the manufacture, sale, distribution, and use of foam containing PFAS beginning in 2026 except in specific circumstances. Our proposal would allow fire companies to utilize their state grant funding to mitigate the small cost of disposal of PFAS-laden foam and direct the Office of the State Fire Commissioner to work with the Department of Environmental Protection to ensure the safe handling and disposal of the prohibited foam. Violations of the prohibition would result in fines to benefit firefighter training.

PFFSO Position:

Reported as amended from Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, and read first time, 4/21/2026

HB2087 RE: Ensuring that volunteer firefighters and EMTs are covered under workers' compensation when injured during fundraising activities. (by Rep. Robert Freeman, et al)

Amends the Workers' Compensation Act, in additional coverages, further providing for definitions. Includes members of volunteer fire departments or volunteer fire companies who engage in organized fundraising activities as part of the definition of "employee." Includes participating members of volunteer ambulance corps who engage in organized fundraising activities as part of the definition of "members of volunteer ambulance corps."

PFFSO Position:

Passed House, 4/14/2026

Referred to Senate Labor and Industry Committee, 4/23/2026

HB2324 RE: Constitutional Amendment to Give Property Tax Relief to First Responders (by Rep. Jamie Walsh, et al)

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for exemptions and special provisions relating to property tax relief for disabled first responders. Stipulates that the General Assembly, by uniform general law, provide property tax relief for first responders who have a disability as a result of an illness, accident or injury sustained

while performing their official duties as first responders. A Joint Resolution proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania requires approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum.

PFFSO Position:

Referred to House Finance Committee, 3/27/2026

HB2446 RE: Modernizing Fire Companies through a Transformational \$30 Million Grant Program (by Rep. Jim Haddock, et al)

Establishes the Fire Company Transformational Grant Program. Stipulates that the office may expend not more than \$30 million annually from the Property Tax Relief Fund for the purpose of awarding grants. Eligible applicant requirements: grants under the program shall be used to purchase equipment, renovate, modernize or construct facilities, fund retention and recruitment programs, pay staffing costs, pay for expenses related to multicompany projects or regionalization efforts, fund projects improving operations and service delivery involving multiple fire companies or fund any other uses deemed appropriate. Outlines eligibility requirements. Provides that grants under the program shall be no less than \$100,000 and no more than \$1 million unless the applicant is composed of two or more municipal fire companies, combination fire companies or volunteer fire companies that consolidated equipment, firefighters and services within five years, in which case the grant shall not be more than \$2.5 million. The grant period is of five years or less and is issued on a reimbursement basis, outlining exceptions. Establishes annual reporting requirements.

PFFSO Position:

Referred to House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, 4/22/2026

Reported as committed from House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, read first time, and Laid on the table, 4/27/2026

SB980 RE: PFAS Firefighting Foam (by Sen. Gene Yaw, et al)

This bill would continue to allow airports, chemical plants, oil refineries or flammable liquid or natural gas terminals, storage facilities or distribution facilities to maintain firefighting foam with PFAS.

PFFSO Position:

Read second time, and re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 4/22/2026

SB1053 RE: Clarifying Workers Compensation Coverage for EMS Volunteers (by Sen. Scott Hutchinson, et al)

Amends the Workers' Compensation Act, in additional coverages, further providing for the definition of "employee." Provides for the inclusion of an individual engaged in an organized fundraising activity while performing any other duties of a fire company, ambulance corps or a lifesaving squad authorized by a municipality. Adds carrying out a fundraising activity to the operational support of the definitions of "members of volunteer fire departments or volunteer fire companies" and "members of volunteer ambulance corps."

PFFSO Position:

Passed Senate, 3/24/2026 (49-0)

Re-reported as amended from House Labor and Industry Committee, read first time, and Laid on the table, 4/28/2026

SB1261 RE: Fire & EMS Grant Program Enhancements (by Sen. Doug Mastriano, et al)

Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), further providing for assistance to fire companies and EMS companies; and, 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, to Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program**, 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. Increases the maximum amount for loans under section 7364 regarding assistance to fire companies and EMS companies to \$750,000, increases the amount for purchasing firefighting apparatus, ambulances or rescue vehicles to not more than \$375,000 and to \$750,000 for aerial apparatus as defined by regulations or guidelines. Increases the maximum loan amount for any ambulance or light-duty rescue vehicle to \$200,000 and for watercraft

rescue vehicles to \$75,000. Requires protective equipment obtained through loans under the subchapter to meet standards adopted by the commissioner to ensure that the protective equipment does not contain PFAS chemicals and increases the maximum loan amount for communicative equipment, protective or accessory equipment to \$100,000. Increases the loan amount for repairs of apparatus equipment to a maximum of \$150,000 and for the purchase of used equipment, apparatus, ambulances, rescue vehicles or protective equipment to a maximum of \$300,000. Increases the pay-back period of loans to not more than 20 years. Adds that on January 1, 2028, and every year thereafter, loan limits must increase at the rate of inflation. Directs the fire commissioner to utilize the Commonwealth's Electronic Single Application for Assistance to the greatest extent possible. Eliminates the Firefighter 1 incentive and permits the fire commissioner to establish a new bonus in consultation with the Fire Advisory Board and the Department of Health's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. Adds more contact information that fire companies must provide relating to the COVID Grant.

Referred to Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, 4/17/2026

Reported as amended from Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, and read first time, 4/21/2026

Games of Skill/VGTs/Wagering

No new action. The Governor's proposed FY 2026-27 budget includes revenue from expanded gaming and Skills games, so there may be movement in the near future.

Liquor Code Bills

HB467 RE: Notice Exception for End-of-Life Memorial Catering Events (by Rep. Daniel J. Deasy, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code, providing for special sporting event permits for public venue licensees and further providing for retail dispensers' restrictions on purchases and sales, for breweries and for unlawful acts relative to liquor, malt and brewed beverages and licensees. Asserts that if the catered function is part of an end-of-life memorial event, a notice to the local police, the enforcement bureau and the board shall not be required more than 24 hours before the

catered event. Defines “end-of-life memorial event.” **Allows a public venue hosting a special sporting event to apply for a special sporting event permit, subject to the fees and privileges set forth in the section.** Stipulates that the permit issued shall be valid for a period of no more than six days associated with the special sporting event. Elaborates on what is authorized with a permit. Prohibits sales of alcoholic beverages for consumption off the permitted area. Defines “special sporting event.” Outlines the authorization of holders of a brewery license. Explains the procedure for a license auction, bidding limits and the winning bidder. Repeals a license that has been administratively revoked under section 470.4 as a reason for a license to be available for auction. Makes editorial and technical adjustments to provide for the added provisions.

PFFSO Position: SUPPORT

Approved by the Governor, 12/22/2025 Act No. 56 of 2025

HB2421 RE: [Special Events Permits for 250 Events](#) (by Rep. Nate Davidson, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations and liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, further providing for sales by liquor licensees and restrictions, providing for event permits and further providing for unlawful acts relative to malt or brewed beverages and licensees. Establishes event permits, including hotel liquor, restaurant liquor, club liquor, brewery, brew pub, limited winery, limited distillery licensees and retail dispenser and club retail dispensers. **The event permit authorizes the permit holder to sell liquor, malt or brewed beverages beginning at 6 a.m. on the day of the event and ending at 4 a.m. on the following day.** Provides that an event permit does not authorize sales on Sunday unless the permit holder holds a permit authorizing Sunday sales and outlines guidelines and requirements. Establishes **a permit fee of \$4,500 for the first event permit issued in a calendar year and provides for no fees for additional permit applications.** Requires at least 60 days of advanced application and allows the board to approve or disapprove an application, outlining guidelines. Prohibits the issuance of ten or more event permits to a single licensee. Provides for notice waivers and outlines notice requirements. Adds section 418 regarding event permits to the language.

PFFSO Position:

Referred to House Liquor Control Committee, 4/22/2026

HB2471 RE: [Philadelphia 250 Permits](#). (by Rep. Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz, et al)

Amends the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations and liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, further providing for Philadelphia 250 permits. Provides for Pennsylvania 250 permits, allowing approved municipalities to apply. Changes application period to 15 days prior to the date on which the applicant intends to begin operation. Permits a municipality that wishes to allow licensees to apply for Pennsylvania 250 to adopt an ordinance declaring eligibility.

PFFSO Position:

Referred to House Liquor Control Committee, 4/29/2026

SB1248 RE: [Designating Rye Whiskey as the Official State Spirit of The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#). (by Sen. Camera Bartolotta, et al)

An Act designating rye whiskey as the official state spirit of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Provides legislative findings and declarations relating to rye whiskey and its history in the commonwealth. Designates rye whiskey the official state spirit of the commonwealth.

PFFSO Position:

Referred to Senate State Government Committee, 3/30/2026

State/Local Taxes

HB2142 RE: [Repealing the Johnstown Flood Tax](#) (by Rep. Joseph D'Orsie, et al)

An Act repealing the act entitled “An act imposing an emergency state tax on liquor, as herein defined, sold by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board; providing for the collection and payment of such tax; and imposing duties upon the Department of Revenue and the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.”

PFFSO Position: SUPPORT

Referred to House Liquor Control Committee, 1/14/2026

SB1255 RE: [No Tax on Tips](#) (by Sen. Chris Gebhard, et al)

Amends the Tax Reform Code, in personal income tax, further providing for classes of income and providing for exclusion of tips from taxable income. Asserts that tips excluded under section 303.1 will not be included in compensation for the purposes of calculating taxable income. Stipulates that taxable income will not include any tip, gratuity or voluntary payment received by an individual in the course of employment, either received in cash, electronically or by any other method.

Prohibits this section from being construed to permit the reclassification of wages, service charges or employer-mandated fees as tips for the purpose of avoiding taxation.

PFFSO Position:

Referred to Senate Finance Committee, 3/30/2026

Veterans Issues

HB1257 RE: [Expanding the Disabled Veterans' Real Estate Tax Exemption Program](#) (by Rep. Tarah Probst, et al)

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for exemptions and special provisions. Declares that a veteran of the United States Armed Forces, including a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces, who has been rated by the United State Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or its successor as 100% permanent and totally disabled or compensated at the 100% disability rate through a federal program that provides compensation to veterans who are unable to work due to a service-connected disability shall be exempt from payment of real property taxes. Asserts that a political subdivision may, by ordinance or resolution, exempt a veteran with a disability rated or compensated at any level below 100% from payment of any portion of real property taxes. Applies to the unmarried surviving spouse upon the death of an eligible veteran, as well as the unmarried surviving spouses of service members who died in the line of duty, were taken as prisoners of war or declared missing in action. A Joint Resolution proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania requires approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum.

PFFSO Position: SUPPORT

Passed House, 3/24/2026

Referred to Senate State Government Committee, 3/30/2026

HB2439 RE: [Grants To Veterans' Service Officer Programs](#). (by Rep. Brandon J. Markosek)

Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in veterans' organizations, further providing for grants to veterans' service officer programs. Revises language to align veteran service officers' grant programs with the calendar year. Amends report contents. Stipulates the amendment of 51 PA.C.S. section 9304 (F) and (H) applies beginning with grants awarded for calendar year 2028.

PFFSO Position: SUPPORT

Reported as amended from House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, read first time, and laid on the table, 4/27/2026

SB 1209 RE: [Preventing Profiteering from Veterans' Benefits](#) (by Sen. Tracy Pennycuick, et al)

Provides safeguards against exploitation in Veterans Benefits programs. Caps fees, ensures proper contract transparency, and bans predatory practices.

PFFSO Position:

Reported as amended from Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, and read first time, 3/17/2026

Read second time, and re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 3/18/2026

Workforce Issues

HB2312 RE: [Minimum Wage COLA](#). (by Rep. Emily Kinhead, et al)

Amends the Minimum Wage Act, further providing for minimum wages. Asserts that the minimum wage shall be increased by the same percentage calculated for the annual cost-of-living adjustment to the salary of members of the General Assembly under section 4(d) (1) of the Public Official Compensation Law, beginning Dec. 1, 2026, and each December 1 thereafter.

PFFSO Position:

Referred to House Labor and Industry Committee, 3/24/2026

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/>

Remaining 2026 House Session Schedule (Subject to Change)

June 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

September 28, 29, 30

October 5, 6, 7, 19, 20, 21

November 9, 10

Remaining 2026 Senate Session Schedule

May 4, 5, 6

June 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30

September 28, 29, 30

October 5, 6, 7, 19, 20, 21

November 17, 18

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>

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 2026 membership dues. Dues, Bills for clubs, and units for 2026 have been mailed at least twice, and were due May 1. **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.