

**CAWP**  
**Summary of Legislation**  
**April 2010**

**Legislative News**

**Rendell Calls for Special Legislative Session to Address Transportation Funding**

Governor Edward G. Rendell announced this month that he will call a special session of the General Assembly to address transportation funding following the federal government's refusal to allow Pennsylvania to toll Interstate 80. The recent decision by the U.S. Department of Transportation to deny Pennsylvania's application to toll I-80 will significantly reduce transportation funding, the Governor said.

"We have to deal with the fallout of this decision; there is no way that we can just do nothing," Governor Rendell said. "I'm going to call a special session of the legislature to address our transportation challenges. We'll look at every option on the table. This is a dire situation with significant consequences."

Act 44 of 2007 called for the tolling of I-80 and additional revenue from the Pennsylvania Turnpike to provide \$532 million per year for road and bridge repairs and \$414 million per year for public transit agencies across the state. Without I-80 toll revenues, funding for roads and bridges will be cut by about \$300 million per year. This means PennDOT will not be able to repair about 100 bridges and 300 miles of roads each year. Funding for 73 public transit systems that provide more than 400 million rides a year to residents in all 67 counties will drop by \$160 million per year, resulting in service cuts and fewer capital improvement projects. Despite record state and federal investments in highways and bridges in the past seven years, Pennsylvania still has approximately 5,600 structurally deficient bridges - the highest number of any state - and approximately 6,000 miles of roads that are in need of repair.

"The people of Pennsylvania understand there is no free ride. They know what happened in Minneapolis and New Orleans," he added. "People understand that if they want safe bridges, good roads, and potholes eliminated, you cannot wait for the pothole fairy to do it - you've got to pay for it."

The Governor set the date of May 4 for the beginning of the special session. He will address a joint session of the General Assembly on that day.

**Legislative Activity**

**BUDGET BILLS**

[HB 2290](#) RE: R-CAP Spending Limit (by Rep. Dwight Evans, et al)  
(PN 3275) Amends Capital Facilities Debt Enabling Act further providing for appropriation for and limitation on redevelopment assistance capital projects by stating that the maximum amount of redevelopment assistance capital projects undertaken by the commonwealth for which obligations are outstanding shall not exceed, in aggregate, \$4,250,000,000.

**Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Finance Committee, 4/12/2010**

**LOCAL/STATE GOVERNMENT/REGULATIONS**

[HB 1196](#) RE: Code Administrator Appeals (By Rep. Scott Boyd, et al)  
(PN 3518) Amends PA Construction Code Act further providing that a board of appeals shall consider variance requests, requests for extensions of time and appeals of decisions of code administrators. The bill outlines requirements for code administrator appeals.

**Reported as amended from Senate Labor and Industry Committee, and read first time, 4/13/2010**

[HB 2108](#) RE: Whistleblower Law (by Rep. Brian Ellis, et al)  
Amends the Whistleblower Law further providing for the definitions of "employee" and "employer," for enforcement and for penalties. "Employer" is redefined as a public body or any of the following which receives money from a public body to perform work or provide services: (1) an individual; (2) a partnership; (3) an association; (4) a corporation for profit; or (5) a corporation not for profit. Regarding enforcement, the bill states a court shall also award a prevailing

complainant all or a portion of the costs of litigation, including reasonable attorney fees and witness fees. Penalties are increased to \$10,000 and suspension from public service for up to seven years. The bill protects employees who report wrongdoing or waste by a public body or waste by any employer.

**Reported as committed from House Appropriations Committee, amended on House floor, and read second time, 4/21/2010**

**Read third time and passed House, 4/26/2010 (187-0)**

[SB 1295](#) RE: State Apprenticeship and Commission Training Act (by Sen. Mike Folmer, et al)  
Establishes the State Apprenticeship and Training Commission; providing for the transfer of functions of the State Apprenticeship and Training Council; providing the powers and duties of the executive director; establishing the State Apprenticeship Advisory Council.

**Introduced and referred to Senate Labor and Industry Committee, 4/5/2010**

[SB 1312](#) RE: Health Insurance Optional Participation (By Sen. Mike Folmer, et al)  
(PN 1828) Amends Title 40 (Insurance) to provide that, even though eligible, no resident of the commonwealth is required to buy health insurance under any plan, even insurance plans sponsored by the Federal Government. The bill is not applicable to people voluntarily applying for a State-administered program or students who attend an institution of higher education which requires the student to have health insurance. The bill does not impair any individual or family from contracting for the purchase of health insurance

**Introduced and referred to Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, 4/8/2010**

## **PREVAILING WAGE**

NONE

## **UNEMPLOYMENT/WORKERS COMP**

[HB 1502](#) RE: Employee Verification (by Rep. John Galloway, et al)  
(PN 3556) Amends Title 62 (Procurement), in contracts for public works, requiring verification of Social Security numbers of all employees of public works contractors contracting with the Commonwealth for purposes of wage reporting and employment eligibility. The bill prescribes penalties and establishes good faith immunity, stipulating that a contractor or subcontractor that relies in good faith on NVS and EVP procedures to verify employee SSNs shall be immune from sanctions in the event incorrect information is provided.

**Reported as amended from House Appropriations Committee, 4/19/2010**

[HB 1503](#) RE: Construction Industry Employment Verification Act by Rep. John Galloway, et al)  
(PN 3557) Requires construction industry employers to verify the Social Security numbers of all employees for purposes of wage reporting and employment eligibility. The bill provides for powers and duties of the Department of Labor & Industry, prescribes penalties and establishes good faith immunity, stipulating that a contractor or subcontractor that relies in good faith on NVS and EVP procedures to verify employee SSNs shall be immune from sanctions in the event incorrect information is provided.

**Reported as amended from House Appropriations Committee, 4/19/2010**

## **BIDDING**

[HR 761](#) RE: Support for PLAs (by Rep. Marc Gergely, et al)  
Resolution offering the support and recommendation of the House of Representatives for the use of project labor agreements for all publicly funded or guaranteed public works construction, alteration, renovation, demolition, excavating and paving projects in this Commonwealth.

**Introduced and referred to House Labor Relations Committee, 4/22/2010**

## **Other Bills of Interest**

[SB 1147](#) RE: Use of Social Security Numbers (by Sen. Bob Robbins, et al)  
Amends the Social Security Number Privacy Act further providing for use of Social Security numbers alternatives by allowing an individual's drivers license or identification card to be used in place of a Social Security card when a Commonwealth agency or municipality electronically issues or renews a professional license or certification, occupational license or certification or recreational license, application and renewal forms.

**Rereferred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 4/20/2010**

## Upcoming Meetings of Interest

### TUESDAY - 6/8/2010

Senate Republican Policy Committee

9:00 a.m., Room 156 Main Capitol

Joint public hearing with the Senate Finance Committee on the proposal to expand the PA Sales and Use Tax

## Legislative Schedule

### 2010 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

May 3, 4, 5, 24, 25, 26

June 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30

### 2010 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

May: 3, 4, 5, 24, 25, 26

June: 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

*Copies of all bills of interest can be accessed via the Internet at:*

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/BI/billroom.htm>