

CAWP
Summary of Legislation
May 2010

Legislative Activity

BUDGET BILLS

[HB 2435](#) RE: Tax Reform Code (By Rep. Dwight Evans, et al)

(PN 3573) Amends Tax Reform Code repealing certain provisions relating to discounts; providing for the imposition of tax reports and the payment of tax; providing a 30 percent tax on the purchase price charged to the retailer for the purchase of any tobacco product; establishing the Natural Gas Severance Tax Act and imposing a 5 percent tax on the gross value of units severed at the wellhead during a reporting period, plus 4.7 cents per unit severed.

**Reported as committed from House Appropriations Committee, read first time, and Laid on the table, 5/4/2010
Removed from the table, 5/25/2010**

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.

Laid on the table 5/26/2010

[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,
Passed House, 4/26/2010 (187-0)**

Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Rules and Executive Nominations 5/19/2010

ENVIRONMENTAL BUILDING STANDARDS

[HB 687](#) RE: Guaranteed Energy Savings Contracts (by Rep. Frank Dermody, et al)

(PN 760) Amends Title 62 (Procurement), in guaranteed energy savings contracts, amending the definition of "energy conservation measure" to include technology upgrades designed to reduce water and wastewater consumption or operating costs, and inserting water and wastewater-related provisions into language relating to contract procedures and provisions.

Rereferred to Senate Appropriations Committee, 5/26/2010

PREVAILING WAGE

NONE

UNEMPLOYMENT/WORKERS COMP

NONE

BIDDING

[HB 2499](#) RE: Mandate Waivers (by Rep. Ron Miller, et al)

(PN 3771) Amends the Public School Code, in education empowerment, further providing for mandate waiver program and removing the June 30, 2010, expiration. Among the many changes, the bill authorizes a school entity to designate a

school employee to act on its behalf in applying for waivers in place of adopting a resolution for each waiver. The application for a waiver shall allow a school entity comprised of multiple entities to authorize a designee and allow an entity to apply for multiple waivers. No additional waiver shall be granted to a school entity with a past due report until the report has been submitted. The required annual report shall also be submitted to the governor with recommended modifications.

Introduced and referred to House Education Committee, 5/21/2010

Upcoming Meetings of Interest

MONDAY - 6/7/10

House Republican Policy Committee

11:00 a.m., Room 418 Main Capitol

Public hearing on Marcellus Shale with focus on gathering lines & pipelines

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

THURSDAY - 6/17/10

House Labor Relations Committee

9:30 a.m., Room 60, East Wing

Public hearing on: [HB 2400](#) (Gergely) - Amends Unemployment Compensation Law further providing for definitions and for ineligibility for compensation.

Legislative Schedule

2010 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

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

2010 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

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>