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Upcoming GPNNP Educational Events

Hosted by GPNNP & Baker Tilly - Sustainable Cybersecurity Management for Nonprofits: Why It is Critical to Review Your Program Now

September 12, 2018
5 PPG Place, Suite 250
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Hosted By GPNNP and Cohen & Grigsby: To Merge or Not to Merge: That Really is Not the Question?

September 14, 2018
EQT Plaza, Floor 2
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Federal Policy News

- [Federal judge rejects GOP call to suspend Obamacare \(PGH Post Gazette\)](#)
 - [How an undercount of 2020 census could impact Pennsylvania's health-care funding \(Philadelphia Inquirer\)](#)
 - [U.S. Department of Labor Announces Creation of New Wage and Hour Compliance Outreach Office \(National Law Review\)](#)
 - [Trump's EPA says his rollback of pollution rules will cost lives — especially in W.Va. and Pa.\(Tribune Review\)](#)
 - [Low unemployment means a criminal record is less of a hurdle \(PBS News Hour\)](#)
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Election Updates

- [Wolf, Casey hold polling edge in reelection campaigns \(Tribune Review\)](#)
 - [Pennsylvania to factor heavily into Democrats' bid to retake U.S. House \(Tribune Review\)](#)
 - [Analyst: Six weeks out from Election Day, Dems have narrow chance to capture Senate | Friday Coffee \(PennLive\)](#)
 - [Internal poll shows Democrat state Senate nominee Lindsey Williams with 9-point lead over Republican Jeremy Shaffer \(PGH City Paper\)](#)
 - [Record-breaking 100 women candidates may be bound for the House \(NBC News\)](#)
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Local Updates

- [Pittsburgh Housing Authority receives \\$1 million HUD grant for lead paint abatement \(Tribune Review\)](#)
 - [Pittsburgh mayor Bill Peduto says PWSA at financial crossroads \(Tribune Review\)](#)
 - [New fund to address social justice crises in black community \(PGH Post Gazette\)](#)
 - [A Pittsburgh nonprofit is creating over-the-counter naloxone with help from OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma \(The Incline\)](#)
 - [U.S. Steel, United Steelworkers at impasse, strike authorization votes coming \(PGH Business Times\)](#)
 - [In rift over UPMC hospital, a union and mayor expose split views \(PGH Post Gazette\)](#)
 - [PWSA draws opposition to proposed double-digit rate increase \(PGH Post Gazette\)](#)
 - [Greensburg Diocese launches new dialogue following report of sexual abuse, cover-ups \(Tribune Review\)](#)
 - [Pittsburgh Public Schools to offer drug, alcohol counseling \(PGH Post Gazette\)](#)
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Pennsylvania News

Top Pa. lawmaker: Only constitutional change will lead to complete reform of statute of limitations

The highest-ranking member of the Pennsylvania Senate on Wednesday seemingly dashed the hopes of thousands of adults who were abused as children by priests or other predators and who hope for some legal redress in court.

In the wake of a bombshell grand jury report detailing widespread and systemic abuse of more than 1,000 children in six Catholic dioceses, Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati said only a change to the state Constitution could compel a reform to the statute of limitations.

In a written statement, Scarnati signaled that the Legislature would likely take no action to reform the law and allow for a retroactive component that would allow victims who have timed out of the legal system to be able to file civil lawsuits.

Source: [Penn Live](#)

Federal class-action lawsuits target practices of Pennsylvania-based

student loan agency

Ariane Gallagher knew attending law school at the University of Pittsburgh would require taking on a lot of debt.

The native of Chicora, a tiny borough in Butler County, already had borrowed for her undergraduate education from Pitt but believed she could handle more debt and tap the federal government's income-based loan repayment plan to repay the money. The plan allows borrowers who work public service jobs to pay a percentage of their income every year and then forgives any remaining debt after a decade.

Like thousands of others, Gallagher counted on student loan payments being akin to paying rent or car payments.

That is not the case.

Today, she is a plaintiff in one of 10 class-action lawsuits filed against the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency that have been bundled in federal court in Philadelphia. The plaintiffs — borrowers from 10 states — say they represent tens of thousands who have been saddled with additional debt because PHEAA cannot or will not properly process their payments.

Source: [Tribune Review](#)

Here's why an overhaul of Pennsylvania's tax structure is overdue, new report says

Pennsylvania's economic competitiveness is hamstrung by its tax structure and, while there have been positive changes over the past decade, the commonwealth's steps have been outpaced by more significant reform by other states.

A new report by the Tax Foundation, released on Wednesday, assessed the landscape and suggested ways to level the playing field, including slashing the imposing corporate net income tax by a third. The Tax Foundation is an independent tax policy nonprofit.

Source: [Pittsburgh Business Times](#)

With two months of FY2018-19 in the books, PA General Fund revenue in the black by \$26 million, though there's some slight weakness in income tax collections

Pennsylvania's General Fund revenue collections are starting off the new fiscal year in positive fashion, with the state, after two months, \$26 million ahead of estimates, according to the state Department of Revenue. For August, total General Fund collections were \$2.274 billion, which was \$27.1 million, or 1.2 percent, better than expected. Two of Pennsylvania's "big three" revenue sources posted decent collection figures, with Corporation taxes running \$34.7 million, or 70.8 percent, above estimate; and Sales and Use Tax collections \$35.6 million, or 4.1 percent, above estimate; and Personal Income Tax collections. Those positives were offset a bit by Personal Income Tax (PIT) collections coming in \$20.5 million, or 2.1 percent, below expectations. Also off the mark were non-tax revenues, which came in \$33.3 million, or 81.1 percent, short of estimate, with the shortfall due almost entirely to higher than expected escheat claims (escheats are, essentially, unclaimed property of which the state assumes ownership until

the rightful owner files a claim). The state Independent Fiscal Office, in its [Monthly Trends Report for August](#), suggested keeping a close eye on the “slight weakness” of PIT collections, as they are the single largest source of General Fund revenue. As for other taxes in August, inheritance tax revenue was slightly below estimate (\$600,000, or nearly 0.7 percent); realty transfer tax revenue was slightly above estimate (\$900,000, or nearly 1.6 percent); and the state's "sin taxes" were a healthy \$10.3 million, or 6.3 percent, above estimate.

Source: Capitolwire: Under the Dome

Senior protections focus of House hearing

A House panel heard testimony on legislation that would impact staff hiring at nursing homes and the protection of senior citizens' financial savings. The legislation, [House Bill 2549](#), sponsored by Chairman Tim Hennessey, R-Chester, is the subject of a two-day hearing before the Aging and Older Adult Services Committee. This bill would update the three-decade-old state Older Adults Protective Services Act. This legislation is a response to a 2015 ruling (Peake vs. Commonwealth) in state Commonwealth Court declaring it unconstitutional for a conviction for specific crimes listed under the protective services act to result in a lifetime employment ban without further evaluation. Since the ruling, the state Aging Department has told aging service providers that criminal background checks for hires are still required under the law. The department recommends that providers consult with an attorney to look at the court's guide on hiring decisions while waiting for a legislative fix. Hennessey's bill would set new guidelines and procedures in the wake of the court ruling for hiring someone with a criminal history in the long-term care sector.

HB2549 would also require financial institutions to train employees to detect signs of potential financial abuse involving an older adult and how to report an abuse. It details procedures for financial institutions to follow to freeze transactions when financial exploitation may have occurred. The first day of hearings drew testimony from officials of associations representing nursing homes, personal care homes, retirement communities, home health care providers and bankers. They endorsed some provisions and called for amendments to others.

Source: Capitolwire: “Senior protections focus of House hearing” by Robert Swift

Legislation

- [HB 2613: Amends Title 35 re unidentified person/patient](#)
- [HB 2614: Amends Title 62 re cooperative purchasing](#)
- [HB 2617: Amends Phys. Therapy Act re PT examination](#)
- [HB 2618: Amends Medical Practice Act re genetics](#)
- [HB 2619: Amends Osteo. Medical Practice Act re genetics](#)
- [HB 2620: Amends Title 3 re fireworks law](#)
- [HB 2621: Amends Title 18 re firearm sale or transfer](#)
- [HB 2622: Amends PA Construction Code re enforcement](#)
- [HB 2623: Amends PA Election Code re income tax returns](#)
- [HB 2624: Amends Fiscal Code re prohibited expenditures](#)

Prepared by:



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