

# LEG REG REVIEW

## 2024, 24th Issue, December 13, 2024

*LEG REG REVIEW is a periodic newsletter produced by Vince Phillips who retired from active lobbying after 31 years of advocacy in Harrisburg. It contains news on the legislative and regulatory scene in Pennsylvania that may be of interest to the Insurance and Business Communities. Annual subscriptions are \$100 and information may be obtained by contacting PHILLIPS ASSOCIATES at 717/728-1217 or e-mail to [xenobun@aol.com](mailto:xenobun@aol.com).*

### TRANSITION TIME

On December 1, 2024, the 2025-26 General Assembly began its work. Here are a number of updates.

### BILL SPONSORSHIPS – SOME OF WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2025

No bills will receive bill numbers yet. However, legislators can request specific bill numbers to help legislators, constituents, and interest groups to recognize them. An example is legislation prohibiting use of a hand-held electronic device by the driver sponsored by Senator Rosemary Brown (R-Monroe/Wayne/Lackawanna) now **Act 18 of 2024**. The bill number was **Senate Bill 37** which built on previous introductions of **House Bill 37** over several sessions in order to gain momentum.

Between December 1 when sponsorship memos could be offered and December 12, there were 958 sponsorship memos, 53 of which involved Insurance. Of these, 27 were Senate memos and 26 sponsorship memos relating to Insurance came from House members. A sampler:

- Affordable Care Act protection in PA in case Congress or the courts strike ACA down. There are several sponsorship memos on this subject led by Senator Vincent Hughes (D-Phila.). Following is a link to his sponsorship memo seeking to protect the essential health benefits (*emergency, hospitalization, maternity/newborn care, mental health/substance abuse treatment, preventive care/chronic disease management and wellness, etc.*):  
<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=S&SPick=20250&cosponId=43993>.
- Auto Insurance requirement for insurers to notify PennDOT of new insurance coverage just as they do now with cancelled auto insurance memo sent by Senator Greg Rothman (R-Cumberland):  
<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=S&SPick=20250&cosponId=44072>.
- New Bonding Requirement for Contractors to protect damage done to adjacent structures memo sent by Rep. Pat Gallagher (D-Phila.):  
<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20250&cosponId=43937>.
- Mandated Benefit for hearing aids memo sent by Rep. Liz Hanbidge (D-Montgomery):  
<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20250&cosponId=43802>.
- Moratorium on new state mandated benefits memo sent by Rep.-elect Dallas Kephart (R-Clearfield/Clarion):  
<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20250&cosponId=43755>.
- Establishing a state-run Landslide Insurance Protection Program memo sent out by Rep. Emily Kinkead (D-Allegheny):  
<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20250&cosponId=44253>.

## COMMITTEE WORK

As of December 13, the committee chairs have not been announced. News is coming out bit by bit. **Senator David Argall (R-Schuylkill/Carbon/Luzerne)** announced Dec. 9 his reappointment as Chair of the Senate Majority (Republican) Policy Committee. Earlier, **Rep. Brad Roae (R-Erie/Crawford)** announced on Dec. 3 that he was re-appointed Minority Chair of the House State Government Committee. On Dec. 13, Rep. Barb Gleim (R-Cumberland) announced her appointment as House GOP Policy Committee Deputy Chair.

## POLITICS/ELECTION NOTES

**PA Senator Ryan Aument (R-Lancaster)** is leaving the Senate before January 3, 2025. U.S. Senator-elect Dave McCormick named him State Director. Republicans will still have a majority in the Senate. Aument's decision to resign means that the PA Senate Republican Caucus must designate a new Majority Whip. The Lt. Governor will choose the date for a special election to fill the Lancaster County seat.

**Rep. Dan Miller (D-Allegheny)** announced December 4 that he is seeking the Democratic nomination for Allegheny County Common Pleas Court. At the press conference he was joined by supporters Lt. Governor Austin Davis and Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato.

The Cook Political Report listed the ten closest U.S. House races in the United States. Three of the top 10 were Pennsylvania contests. The GOP took all three. (*Thanks to Politics PA 12/13/24 for this item.*)

<u>Ranking on List</u>	<u>Republican Vote/Candidate</u>	<u>Democratic Vote/Candidate</u>	<u>Margin</u>
7 <sup>th</sup> closest	203,688 Ryan Mackenzie	199,626 Incumbent Susan Wild	4,062 votes
8 <sup>th</sup> closest	205,567 Incumbent Scott Perry	200,434 Janelle Stelson	5,133 votes
9 <sup>th</sup> closest	195,683 Rob Bresnahan	189,411 Incumbent Matt Cartwright	6,272 votes

## REGULATORY UPDATES

- Workers Compensation carriers have until February 24, 2025 to request refunds of 2009 WC Security Fund assessments per Act 54 of 2024. Link to PA Compensation Rating Bureau memo: <file:///C:/Users/Vince/Downloads/pcrb-info-bulletin-021-act-54-wc-security-fund-assessment-refunds.pdf>.
- Cambria County Mutual Insurance Company is seeking Insurance Department approval to convert from a Mutual Insurance Company into a stock company AND the subsequent merger with Community Insurance Company, a stock property insurance company.
- Seeking to re-domesticate from Missouri to PA is the Agents Title Insurance Company.
- The Coal Mine Compensation Rating Bureau submitted a filing for a loss cost level change of minus 13.2% for Workers Compensation Insurance. If approved by the Department, it would become effective April 1, 2025.

## INDUSTRY NEWS

- Business Insurance magazine** has a survey of readers on advertising content. Entrants will be entered into a \$200 gift card drawing. Enter at [feedback@signetresearch.net](mailto:feedback@signetresearch.net).
- The PA Association of Mutual Insurance Companies** released its schedule for 2025. Events through June include Annual Spring Conference in Hershey March 17-18, Claims Summit in Lancaster April 15-16, and the Leadership Symposium in Bedford Springs June 17-18. Information: [www.pamic.org](http://www.pamic.org).
- On January 30, 2025, publication City & State PA is convening the **Healthcare Summit in Harrisburg**. Its theme is 'The Future of Healthcare in Pennsylvania.' A major sponsor is the Hospital Healthsystem Association of PA. Details: <https://events.cityandstate.com/2025-pennsylvania-healthcare-summit/>.
- Nat'l Assn. of Benefits & Insurance Professionals (NABIP formerly known as NAHU) is convening its annual Capitol Conference in Washington, DC, February 23-26. Details on this and other NABIP events are found at <https://nabip.org/events/list>.