

# LEG REG REVIEW

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*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).*

We are at the end of the 2023-24 session of Pennsylvania's General Assembly.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEADERS AND THEIR INSURANCE LEGISLATION

Transition to the 2025-26 legislative session has begun. The first major step was selection of leadership for the House and Senate Republican and Democratic Caucuses. Members of the new House and Senate leadership have introduced legislation or Resolutions affecting the Insurance Industry and the consumers it serves.

**WHY GO THROUGH 'DEAD' LEGISLATION?** *On November 30, all legislation not yet enacted dies. On December 1, sponsorship memos can begin circulating for the new session. The reason for looking at the 'dead' legislation is that it provides a preview of what can be expected next year. Unsuccessful legislation is almost always reintroduced in the new session. Besides, since there are new leaders, it is important to gain a heads-up on what bills they will be backing. This LEG REG Review focuses on insurance legislation.*

#### House Democratic Leaders

- **Speaker-designate Joanna McClinton (Phila.)** was not the prime sponsor of any bill related to insurance. In the past, she has gotten behind measures relative to mammograms and health equity. As Speaker, she will have a lot to say about any insurance bill, either to advance it or kill it.
- **Majority Leader Matt Bradford (Montgomery)** was not the prime sponsor of any insurance bills.
- **Dem. Whip Mike Schlossberg (Lehigh)** sponsored HB 660 regulating pet insurance marketing. (NOTE: Signed into law as Act 19 of 2024).
- **Appropriations Committee Chair Jordan Harris (Phila.):** HR 43 would "encourage" health insurers to provide coverage for Medically Tailored Meals by "*following in Highmark Health's footsteps in providing MTMs to beneficiaries.*"
- **Dem. Caucus Chair Robert Matzie (Beaver):** HB 2627 provides privacy protection and disclosure regarding genetic test information.
- **Dem. Caucus Secretary Tina Davis (Bucks):** HB 246 requires municipalities' notification to property owners on changes in Flood Maps coming from the National Flood Insurance Program
- **Dem. Caucus Administrator Leanne Krueger (Delaware):** HB 2198 would cap fees for requests of electronic medical records; HB 1140 expands contraceptics coverage for any FDA-approved drug and provides coverage for sterilization for those enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP.
- **Dem. Policy Committee Chair Bizzarro (Erie)** sponsored HB 2510 to protect essential health benefits if ACA is repealed or struck down by the courts; HB 130 requires liability insurance from casualty insurers for community paramedical providers.

#### House Republican Leaders

- **GOP Minority Leader Jesse Topper (Fulton/Bedford)** traditionally has introduced education bills since he was Minority Chair of that committee. However, as Minority Leader, he certainly can influence what a bill contains and can advance or block proposals in the Republican Caucus.
- **GOP Whip Tim O'Neal (Washington)** has not been the prime sponsor of any insurance legislation in this concluded legislative session. However, his position allows him to influence any legislation, at least in the GOP Caucus.

- **GOP Appropriations Committee Chair Jim Struzzi** (Indiana) was not an insurance bill prime sponsor this session. As Minority Chair, he influences the State Budget, much of which concerns health.
- **Minority Caucus Chair Martina White (Phila.)** was the prime sponsor of HB 2236 requiring that municipalities provide insurance to firefighters and EMS first responders that covers cancer screening.
- **Minority Caucus Secretary Clint Owlett (Bradford/Tioga)** and **Caucus Administrator Sheryl Delozier (Cumberland)** were not prime sponsors of insurance legislation this legislative session.

### Senate Republican Leaders

- **Senate President Pro tempore Joe Pittman (Indiana)** was not a prime sponsor of insurance legislation but he impacts literally every piece of legislation considered by the PA Senate. Keep in mind that he was chief of staff for former Senator Don White, then Majority Chair of the Senate Banking & Insurance Committee. This gave him a wide understanding of Insurance Industry issues.
- **Senate Majority Leader Kim Ward (Westmoreland)** sponsored SB 8 to require health insurance coverage for genetic testing. **NOTE:** This was signed into law as Act 1 of 2023.
- **Majority Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee, Scott Martin (Lancaster)** did not sponsor insurance-specific legislation.
- **Republican Whip Ryan Aument (Lancaster):** SB 967 portable benefits for app-based workers.
- **Republican Caucus Chair Kristin Phillips-Hill (York):** SB 943 Travel Insurance regulation. **NOTE:** Act 28 of 2024.
- **Senate Majority Caucus Secretary Camera Bartolotta** (Greene/Beaver/Washington) sponsored Senate Bill 365 to require Workers Compensation insurance coverage for volunteer and paid firefighters, EMS, and first responders who suffer post-traumatic stress injuries. **NOTE:** Act 121 of 2024.

### Senate Democratic Leaders

- **Senate Minority Leader Jay Costa** (Allegheny) was not the prime sponsor of insurance bills in this legislative session. In past sessions, he was the prime sponsor of legislation to create a state-run Landslide Insurance Program. He is listed as co-sponsor of ACA protection bills.
- **Dem. Caucus Whip Christine Tartaglione (Phila.)** SB 511 mandates health insurer coverage for wheelchair maintenance. SB 879 requires that health insurers certify that they are compliant with Mental Health Parity laws. She sponsored Affordable Care Act protection if the ACA is repealed or struck down by the courts (SB 50; SB 51, SB 52); Relative to Workers Compensation Insurance, SB 171 requires that contractors must supply proof of Workers Comp coverage when registering with the Office of the Attorney General. SB 877 requires health insurers to provide biannual recovery updates to those afflicted with drug and alcohol abuse.
- **Appropriations Committee Minority Chair Vincent Hughes (Phila.)** sponsored ACA protection (SB 51, SB 51, SB 52). if repealed or struck down by the courts. SB 62 mandates Rx pricing disclosure.
- **Dem. Caucus Chair Maria Collett (Montgomery):** Protection of various ACA provisions – no pre-existing condition (SB 50), essential benefits (SB 51), prohibit annual or lifetime cap on health insurance benefits (SB 52). SB 580 would establish the Family & Medical Leave Fund to pay for FML time off of work – funded by up to 1% of pay for all working individuals; SB 372 specifies that monies paid by insured to health insurers or PBMs be counted in the policy’s out of pocket requirement.
- **Dem. Caucus Secretary Steve Santarsiero (Phila.)** sponsored ACA protection (SB 50, SB 51, SB 52) if repealed or struck down by the courts. SB 440 says that dependent insurance continues until age 26 (ACA). SB 294 mandates benefit for food disorders and their causes. SB 442 and SR 44 seek to address rising costs of Flood Insurance.
- **Dem. Policy Chair Nick Miller (Lehigh/Northampton)** sponsored Affordable Care Act protection if the ACA is repealed or struck down by the courts (SB 51, SB 51, SB 52).
- **Dem. Caucus Administrator Judy Schwank (Berks):** SB 283 providing farmers an up to 10% rebate of their Crop Insurance premium or \$5 per acre planted with a cover crop to deter erosion and runoff.