

MCA
Summary of Legislation
August 2012

Governor Issues Executive Order Establishing Permit Decision Guarantee

On July 24, 2012, Gov. Corbett issued Executive Order 2012-11, requiring DEP to implement a **Permit Decision Guarantee**. The goals of the order are to: assess how best to make timely permitting decisions; provide clear expectations for applicants to improve the quality of applications; establish performance measures for review staff; and develop, better electronic permitting tools. For the last 18 months, DEP has been reviewing all existing permitting procedures and now is prepared to make several improvements. Providing regulatory certainty to local governments, non-profit organizations and businesses is critical and must be the rule going forward according to the order. DEP's focus will be on receiving complete and adequate applications and the amount of time it should take to review them.

Executive Order 2012-11 rescinds a 1995 Executive Order establishing the Money Back Guarantee. The draft policy will be published for a 30-day public comment period beginning in early September. In addition, DEP will conduct two webinars to review the draft policy and answer questions. The webinars will be held as follows and you are being invited to encourage leading consulting engineers from your communities and those directly familiar with permitting to participate and provide constructive feedback.

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2012 2-3 p.m. To register, visit:

<https://copa.webex.com/copa/onstage/g.php?d=643853080&t=a>

Monday, Sept. 10, 2012 2-3 p.m. To register, visit:

<https://copa.webex.com/copa/onstage/g.php?d=643834371&t=a>

Vulakovich Resigns From House, Is Sworn Into Office In Senate

On August 29, Allegheny County Republican State Rep. Randy Vulakovich resigned from the House and is now State Senator Randy Vulakovich. Vulakovich had defeated Democrat Sharon Brown in a special election on Tuesday, Aug. 7, to replace former state Sen. Jane Orie, who was convicted of public corruption last spring. Vulakovich will serve the remaining two years of her term, representing communities north of Pittsburgh in Allegheny and Butler counties in the 40th Senate district.

Legislative Activity

The following bills of interest to the construction industry were acted on by the General Assembly in August.

BIDDING / CONTRACTING

[HB 2444](#) RE: School Construction Moratorium (By Rep. Brad Roae, et al)

Amends the Public School Code, in State System of Higher Education, further providing for project contracts by adding that through June 30, 2014, the system may not execute or administer any contract for construction, repair, renovation and maintenance projects, unless (1) the contract was entered into prior to the effective date; or (2) the system submits a written request for an exception to the Department of General Services and the department determines, in writing, that an emergency exists and failure to execute or administer the contract would be detrimental to the health or safety of the students served by the system, the employees of the system or the public.

Public hearing held in House State Government Committee, 8/15/2012

BUDGET RELATED BILLS

None

ENVIRONMENTAL BUILDING STANDARDS

None

LOCAL/STATE GOVERNMENT/REGULATIONS

None

PREVAILING WAGE

None

TRANSPORTATION

[HB 2576](#) RE: Highway Construction Projects (by Rep. Eli Evankovich, et al)

Amends the State Highway Law, in construction, improvement, maintenance and repair of State highways, to provide for the Secretary of Transportation to publish a list of proposed projects and possible fees associated with the projects.

Introduced and referred to House Transportation Committee, 8/20/2012

UNEMPLOYMENT/WORKERS COMP

None

Upcoming meetings of Interest

The House and Senate are in recess until September 24.

2012 SENATE FALL SESSION SCHEDULE

September	24, 25
October	1, 2, 3, 15, 16, 17
November	14 (Leadership Elections)

2012 HOUSE FALL SESSION SCHEDULE

September	24, 25
October	1, 2, 3, 4, 15, 16, 17, 18
November	13, 14, 19, 20

All of the November House session days are understood to be NON-VOTING days, for farewell speeches from departing members, and leadership elections for the 2013-14 session

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

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