

MCA

Summary of Legislation

September 2006

Department of Health Announces Adoption of the 2006 Edition of the Guidelines For Design And Construction Of Hospitals And Health Care Facilities

The Department of Health announced it will adopt the 2006 edition of the "Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals and Health Care Facilities". **As of February 3, 2007**, the Department will apply these new requirements to all plans for new construction or renovations for hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities. The established procedure requires construction plans to be submitted and the issuance of a final construction plan approval by the Division of Safety Inspection prior to the start of any new construction, renovation, modernization or changes in usage. Anyone interested in purchasing a copy of the 2006 edition of the "Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals and Health Care Facilities" may telephone the American Institute of Architects' (AIA) Bookstore (small orders) at 1-866-SHOP-AIA, or online at www.aiabookstore.com. Questions regarding this notice should be directed to Peter P. Petresky, Director, Division of Safety Inspection at (717) 787-1911.

Legislative Activity

HB 2557 RE: Home Improvement Registration and Fraud Prevention Act (by Rep. Bob Flick, et al) Provides for the registration of contractors. The bill outlines the procedures to be registered as a contractor and requires all registered contractors to secure, maintain and file with the Attorney General proof of a certificate of commercial general liability insurance in a minimum amount of \$100,000 per occurrence. Additionally, the legislation outlines requirements of home improvement contracts and provides for the offense of home improvement fraud. This act would supersede any municipal ordinance or regulation that provides for the licensing or registration of contractors or for the protection of homeowners by bonds or warranties required to be provided by contractors, exclusive of those required by water, sewer, utility or land-use ordinances or regulations.

Informational meeting held in House Consumer Affairs Committee, 8/23/2006

SB 1000 RE: Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act (by Sen. Tommy Tomlinson, et al) States that no person would hold himself out as a contractor nor would a person perform any home improvement without first registering with the Bureau of Consumer Protection in the Office of Attorney General. The bill states that the bureau would maintain a toll-free telephone number from which a caller can obtain information as to whether a contractor is registered with the bureau. The bill outlines the procedures for registration as a contractor, and requires that each application for a certificate for a home improvement contractor or renewal of that certificate would be accompanied by a fee of \$50, and would be renewed on a biennial basis. After completion of the application and payment of the fee, the bureau would issue the home improvement contractor a registration certificate identifying the name of the individual contractor, name and address of the business and a registration number. The legislation also outlines the requirements in home improvement contracts. The bill also provides for the offense of home improvement fraud, and provides for penalties. Lastly, registration under this act would preclude any requirement of payment of a fee or registration of any home improvement contractor by any political subdivision. Political subdivisions would be permitted to require building permits and local enforcement of the building code for that political subdivision, for which a reasonable fee may be charged.

Passed Senate, 6/26/2006 (36-14)

Referred to House Consumer Affairs Committee, 6/27/2006

Informational meeting held in House Consumer Affairs Committee, 8/23/2006

SB 1104 RE: One-Call System (by Sen. Tommy Tomlinson, et al)

Amends the Underground Utility Line Protection Law further providing for the title of the act, for definitions, for duties of facility owners and for the duties of the One Call System; providing for liability, fees and governance of the One Call System; further providing for applicability; providing for the duties of project owners and for rights of the Auditor General; further providing for the

governing board of the One Call System, for fines and penalties and for applicability to certain pipeline systems and facilities; providing for a voluntary payment dispute resolution process, for best efforts, for removal or tampering with a marking, for determination of position and type of lines and for impairment of rights and immunities; further providing for expiration; repealing provisions of the Propane and Liquefied Petroleum Gas Act, concerning the prohibition of certain liquefied petroleum gas facilities or distributors from being subject to the Underground Utility Line Protection Law; and making an editorial change.

Passed Senate, 6/26/2006 (50-0)

Referred to House Consumer Affairs Committee, 6/27/2006

Informational meeting held in House Consumer Affairs Committee, 8/24/2006

New Bills Introduced

No bills of interest to the construction industry were introduced in the past month. The legislature is in recess until late September.

Upcoming meetings of interest

None

2006 HOUSE Fall Session Schedule

September 25, 26, 27

October 2 (non-voting), 3, 4, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24

November 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27 (non-voting)

Fall Senate session schedule

September 19, 20, 25, 26, 27

October 3, 4, 16, 17, 18

Post-election Senate schedule has not been announced

Session Ends on November 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>.