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## Oppose PA House Bill 1620

PA House Bill 1620, which is entitled the “Wireless Infrastructure Deployment” bill was recently introduced in the House for consideration. Over the last several years, wireless companies have been installing towers and antennas, known as distributed antenna systems (DAS), in the public rights-of-way. DAS towers range in height from 25 to 125 feet. Municipalities currently have significant zoning authority over the “placement, construction, and modification” of these towers antennas. This zoning authority is crucial to preserving municipal rights-of-way and the character of our communities.

If enacted, HB 1620 would have the following adverse effects:

- The bill would strip Pennsylvania municipalities of all of their zoning authority over wireless antennas and equipment in the public rights-of-way. It would also prevent the public from being allowed to comment during the approval process.
- The bill would strip municipalities of most of their authority over wireless towers in the rights-of-way. While one section of the states that municipalities have zoning rights over towers taller than 50 feet (or more than 10 feet taller than the highest utility poles within 500 feet), other sections of the bill restrict municipal rights over these towers.
- The bill would prohibit municipalities from requiring standard legal protections from companies with wireless facilities in the rights-of-way, including full indemnification, bonding, and insurance coverage.

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## Welcome to Boot Camp!

The PSAB *Newly Elected Municipal Officials Training* is intended for all elected and appointed municipal officials. This two day course is designed to help newly elected officials become a knowledgeable municipal official, providing guidance on such topics as: (1) Structure and Organization of Municipal Government; (2) Duties and Responsibilities as a Municipal Official; (3) Important State Laws and Programs Affecting PA Municipal Governments; (4) Municipal Finances and Services; (5) Intergovernmental Cooperation and Community & Economic Development and (6) Resources Available to You and Your Community.

This PSAB training will be provided in Adams County on Feb 16th and Feb 17th at the Wyndham Hotel in Gettysburg. To register go to PSAB at [www.boroughs.org](http://www.boroughs.org).



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- The bill would severely limit the assessment of fees for wireless facilities in the rights-of way. The bill includes six separate provisions on fees. They are inconsistent, but the bottom line is that municipalities could only charge minimal fees that would typically be less than actual municipal costs.
- The bill would shorten the time frame from 30 days to 10 days for initial review of wireless applications such that municipalities would be unable to perform these reviews in time.

The Pennsylvania state municipal associations have sent a letter to the sponsors of HB 1620 opposing the legislation. Recommend your Borough Council or Township Board pass a resolution opposing HB 1620 stating the adverse effects. Further recommend the resolution be sent to State Representatives Dan Moul and Will Tallman in their effort to oppose HB 1620.

## Legal Update

**REAL ID.** The REAL ID Act passed by Congress in 2005 after the 9/11 attacks as a measure to fight terrorism, has been rolled out in stages, with January 22, 2018 being the target date for the last stage of the act to go into effect. However, Pennsylvania is still in the process of complying with REAL ID federal requirements. The Commonwealth was granted an extension to October 10, 2018 to REAL ID which means that the current PennDOT-issued driver's licenses and identification cards can be used to enter federal facilities and domestic commercial flights. For more information, go to PennDOT website ([penndot.com](http://penndot.com)) and enter REAL ID in the Search Block.

**Breathalyzer Test Refusal.** Senate Bill 533 made changes to the state's DUI laws. It establishes a new fee for refusing to submit to a blood-alcohol test. Drivers who refuse a blood-alcohol test but are convicted and lose their license will have to pay a "restoration fee" for their license of up to \$2,000. The law does require the officer to inform the suspect of the costs when they're pulled over.

**Online Gaming.** House Bill 271 allows online casino gaming and gambling online through the Pennsylvania Lottery. Licensed casinos can pay the state a \$10 million fee to operate poker, table games and slots over the Internet and mobile apps. Pennsylvania Lottery is allowed to offer online games, including taking its existing games online, though it cannot provide casino-style games.

**Fireworks.** House Bill 542 permits Pennsylvania residents to buy and use the same high octane fireworks that only out-of-staters could buy in the past. Pennsylvanians are now allow to purchase Class C fireworks. This may generate municipalities to review their ordinances to deal with Class C fireworks.

**Bingo.** Organizations will now be allowed to advertise the dollar value of cash prizes for games, including online games. In addition, these organizations will be able to increase the maximum prizes from \$250 to \$500 for a single game; from \$2,00 to \$4,000 for jackpot games and \$4,000 to \$8,000 as the total amount awarded in a single day. Other restrictions were also lifted, including the restriction on the number of days on which an organization can host or call a bingo game.



## 2018 Pennsylvania County Priorities

As the new year begins, Pennsylvania's counties have chosen seven legislative priorities for 2018, each of which showcases the important services they provide to commonwealth residents and emphasizes the critical need to maintain the state-county partnership in service delivery.

The counties' priorities include: Human Services Funding and System Reform; Preventing Substance Abuse and Drug Overdose; Maintaining the Shale Gas Impact Fee; Increasing Forensic Bed Access for County Inmates with Mental Illness; Supporting Veterans Services; Funding for Voting Systems and Mandate Reform.



## Sewer and Septic Repair Loan Program Expanded

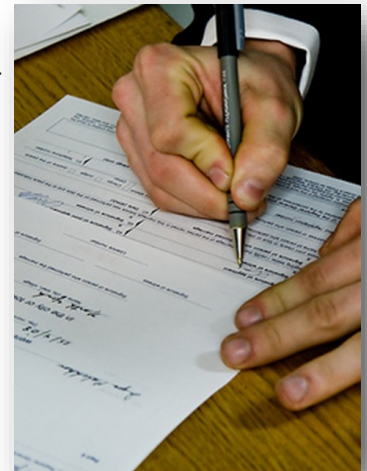
The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) are expanding a program intended to help homeowners with repairs and connections to septic and sewer systems. The goals are to help homeowners deal with the unexpected expenses related to this work and to protect water quality in Pennsylvania. The Homeowner Septic Program previously covered repairs to residential septic systems and first-time connections to a public sewer. It now is being expanded to include loans for repairs to existing sewer line connections to homes.

This latest enhancement is in addition to other improvements made to the loan program in the last two years. For instance, it was previously announced that the loan program now has expanded eligibility requirements, can approve loan amounts up to \$25,000 (including loans for manufactured homes), and has increased the number of local and regional lending participants.

Homeowners who want more information or want to start the PENNVEST application process should contact a participating lender. They can also call PHFA at 855-U-Are-Home (827-3466), and then press "0" to connect to the agency's Customer Solutions Center, or visit [www.phfa.org](http://www.phfa.org).

## COSTARS Salt Participation Agreement Closes March 15

Boroughs have until March 15 to complete COSTAR's 2018-19 Salt Participation Agreement. Under the contract, the state Department of General Services will secure more than one million tons of salt this year for the state Department of Transportation and local governments. While only registered members may participate in the Commonwealth's salt contract, it is simple to sign up for COSTARS, the state's cooperative purchasing program. To learn more, go to the COSTARS website, [www.dgs.pa.gov](http://www.dgs.pa.gov) or call 866-768-7827. To participate in next season's salt contract, you must complete a simple one-page document that can be submitted electronically. Although legally binding, the contract has built-in flexibility. For example, participants are obligated to purchase only 60 percent of their stated needs but may buy up to 140 percent at the contracted price. Liquid fuels funds may be used to purchase the materials. DGS goes to bid in the spring and awards the salt contracts, by county, in July. The contract is posted on the COSTARS website in early August. COSTARS members may realize additional savings, too, by piggybacking on more than 250 other state contracts for such commodities and services as tires, computers, gasoline, aggregates, vehicles, power equipment, office supplies, food, and equipment maintenance. The road salt contract is the only COSTARS agreement that requires an advance commitment. For more information about COSTARS, go to [www.dgs.pa.gov](http://www.dgs.pa.gov) and click on "Cooperative Purchasing/COSTARS" in the "Business Links" column.



## 2018 Bid Limits

The 2018 bid limits for purchases have been released. Effective Jan. 1, 2018:

- Purchases and contracts below \$10,900 require no formal bidding or written/telephonic quotations.
- Purchases and contracts between \$10,900 and \$20,100 require three written/telephonic quotations.
- Purchases and contracts over \$20,100 require formal bidding.



## Active Duty Service

Act 54 of 2017 allows members of the military to count time served on active duty toward their one-year residency requirement for serving in elected borough offices.

A person who is a resident of a municipality for at least one year immediately prior to the person's absence due to active military duty shall be deemed to be an ongoing resident of the municipality unless and until the person demonstrates an intent to establish residence outside of that municipality.

Active military duty shall include active service in any of the armed forces, including the National Guard or Reserve.



## Reminders for Your Schedule

Date	Time	Organization	Place
Jan 25	8:30 am	Adams County Councils of Government	911 Center
Jan 29	6:30 pm	YATB Board of Directors Regular Meeting	York Office
Feb 7	6:30 pm	Adams County Tax Collection Committee	911 Center

*Keep Well!*

## Next ACBA Meeting...



**March 19, 2018**

### ACBA Association Staff

Mayor Ron Harris.....President  
 Councilor David Bolton.....Vice President  
 Sandy Conrad.....Secretary  
 Charlene Westcott.....Treasurer

### Special Interests

PSAB Liaison..... Councilor David Bolton  
 ACBA Legislative Committee..... Councilor David Bolton  
 AC Transportation Planning Org... Councilor David Bolton  
 AC Transportation Planning Org... Mr. David Hazlett  
 AC Transportation Planning Org... Councilor Susan Naugle  
 AC COG..... Mayor Ron Harris  
 AC Land Conservancy..... Mr. Bill Chantelau  
 ACTCC..... Mayor Ron Harris  
 YATB..... Supervisor LuAnn Dille  
 AC Water Resource Advisory..... Mr. Bill Chantelau  
 Penn State Cooperative Ext..... Ms. Judy Chambers