



**Public Policy Committee Report
PAELA Annual Meeting,
February 25th 2022**

Harrisburg Update

Key Issues

- Coming out of the pandemic
- State Legislative Reapportionment will make significant changes to the state House, fewer changes in the Senate.
- Over 20 retirements in the House already, maybe 40 new Members next Session. The Senate expect 3-5 new Members.
- Congressional redistricting in the courts.

Harrisburg Update

Key Fiscal Issues

- Pennsylvania has a \$9.5 Billion in unspent funds, with existing ARPA funds and budget surpluses.
- PA's budget is \$2.8 Billion ahead of revenue estimates, but everyone is worried about the next two budgets.
- \$16 Billion in new Federal infrastructure funds to be spent over the next 5 years:
 - \$11.3 billion for highways,
 - \$1.6 billion for bridge replacement and repairs,
 - \$2.8 Billion for Mass Transit,
 - \$355 Million for airports,
 - \$171 million to expand its EV charging network,
 - \$100 million broadband deployment.

Harrisburg Update

Governor Wolf's Proposed FY 22-23 Budget

- \$43.7 billion in state General Funds, an increase of \$6.2 billion, or 16.6%, over the current year.
- Big increases in education funds proposed.
- Corporate tax reform initiative.
- Even though the Governor is thinking big, not expect big changes.

PAELA 2022 Key Legislative Issues

HB 1693 PN 2712-Requires all nursing homes to provide a standard notice to each nursing home resident and their designated representatives at the time of their admission into a nursing home facility that they have the option of having legal representation to assist with the application for Medicaid benefits.

- Unanimously reported from the House Health Committee on February 7th.
- Amended in Committee to incorporate the changes requested by PAELA, which are in HB 1905 and to require DHS to post a similar notice on their website and that notice shall be multilingual.

PAELA 2022 Key Legislative Issues

HB 1890 PN 2196- Guardian background checks.

HB 1928 PN 2146- Appointment of counsel in adult guardianship cases.

- House Aging and Older Adult Service's Committee held a hearing on both Bills on October 26th 2021.
- PAELA provided comments opposing both Bills.
- Follow-up meeting Judge Lois Murphy, Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, and Pam Walz, CLS Philadelphia, to discuss PAELA's concerns.

PAELA 2022 Key Legislative Issues

Senator Haywood's Proposed Guardianship Bill-

- The PBA, PBA Elder Law Section and Senate Judiciary staff have discussed changes to Pennsylvania's Guardianship law, proposed by Senator Haywood.
- There is no formal Bill incorporating this language, but draft language has been circulated.
- The proposed Bill includes many items that were in SB 844, PN 1147 of 2017-18 Session, but there are significant new items.
- PAELA is still assessing if there will be legislative consideration of this proposed Bill.

PAELA 2022 Key Legislative Issues

HB 491, PN 934- Exclusion of veteran's compensation benefits from the income calculation for any Commonwealth program.

- Close to passing in the Senate and going to the Governor for his signature.

HB 1430, PN 1896- Amends the OPSA establish a new, very broad definition of "financial exploitation" under Title 18, Pennsylvania's Crime Code, and allow any older adult who believes they may have been injured by the "financial exploitation" to bring a private action in a Pennsylvania court against the someone acting in a fiduciary capacity.

- Passed in the House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee in June, no further action taken.

Legislative Issues PAELA is Monitoring

- **HB 1681, PN 1896, in the House Aging and Older Adult Services Committee**
Major re-write of the Older Protective Services Act. In the past, Senator Mensch has offered a companion Bill in the Senate, but that Bill has not been submitted for printing and numbering. PAELA has communicated to the House and Senate Committees their concerns.
- **Pennsylvania Order of Life Sustaining Treatment(POLST)**- In the past two Sessions, Senator Yaw and Rep. Schemmel introduced POLST Bills. They sent a cosponsor memo early in the Session but have not formally filed Bills.

PAELA Public Policy Committee Report for 2022 Annual Meeting

Questions