

Issue: Legislation

## Pennsylvania Legislation Report

(as of March 2020)

In addition to lightning-rod legislation that perennially makes headlines, the Pennsylvania state legislature passes—and kills—hundreds of other bills each session. Most go unnoticed by the public. Many of these under-the-radar laws are good indicators of how well representatives vote their conscience or represent the will of their constituents.

The summary below includes legislation that has become Republican mainstays in recent years. Voting in lockstep on issues, the GOP bloc in the Pennsylvania House and Senate has imposed an agenda at odds with the views of the general population. This analysis of recent legislation reveals a disconnect between GOP politicians' priorities and the issues of greatest concern to their constituents. Republicans are now the “anti” party (anti-environmental regulations, anti-public education, anti-affordable health care, anti-social assistance programs, anti-reproductive rights, anti-immigration, anti-gay rights, anti-gun safety, etc.).

Since Republicans hold both legislative chambers, progressive bills sponsored by Democrats regularly die in committee. Republican-sponsored legislation, conversely, makes its way to the Governor's desk. Fortunately for the general population—the majority of whom voted in a Democratic governor—many of these bills are vetoed before they can wreak havoc.

This report looks at the legislation pushed by members of the two parties, and what happened to it—whether it passed, failed, or was ultimately vetoed. (Note that bills are for 2019 unless stated otherwise.)

Republicans argue that fewer regulations are good for business. In reality, deregulation means that the costs, monetary and otherwise, imposed by business or industrial activity, are outsourced, and must be paid by others. For example, Republicans are known for their zeal in cutting regulations related to the environment, often resulting in dire consequences to communities whose health is directly affected by increased pollution.

It is time for Democratic voters to take back the reins and elect representatives who will implement the changes demanded by the majority of the state's residents.

### **Abortion and Reproductive Rights—*See table below for legislative details***

Pennsylvania has very restrictive laws that make it difficult for women to exercise their constitutionally guaranteed right for a safe and legal abortion.<sup>1</sup> The number of facilities that provide abortions has decreased by 10% since 2014. Women must wait 24 hours after counseling to actually receive the abortion. Abortion is not covered in insurance policies offered to public employees. State insurance plans offered under the ACA do not cover abortion in most cases, unless expanded coverage is purchased.

In spite of the many obstacles already created for women seeking to control their own reproductive health, Republicans want to make it even harder to get an abortion.

Pennsylvania law now bans abortion after 24 weeks. A 2017 bill, SB 3, would have prohibited the procedure after 20 weeks. A more recent bill, SB 912/HB 1977, would ban abortion when, supposedly, a fetal heartbeat can be detected, which some say can be as early as six weeks into the pregnancy. However, researchers have "analyzed scans of the hearts of healthy fetuses in the womb and found that the heart has four clearly defined chambers in the eighth week of pregnancy, but does not have fully organized muscle tissue until the 20th week."<sup>2</sup> The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists states that heart beat bills are "unnecessary political interference in the practice of medicine."<sup>3</sup> Around the country, no fetal heartbeat bill has survived a court challenge, although as recently as February of 2020, the state senate in Oklahoma passed one.

### **Criminal Justice Reform—See table below for legislative details**

Starting decades ago, the more punitive aspects of criminal justice were emphasized without a concomitant effort towards rehabilitation. As a consequence, the U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the developed world, with blacks and minorities disproportionately affected.

The country is now recognizing that the very punitive approaches to criminal justice went overboard, as evidenced by passage in 2018 of the national bill, the First Step Act. However, Pennsylvania Republicans haven't gotten the message, as demonstrated by two 2019 bills. Republicans sponsored HB 1852, which would require longer sentences for some offenders. Democrats, however, sponsored SB 918 which would end pre-trial detention for some non-violent defenders.

For more information about criminal justice reform, see Local Majority's issue papers on Criminal Justice Reform. Although this paper was written for Virginia, it has information relevant to all states. [https://www.localmajority.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/VA.Criminal\\_Justice\\_Reform.20190204.JRi\\_FB.pdf](https://www.localmajority.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/VA.Criminal_Justice_Reform.20190204.JRi_FB.pdf)

### **Education—See table below for legislative details**

State funding in Pennsylvania covers only 38% of public school costs with local school districts providing the remainder. This low state investment in K-12 education puts Pennsylvania in 46<sup>th</sup> place in the country.<sup>4</sup> In spite of this, a Republican sponsored bill, HB 800, would have siphoned tax dollars to essentially subsidize private schools. HB 800 would almost double the amount of money for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit for businesses and individuals that provide scholarships to private and religious school students. Beyond that, there would have been a 10% increase each year in the tax credit. The bill made it to the desk of Governor Wolf, who vetoed it. The Pennsylvania Capital-Star provides a thorough discussion of this tax credit: <https://www.penncapital-star.com/education/eitc-explained-how-pennsylvanias-educational-tax-credit-program-works/>.

The Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University found "that the typical charter school student in Pennsylvania makes similar progress in reading and weaker growth in math compared to their traditional public school peers."<sup>5</sup> Yet, in spite of no increased academic benefits for charter schools, the main education bills sponsored by Republicans are attempts to increase the reach of charter schools and to decrease their already insufficient oversight. The result is that taxpayers can end up funding poorly performing charter schools, which are harder to close or monitor. Two bills which allow charter schools to expand without adequate oversight are HB 356 and HB 357.

**Energy—See table below for legislative details**

Just under 5% of the electricity in Pennsylvania comes from renewable sources, which puts the state 41<sup>st</sup> in the country in production of renewable energy.<sup>6,7</sup> The stark contrast between Republican and Democratic approaches to renewable energy is demonstrated by the bills they have sponsored. Democrats sponsored SB 600/HB 1195, which would require that more energy be generated from renewable sources by amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act. Republicans propose repealing the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act in SB 770.

**Environment—See table below for legislative details**

Pennsylvania ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in air quality in the U.S.<sup>8</sup> with the Pittsburgh region being among the worst in the country.<sup>9</sup> In fact, Pennsylvania has more premature deaths due to air pollution than any other state.<sup>10</sup>

Industries are also fouling Pennsylvania waterways with industrial waste beyond the legal limits proscribed by the Clean Water Act. With this dumping, "Pennsylvania is second in the nation for violations of clean water permits."<sup>11</sup>

The state's carbon emissions have produced another unfortunate ranking. "In 2016, Pennsylvania ranked fourth in nation for carbon emissions with 218 million metric tons released into the atmosphere."<sup>12</sup>

In spite of these ignominious rankings, Republicans are working to make it easier for industry to contaminate Pennsylvania air and water. One Republican-sponsored bill (SB 619) changes the definition of pollution so that spills and discharges to waterways would no longer be designated as pollution.<sup>13</sup> This bill has passed in the Senate and is now in committee in the House.

**Fracking—See table below for legislative details**

Fracking is a complex issue in Pennsylvania, one of the earliest and biggest adopters of this violent process for extracting oil and gas from tight formations underground. On one hand, fracking has the potential to generate many good-paying jobs, strengthening the economy of local towns; on the other, the potential for environmental damage is immense. In the legislature, there is a classic "jobs vs. environment" split, with some twists, between the Republicans and the Democrats.

A bipartisan bill titled "Restore PA" would allow continued fracking by establishing a severance tax—a levy Pennsylvania has been almost alone, among all states, in rejecting. The tax would generate an anticipated \$4.5 billion/year of much-needed funding for infrastructure: roads, broadband, facilities upgrades, and so on. (A severance tax is a tax on nonrenewable natural resources that are extracted for use out of state.) Some resistance to this bill comes from companies that do not wish to pay the tax; other resistance comes from environmental groups that seek an end to all natural gas extraction.

Republicans have pushed to ease environmental protections in the name of economic development, whereas Democrats have worked to maintain or strengthen environmental protections. Republicans have introduced a number of bills that would relax permitting requirements for fracking operations and would establish a new commission that must approve each permit within 30 days, an unrealistically short review period. Other bills would relax the requirements for site cleanup after closure and would give tax breaks to the extraction companies.

## **Gun Violence Prevention—See table below for legislative details**

"In an average year, 1,503 people die by guns in Pennsylvania. With a rate of 11.4 deaths per 100,000 people, Pennsylvania has the 31<sup>st</sup>-highest rate of gun deaths in the United States."<sup>14</sup> Even after six police officers were shot in Philadelphia in August of 2019, Republican Senate Majority Leader, Jake Corman, and Republican House Majority Leader, Bryan Cutler, claimed to investigate the incident, but "would not consider legislation that unduly burdens law-abiding gun owners."<sup>15</sup>

Republicans response to this staggering statistic is to sponsor bills to increase the access to guns (aka constitutional carry). For example, their bills would:

- Allow gun owners to carry weapons without registration or license (except in Philadelphia). (HB 1412)
- Allow sportsman's permits to anyone holding a hunting, trapping, or fishing license. (HB 1412)

Conversely, Democrats are actively engaged in proposing bills to reduce gun violence and deaths, as evidenced by bills they sponsored. Democratic bills would:

- Require registration of all firearms (HB 768)
- Prohibit possession of ammunition by a person who is prohibited from owning a gun (HB 1494)
- Outlaw homemade semi-automatic weapons (HB 1748)
- Require a safety certificate to possess a semi-automatic assault rifle (HB 1858)
- Require completing a firearms training course to receive a concealed carry permit (SB195)

## **Health—See table below for legislative details**

Democrats have sponsored several bills in both the House and Senate to help retain important insurance provisions of the ACA in the event that the ACA is overturned. All have been forwarded to committees where they languish. HB 470 would prohibit lifetime and annual limits on essential health benefits, while HB 471 would prohibit exclusions for pre-existing conditions. Democratic legislators have also introduced multiple bills to protect critical ACA provisions such as insurance coverage protections (SB 50), coverage for essential health benefits (SB 51), prohibiting lifetime limits for coverage (SB 939), and allowing children to stay on their parent's health insurance until age 26 (SB 982). Republican chairs have prevented all of these bills from moving forward.

## **Worker Rights—See table below for legislative details**

Many American workers are in distress, suffering from stagnant wages and unpredictable hours, often without benefits. According to The Economic Policy Institute, if the minimum wage had kept up with worker productivity since 1968, it would be at least \$19 per hour.<sup>16</sup> Close to a quarter of all workers in the U.S. are not entitled to paid sick leave, making the United States one of the stingiest developed countries.<sup>17</sup> If it wasn't obvious before the coronavirus pandemic, it is now: Paid sick leave reduces the spread of contagious illnesses.<sup>18</sup>

Although Pittsburgh and Philadelphia now require that workers have paid sick leave, workers in other parts of the state do not have that benefit.

## Republican Shenanigans

Soon-to-be-retiring House Majority leader, Mike Turzai has been accused of failing to record votes—as required by House rules—on two consecutive days in January 2020. Both votes were on controversial Republican-sponsored bills. Democrats believe the reason was because the bills had failed in lopsided, bi-partisan votes. Turzai did not provide any convincing explanation.<sup>19 20</sup>

## Legislation that Differentiates Republicans from Democrats

The table below is a sampling of legislation representing the competing priorities of the Republican and Democratic parties. If legislation had significant bipartisan support, it was not included in this table. As mentioned previously, with both legislative chambers held by Republicans, progressive legislation sponsored by Democrats is frequently killed in committee. Republican-sponsored legislation, conversely, makes its way to the Governor's desk who can veto the bill.

Year	Topic	Bill	Synopsis	Party of Sponsor	Vote (if any) and Status
<b>Abortion</b>					
2019	Abortion	HB 321	Would have prohibited abortion in cases where the fetus had Down's syndrome. <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0321">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0321</a>	Repub	House: 117 Y, 76 N Senate: 27 Y, 22 N vetoed by Gov. Wolf
2019	Heartbeat bill	SB 912 / HB 1977	This bill would ban abortion when a fetal heartbeat can be detected, typically at about after 6 weeks of pregnancy. <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=1977">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=1977</a>	Repub	Both in committee since Oct 2019
<b>Criminal Justice Reform</b>					
2019	Pre-trial detention	SB 918	This bill would have ended pre-trial detention for defendants unable to post bail. Judges would still have the authority to detain those who are considered dangerous. <a href="https://www.pasenate.com/leach-introduces-bail-reform-legislation/">https://www.pasenate.com/leach-introduces-bail-reform-legislation/</a>	Dem	In committee since Oct 2019
2019	sentencing	HB 1850 HB 1851 HB 1852	These three related bills restore mandatory minimum sentences. HB 1850 reinstates minimum sentences for various crimes, such as offenses against elderly people. HB 1851 sentencing applies to former felons who possess a firearm. HB 1852 removes the option of concurrent prison sentences.	Repub	All passed out of committee in either mostly or completely partisan votes

			<p>According to the criminal justice reform advocacy organization Famm, a bill similar to HB 1851 would have cost taxpayers \$67.2 million after five years.</p> <p><a href="https://famm.org/wp-content/uploads/HB-1850-1851-1852-Bill-Summaries.pdf">https://famm.org/wp-content/uploads/HB-1850-1851-1852-Bill-Summaries.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&amp;SPick=20190&amp;cosponId=30126">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&amp;SPick=20190&amp;cosponId=30126</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.witf.org/2019/12/10/house-adds-mandatory-minimums-to-high-profile-justice-reform-bills/">https://www.witf.org/2019/12/10/house-adds-mandatory-minimums-to-high-profile-justice-reform-bills/</a></p>		
Education					
2019	Education	HB 800	<p>This measure would have expanded the Educational Improvement Tax Credit from \$110 million to \$210 million. This tax credit allows students to attend private schools, while providing tax credits to donors. “Those who opt to donate to the program in a single year can claim 75 percent of their contributions in credits against their state tax bill; those who donate two years in a row can claim 90 percent in tax credits.”<sup>21</sup></p> <p><a href="https://www.penncapital-star.com/education/eitc-explained-how-pennsylvanias-educational-tax-credit-program-works/">https://www.penncapital-star.com/education/eitc-explained-how-pennsylvanias-educational-tax-credit-program-works/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0800">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0800</a></p>	Repub	<p>House: 111 Y 85 N (mostly partisan)</p> <p>Senate: 27 Y 20 N (partisan vote)</p> <p>Vetoed by Gov. Wolf</p>
2019	Education	HB 356	<p>Gives charter schools the first opportunity to buy or lease unused school district facilities, without approval from the school district. The sale price would be set without an appraisal.</p> <p><a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0356">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0356</a></p> <p><a href="http://educationvoterspa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/5-16-2019-letter-to-GA-re-HB-356-and-HB-357.pdf">http://educationvoterspa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/5-16-2019-letter-to-GA-re-HB-356-and-HB-357.pdf</a></p>	Repub	<p>House: 105 Y 91 N (mostly partisan)</p> <p>In Senate committee since June 2019</p>
2019	Education	HB 357	<p>Creates a standard application for a charter school, thus allowing expansion of charter schools without the knowledge or approval of the local school district. This bill would prevent school districts from acquiring information pertaining to both fiscal management and student performance.</p> <p><a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0357">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0357</a></p> <p><a href="http://educationvoterspa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/5-16-2019-letter-to-GA-re-HB-356-and-HB-357.pdf">http://educationvoterspa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/5-16-2019-letter-to-GA-re-HB-356-and-HB-357.pdf</a></p>	Repub	<p>House vote: 106 Y 91 N</p> <p>In Senate committee since June 2019</p>



Energy					
2019	Renewable energy	SB 600 / HB 1195	<p>Requires that an increasing amount of energy generated by Pennsylvania's utilities come from solar power. By 2030, 30% of electricity would come from renewable sources. This bill would amend the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act.</p> <p>A similar bill is HB 1425/SB 630, which is also stuck in committee.</p> <p><a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0600">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0600</a>  <a href="https://www.buckscountycouriertimes.com/news/20190904/bucks-montgomery-county-democrats-stump-for-solar-carbon-cap">https://www.buckscountycouriertimes.com/news/20190904/bucks-montgomery-county-democrats-stump-for-solar-carbon-cap</a>  <a href="https://pennenvironment.org/news/pae/legislation-transition-pa-100-renewable-energy-gets-its-100th-cosponsor">https://pennenvironment.org/news/pae/legislation-transition-pa-100-renewable-energy-gets-its-100th-cosponsor</a></p>	Dem	In committee since April 2019
2019	Alternative energy	SB 770	<p>Repeals the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act of 2004, which requires some energy to be generated from renewable sources.</p> <p><a href="https://www.pennaeps.com/aboutaeps/">https://www.pennaeps.com/aboutaeps/</a>  <a href="https://www.puc.state.pa.us/general/consumer_ed/pdf/A_EPS_Fact_Sheet.pdf">https://www.puc.state.pa.us/general/consumer_ed/pdf/A_EPS_Fact_Sheet.pdf</a>  <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0770">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0770</a></p>	Repub	In committee since June 2019
2019	Biodiesel	HB 1690	<p>Allows use of biodiesel in residential and commercial heating systems.</p> <p><a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=1690">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=1690</a></p>	Dem	In committee since June 2019
Environment					
2019	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	SB 950 / HB 2025	<p>Requires the Department of Environmental Protection to get the legislature's prior approval of any action to control or limit CO<sub>2</sub> emissions or to establish a cap-and-trade program. The Clean Air Council reported that it "would strip the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) of its existing authority to control air pollution and block Governor Tom Wolf's efforts to have Pennsylvania share in the benefits of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)."</p> <p>This bill is in "response to Gov. Wolf's executive order directing the Environmental Quality Board to propose a cap and trace program that is at least as stringent as that of the RGGI."</p> <p><a href="https://cleanair.org/clean-air-council-responds-to-bills-that-would-block-the-governors-efforts-to-curb-climate-pollution/">https://cleanair.org/clean-air-council-responds-to-bills-that-would-block-the-governors-efforts-to-curb-climate-pollution/</a>  <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/bill">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/bill</a></p>	Repub	In committee since Nov 2019

			<a href="#">Info.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0950</a>		
2019	Clean water	SB 582	Allows the governor to create water and cleanup standards for communities with contaminated water. <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0582">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0582</a>	Dem	In committee since Sept 2019
2019	Clean water	SB 619	The Sierra Club reports that "this bill changes the definition of pollution in the PA Clean Streams Law, making it easier for industry to get away with polluting our waters. It also removes the requirement to notify the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and downstream water users of spills." <a href="https://www.sierraclub.org/pennsylvania/blog/2019/09/pennsylvania-legislative-update">https://www.sierraclub.org/pennsylvania/blog/2019/09/pennsylvania-legislative-update</a>	Repub	Senate vote: Y 26 N 24 (mostly partisan)  in House committee since June 2019
2020	Cap and trade bill	No bill number as of March 2020	The Energy Innovation and Investment Act will be introduced by Senator Jay Costa. This legislation "will instruct the Environmental Quality Board to reduce carbon pollution emissions from the electric power sector – the largest source of emissions in Pennsylvania – by at least 90% by 2040 relative to baseline emissions." <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=S&amp;SPick=20190&amp;cosponId=29759">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=S&amp;SPick=20190&amp;cosponId=29759</a>	Dem	To be introduced
Fracking					
2019	Severance tax and state infrastructure	SB 725/ HB 1585	This bill, referred to as Restore PA, would raise \$4.5 billion to improve state infrastructure by imposing a severance tax on natural gas. Pennsylvania is the only state without such a tax. Some environmentalists are opposed to this bill because it would continue to tie the state to natural gas instead of moving to renewable energy. The money for the infrastructure improvements would be raised by issuing bonds, which would then be paid off by severance tax revenue. <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=725&amp;mobile-choice=suppress">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=725&amp;mobile-choice=suppress</a> <a href="https://papost.org/2019/06/25/restore-pa-and-wolfs-fifth-severance-tax-attempt-explained/">https://papost.org/2019/06/25/restore-pa-and-wolfs-fifth-severance-tax-attempt-explained/</a>	Dem	In committee June 2019
2019	Fracking permits;	HB 828	The bill would weaken existing environmental safeguards by: 1) extending term of fracking permits from one to three years,	Repub	Laid on the table in May 2019



	Environmental protections		2) allowing single-well permits to cover multiple wells reached from the same drilling location, 3) automatically allowing the final location of a well to be situated within 50 feet of the location specified in the well permit application. <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0828">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0828</a>		
2019	Fracking permits  Environmental protections	HB 1101 HB 1102 HB 1103 HB 1105 HB 1106 HB 1107	These Energize Pennsylvania bills would erode environmental safeguards. The bills would create a new politically-appointed commission with full authority to grant permits, would impose a 30-day time limit for review and compel approval if the application is signed by a professional engineer regardless of their qualifications or conflicts of interest. The proposed legislation also gives huge tax credits to gas companies and erodes the requirements for clean-up of fracking sites.  <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us//cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&amp;SPick=20190&amp;cosponId=29361">https://www.legis.state.pa.us//cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&amp;SPick=20190&amp;cosponId=29361</a> <a href="https://pecpa.org/?s=HB+1106">https://pecpa.org/?s=HB+1106</a> <a href="https://www.sierraclub.org/pennsylvania/blog/2019/09/pennsylvania-legislative-update">https://www.sierraclub.org/pennsylvania/blog/2019/09/pennsylvania-legislative-update</a>	Repub	HB 1101 no votes  HB 1102 House: 108 Y, 90 N sept 2019  HB 1103 laid on table Nov 2019  HB 1105 105 Y, 96 N in Senate, June 2019  HB 1106 party line votes in two committees sept 2019  HB 1107 party line vote in committee Sept 2019
2019	Fracking  Tax breaks	SB 102  Louise	Provides tax breaks to companies that engage in fracking. <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0102">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0102</a>	Repub	In committee since Jan 2019
2017	Water pollution monitoring	SB 392	This bill would have strengthened the Department of Environmental Protections (DEP) safeguards for ensuring water quality and the monitoring of water impacted by shale gas exploration. It would require the DEP to inspect wells annually and to maintain records on generation, transportation and disposal of wastes generated. It would also have given the DEP more time to investigate suspected water contamination. <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us//cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=S&amp;SPick=20170&amp;cosponId=22196">https://www.legis.state.pa.us//cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=S&amp;SPick=20170&amp;cosponId=22196</a> <a href="https://www.billtrack50.com/BillDetail/828617">https://www.billtrack50.com/BillDetail/828617</a>	Dem	Died in Committee
<b>Guns</b>					
2019	Gun registration	HB 768	Requires registration of all firearms. <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0768">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0768</a>	Dem	In committee since March 2019

2019	Guns	HB 1412	Allows gun owners to carry weapons without registration or license (except within the city of Philadelphia), allows county treasurers to issue Sportsman's Permits to anyone holding a hunting, trapping or fishing license. <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=1412">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=1412</a>	Repub (1 Dem co- sponsor out of 35)	In committee since May 2019
2019	Ammunition	HB 1494	Adds ammunition to list of items not allowed to be possessed by persons not allowed to possess guns. <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=1494">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=1494</a>	Dem	In committee since May 2019
2019	Guns	HB 1725	Prohibits firearms at polling locations. <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=1725">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=1725</a>	Dem	In committee since July 2019
2019	Guns	HB 1858	Requires a safety certificate to possess a semi-automatic assault rifle. <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=1858">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=1858</a>	Dem	In committee since Sept 2019
2019	Gun registration	SB 195	Requires successful completion of a firearms training course to receive a concealed carry permit. <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0195">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0195</a>	Dem	In committee since Feb 2019
Health					
2019	Pre-existing conditions	HB 471	Protects people with preexisting conditions. <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0471">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0471</a>	Dem	In committee since Feb 2019
2019	ACA provisions	SB 50 SB 51 SB 939 SB 982	With these four bills, Democrats are attempting to protect some provisions of the ACA in the event that the ACA is overturned. These bills would prohibit denial of coverage based on pre-existing conditions, would require insurance plans to cover mental health, would prohibit insurance policies that limit coverage and would let children stay on their parents' plans until age 26. <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0050">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=H&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0050</a> <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0051">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0051</a> <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0939">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0939</a> <a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0982">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&amp;sInd=0&amp;body=S&amp;type=B&amp;bn=0982</a> <a href="https://why.org/articles/pa-democrats-push-to-shore-up-insurance-coverage-in-case-aca-is-struck-down/">https://why.org/articles/pa-democrats-push-to-shore-up-insurance-coverage-in-case-aca-is-struck-down/</a>	Dem	All in committee  SB 50 and SB 51 since Mar 2019  SB 939 since Nov 2019  SB 982 since Jan 2020

			<a href="https://www.penncapital-star.com/government-politics/house-approves-measure-to-maintain-aca-protections-in-the-event-of-its-demise/">https://www.penncapital-star.com/government-politics/house-approves-measure-to-maintain-aca-protections-in-the-event-of-its-demise/</a>		
2019	Medicaid work requirements	HB 2138	Would have required some Medicaid recipients to work a minimum of 20 hours a week. <a href="https://www.healthinsurance.org/pennsylvania-medicaid/">https://www.healthinsurance.org/pennsylvania-medicaid/</a>	Repub	vetoed by Gov. Wolf
Worker Rights, Minimum Wage, Paid Sick Leave					
2019	Paid sick leave	SB 13	This bill would have required paid sick leave for all Pennsylvania employees. <a href="https://www.pasenate.com/senators-hughes-muth-introduce-bill-to-provide-paid-sick-leave-to-all-pa-workers/">https://www.pasenate.com/senators-hughes-muth-introduce-bill-to-provide-paid-sick-leave-to-all-pa-workers/</a>	Dem	In committee since March 2019
2019	Minimum wage	SB 12 HB 405 SB 79	Numerous bills which would increase the minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour have been sponsored by Democrats, only to die in Republican-controlled committees. SB 12 would have raised the minimum wage to \$12 per hour in 2019 and to \$15 in 2025. HB 405 would have raised the minimum wage to \$9.50 per hour after bill passage, with small increments in the two subsequent years. SB 79, more modest than the other bills, proposed gradual increases to \$9.50 by 2020. While this bill did pass in the Senate on a bi-partisan vote, it is currently languishing in the House. <a href="http://www.senatortartaglione.com/pennsylvania-senate-adopts-tartagliones-bill-to-raise-the-minimum-wage-for-the-first-time-in-13-years">http://www.senatortartaglione.com/pennsylvania-senate-adopts-tartagliones-bill-to-raise-the-minimum-wage-for-the-first-time-in-13-years</a> <a href="http://www.paproviders.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Legislative-Tracking-Report-071619.pdf">http://www.paproviders.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Legislative-Tracking-Report-071619.pdf</a> <a href="https://news.bloomberglaw.com/daily-labor-report/pennsylvania-might-scrap-overtime-rule-to-boost-minimum-wage">https://news.bloomberglaw.com/daily-labor-report/pennsylvania-might-scrap-overtime-rule-to-boost-minimum-wage</a>	Dem	SB 79 Senate vote: 42 Y, 7 N  In House committee since Nov 2019

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/state-facts-about-abortion-pennsylvania>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=167987>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.acog.org/About-ACOG/News-Room/Statements/2017/ACOG-Opposes-Fetal-Heartbeat-Legislation-Restricting-Womens-Legal-Right-to-Abortion?IsMobileSet=false>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.psba.org/issue/fair-funding/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://credo.stanford.edu/sites/g/files/sbiybj6481/f/pa\\_2019\\_press\\_release.pdf](https://credo.stanford.edu/sites/g/files/sbiybj6481/f/pa_2019_press_release.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=PA>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/maps/renewable-energy-production-state>

<sup>8</sup> <https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/tag/air-quality/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://whyy.org/articles/pennsylvania-cities-have-some-of-the-worst-air-pollution-in-the-country/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.pghcitypaper.com/pittsburgh/pennsylvania-has-the-most-premature-deaths-caused-by-air-pollution-of-any-state/Content?oid=16757374>

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- <sup>11</sup> <https://pennenvironment.org/news/pac/facilities-pa-rank-second-highest-nation-exceeding-water-pollution-standards>
- <sup>12</sup> <https://www.penncapital-star.com/energy-environment/restore-pa-requires-20-years-of-natural-gas-production-some-progressive-legislators-arent-ready-to-sign-on/>
- <sup>13</sup> <https://www.paawwa.org/senate-republicans-pass-fundamental-change-in-definition-of-water-pollution-effectively-making-spills-and-discharges-to-streams-no-longer-pollution/>
- <sup>14</sup> <https://everytownresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Every-State-Fact-Sheet-Pennsylvania.pdf>
- <sup>15</sup> <https://www.penncapital-star.com/paforward/everything-you-need-to-know-about-pennsylvanias-gun-laws-and-the-debate-to-expand-them/>
- <sup>16</sup> <https://www.epi.org/publication/another-year-of-congressional-inaction-has-further-eroded-the-federal-minimum-wage/>
- <sup>17</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/03/09/sick-leave-coronavirus/>
- <sup>18</sup> <https://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2012/07/30/sick-leave/>
- <sup>19</sup> <https://www.penncapital-star.com/blog/house-democrats-accuse-speaker-turzai-of-making-votes-on-defeated-bills-disappear/>
- <sup>20</sup> <https://whyy.org/articles/pa-democrats-say-house-speaker-struck-failed-gop-votes-from-the-record/>
- <sup>21</sup> <https://triblive.com/news/pennsylvania/speaker-mike-turzai-calls-for-boost-in-tax-credits-for-private-schools/>