

Chiropractic Fellowship of PA Summary of Legislation November 2017

Speaker Turzai Announces Special Elections to Fill Vacancies

Due to a number of different reasons, two state House seats formerly held by Democrats will be filled in special elections in the coming months. In the **133rd district**, Democrat **Jeanne McNeil** will seek to succeed her late husband, Rep. Dan McNeil, who passed away suddenly over the summer. She will face Republican acupuncturist **David Molony**, who ran against Dan McNeil previously, and Libertarian candidate **Samantha Dorney**. The election will be held on December 5.

Speaker of the House **Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny County)** has also ordered a special election be held on Tuesday, Jan. 23, to fill the vacant seat in the **35th Legislative District** in Allegheny County. The vacancy was created by the Nov. 6 resignation of former **Rep. Marc Gergely (D-Allegheny)**. Candidates for the office will be selected by a process designated by their respective political parties, and the winner of the special election will take office after the results are certified.

More Special Elections involving House members will come early next year, in addition to the impending primary and general elections, in which all 203 House seats, the even-numbered State Senate seats, the 17 US House seats, one US Senate Seats and the Governor and Lt. Governor will stand for election. In Western PA, Republican state **Rep. Rick Saccone (R-Allegheny)** will face Democrat **Conor Lamb** in a special election to succeed former **Congressman Tim Murphy**, who resigned earlier this year. That election will occur on March 13, 2018. Saccone beat out three other candidates, including fellow **Rep. Jason Ortitay** and state **Sens. Kim Ward and Guy Resenthaler** for the Republican nomination. Some or all of those legislators, and maybe others, may still file petitions to run in the Republican primary next May for the seat. The filing deadline to run for the seat, maybe coincidentally, is the day of the special election. Finally, perhaps, there will also be a special election called to fill the future vacancy of **Democratic Rep. Brandon Neuman (D-Washington)**, who won a county judgeship this past month. That date has yet to be determined, as Neuman has not yet resigned, but likely will when his new job begins in January. There are rumors of other members of both chambers considering early exits as well. We will monitor and report those as they happen.

State Board of Chiropractic November 9 Meeting Highlights

The State Board of Chiropractic met on **November 9 in Harrisburg**. Here are the highlights.

- **Board Chair John McCarrin, DC, welcomed the members and guests.**
- **Lead Board Prosecutor Anita Shekletski** had no cases to present. Prosecutors are looking forward to the Bennett decision that is on the executive session agenda, as they believe it will instruct future cases.
- **BPOA Commissioner Ian Harlow** discussed the Governor's recent Executive Order. The EO charges all of the Boards in BPOA with reviewing their laws, fees and regs to make sure they are not unduly burdensome on licensees, while carrying out their public protection purposes. A commission will be formed comprised of volunteers from various Boards, who will meet and compile a report, which will be sent to the Governor for his review and possible further action, starting sometime next year.
- **Board Counsel Kerry Maloney** noted the status of cases before the Board, to be deliberated in executive session. There were no hearings scheduled for this meeting.
- **Regulatory Counsel Tom Blackburn** was unable to attend to give a report on the status of regulations before the Board. Counsel Maloney presented the edited annex for the Unlicensed Supportive Personnel Regulation, and reminded the Board that the previous version had been rejected by the Governor's Policy Office. The new annex will be resubmitted, with a request to expedite, as this has gone on for years. Dr. Halloran asked if the Board can credential CA training programs. Maloney said they current do not have that authority. Maloney also reported that the Chiropractic Specialties Regulation has finally been approved by the Governor's Policy Office, and will go forward.
- During the public comment period, **PCA ED Ed Neilsen** asked if the Board would consider an "emergency regulation" to address the potential for an influx of DCs from Puerto Rico due to the hurricane damage. Maloney explained there are numerous restrictions on what may be considered an "emergency".

Since they have not been aware of any such DC's applying, this likely would not qualify, and it will likely be a short-term problem anyway, hopefully. He also said there may be statutory constraints that would make it problematic to do such a reg.

• The Board held elections of officers. Dr. Halloran was elected Chair, and Dr. McCarrin elected Secretary.

Next meeting is January 18.

Future 2018 meeting dates (subject to change): March 22, May 17, July 19, September 20, November 8

2019 meeting dates were approved, but not yet announced.

Legislative Activity

The following bills of interest to CFoP were acted on by the General Assembly this past month.

Scope of Practice/Licensure Bills

[HB 358](#) RE: Volunteer Health Care Practitioner Act (by Rep. Matt Baker, et al)

Provides for a volunteer health care practitioner certification; and imposes powers and duties on the Department of Health. The bill states that a health care practitioner who is certified as a volunteer health care practitioner is immune from civil liability in accordance with the act so long as they provide 48 hours of uncompensated, voluntary care at a free health clinic within the Commonwealth every quarter.

Laid on the table, removed from the table, 11/21/2017

Budget-Related Bills

NONE

Child Abuse Reporting

NONE

Health Care Bills

[HB 1927](#) RE: Childhood Wellness Council (by Rep. James Santora, et al)

Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, establishing the Childhood Wellness Council in the Department of Education, which shall develop coordinated strategies for addressing childhood obesity and disseminating information on these strategies, work as liaison with local governments to implement strategies to combat childhood obesity, and submit annual reports to the General Assembly.

Introduced and referred to House Education Committee, 11/16/2017

Health Care Work Force Bills

NONE

Health Insurance Bills

[HB 1388](#) RE: CHIP Extension, Benefits (by Rep. Rich Irvin, et al)

Amends the Insurance Company Law, in comprehensive health care for uninsured children, further providing for children's health care and for expiration by adding if federal law authorizes funding for the program for a period that extends beyond December 31, 2019, this article shall expire under subsection (a) (2). Further provides the benefit package for eligible children may not include reimbursement for gender or sex reassignment surgery. Effective immediately.

Re-reported on concurrence as amended from House Rules Committee, and House concurred in Senate amendments, as further amended by the House, 11/20/17

[SB 958](#) RE: Pre-existing Conditions (by Sen. Vincent Hughes, et al)

Amends the Insurance Company Law, in health and accident insurance, prohibiting health insurance companies from denying or excluding coverage based on an individual's preexisting medical conditions.

Introduced and referred to Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, 11/15/2017

Medical Assistance/DHS

NONE

Opioid Reduction

NONE

Partnerships/Liability

NONE

Sales Tax Expansion

NONE

WORKER'S COMP

NONE

Upcoming meetings of Interest

Some House Committee meetings and session can be viewed online at: <http://www.pahousegop.com/>

Senate Committee meetings and session can be streamed at: <http://www.pasenategop.com/>

2017 Senate Fall Session Schedule

December 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

Note: It appears likely that the Senate will cancel the 18, 19, 20 session days, but that has not been officially announced.

2018 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

January 2, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31

February 5, 6, 7

March 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28

April 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30

May 1, 2, 21, 22, 23

June 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

UPDATED 2017 House Fall Session Schedule

December 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

2018 House schedule has not been announced yet.

State Board of Chiropractic Board Meeting Schedule

2018 Meeting Dates (Subject to Change)

January 18, March 22, May 17, July 19, September 20, November 8

All Board meetings are held at Penn Center, 2601 N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg, PA, at 9 AM

DHS Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC)

ALL MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON

Lecture Hall 246/248

Temple University Harrisburg

234 Strawberry Square

Harrisburg, PA

Remaining 2017 Meeting Dates

October 26, December 14

Copies of bills described above can be obtained through the CFOP office, or on-line at:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/session.cfm>