

THE TICKER

A Weekly Public Affairs Update for the PFPA Membership

PRODUCED BY:
PENNSYLVANIA FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION
"YOUR CAPITOL INSIDER"



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Reported by: Paul Lyskava, PFPA Executive Director

House to Consider Veto Override of Governor's Veto of the State Budget

The state House will return to Harrisburg this week. One of the items on its agenda is an attempt to override certain portions of the state budget vetoed by Governor Wolf back in June.

It is expected that the override attempts will focus on budget line items that were previously agreed upon by the House and the Governor's Office.

Any veto override would need two-thirds approval by members of both the state House and Senate. Democrats would be needed in vote for the override in both chambers.

Democratic leadership in the state House suggests that the effort is unconstitutional, since the Governor vetoed the entire budget in total.

A group of recently elected House members will be sworn in this week as well.

Governor Wolf vetoed that state budget more than six weeks ago. While state employees continued to get paid, non-profit social service agencies, counties, and school districts are beginning to feel the impacts of the lack of state funding.

Meanwhile, the Governor is reviewing a proposal offered by the GOP leadership to link the spending an additional \$300 million towards basic education, provided that the Governor accepts a plan to shift future state employees and school district officials to a 401(k) pension program.

Republican leaders believe that they can find additional money for education without the need to raise taxes.

It is expected that a portion of this funding would come from revenue from some sort of liquor privatization plan.

Other Updates

DCNR has hired a new Wood Utilization Specialist. Ben Livelsberger comes from Tuscarora Hardwoods where he was a procurement forester.....A recent study in *Scientific Reports* suggests that an additional ten trees on a given city block corresponds to a one-per-cent increase in how healthy nearby residents felt. The health benefits stem almost entirely from trees planted along streets and in front yards, where many people walk past them; trees in back yards and parks don't seem to matter as much in the analysis.....

PFPA News

✿ The PFPA Nominations Committee and PFPA Board have nominated the following individuals to be retained or join the PFPA Board of Directors. A vote will be taken on these individuals at next month's PFPA Annual Meeting:

Patrick Cannin, The Ames Company (2nd Term)

Jay Clark, AFS Energy Systems (2nd Term)

Moe Galis, Greene Team Pellet Fuel Company (1st term)

Bob Shields, Bingaman & Son Lumber (1st Term)

Norm Steffy, Cummings Lumber Company (1st Term)

Thad Taylor, AgChoice Farm Credit (1st Term)

Derek Wheeland, Wheeland Lumber Company (1st Term)

✿ PA SFI has announced its training opportunities for the Fall Training Block. PA SFI courses will be held from mid-September through late November. A copy of the schedule and registration form is attached and updates can be obtained at <http://sfiopfpa.org/course-registration.php>

"DYK" – Did You Know? — PA's medium property taxes paid by homeowners were \$2,429 in 2013. The county with the largest medium property taxes is Chester County (\$4,594) and the county with the lowest property taxes are Bedford (\$1,094) and Fayette Counties (\$1,095). – *U.S. Census Bureau*