

Legislative Newsletter

April 20, 2018

House Release Budget Targets

Budgets have started moving on the House side, but when sine die will happen for the General Assembly is still anyone's guess. As of Thursday, the Senate was still hammering out their own versions. The House budget bills await a vote on the House floor. Both chambers have been sent home until further notice, which may hold up outstanding bills sitting in a committee or on the chamber floor.

There was good news over the weekend from Legislative Leaders. It appears that the decision to renege on the Backfill promise for local government to cover some of the costs of local government has been pushed back to FY 20, negating a need to adjust the budgets for FY 19. The phase out appears to be revolving on a 5-year phaseout. While heartening, believing that promise will happen when the General Assembly keeps this promise.

The Senate has returned to 50 members with the swearing-in of Annette Sweeney last Monday. Some bills had been deferred in the Senate until Sweeney joined the Republican caucus.

The House budget bills – all passed out of the House Appropriations Committee - are:

- House Study Bill 691: Ag and Natural Resources. Passed 15-0.

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- House Study Bill 692: Economic Development. Passed 15-10.
- House Study Bill 693: Judicial Branch. Passed 25-0.
- House Study Bill 695: RIF. Passed 25-0.
- House Study Bill 694: Justice Systems. Passed 18-7.

The Standings Bill is House Study Bill 690, which includes standing appropriations, reductions to standing appropriations, and corrections to other bills.

The following bills have been sent to the Governor:

- House File 2445: MH/SA SERVICES: This bill would require certain bills for mental health services that are sent to the county auditor instead be sent to the regional administrators. An amendment added the companion bill, Senate File 2369, which included county of legal settlement.

The following bills passed the House:

- House File 2479: Township Fire Levies: This bill allows township trustees to approve EM services, either on their own or after receiving a petition, in parts of a county that does not currently receive those services from the county. An amendment was adopted to prevent the option to increase rates.
- Senate File 2227: Supervisor publications: This bill requires the county auditor to include a summary of resolutions, or the full text of resolutions, in the materials furnished to the board of supervisors for publication about the meetings of the supervisors. It also requires the adopted resolutions to be posted on the internet if the county has an internet site. An adopted amendment requires the complete text of election referendum questions or propositions be printed. This bill now returns to the Senate.

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