



Acts Affecting County Government 2017

The following is a list of acts and vetoes affecting county government that passed in 2017. Included are the bill number and printer's number (bill version) and the date the act was signed into law. Copies of each act are available from the Legislature's website by clicking on the link.

[ACT 13](#) (SB 8, P.N. 719; June 29, 2017) – Amends Title 42 (Judicial) to establish new requirements and procedures for civil asset forfeiture for all district attorneys and the Attorney General, including when property subject to forfeiture can be seized. Allows forfeited property to be retained for official use or sold, with the proceeds of any sale to be placed in the operating fund of the county and an equivalent amount must then be allocated for the use of the district attorney for enforcement or prevention of violations of the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act. Provides annual auditing and reporting requirements for all district attorneys and the Attorney General. Requires counties to annually provide to the Attorney General's office records of all forfeited property and proceeds, with the Attorney General annually providing a summary to the General Assembly.

[ACT 22](#) (SB 560, P.N. 936; July 7, 2017) – Amends Title 18 (Crimes) and Title 42 (Judicial) regarding public release of law enforcement recordings, including those made by a sheriff or deputy sheriff. Exempts audio and video recordings made by a law enforcement officer from the Right-to-Know Law and establishes separate procedures for the request and release of such recordings. Requires recording devices to be approved by the State Police, and further requires law enforcement or sheriffs who make recordings to comply with State Police guidelines and to establish written policies regarding training, use, maintenance and storage of devices and recordings. Permits recordings of any oral, electronic or wire communication (in addition to telephone calls as permitted under prior law) made by or to an inmate of the Department of Corrections and county correctional facilities, with notice that the communication may be recorded.

[ACT 38](#) (HB 16, P.N. 1056; October 30, 2017) – Amends the Local Tax Collection Law to require a tax collector to deposit payment of taxes into an account that includes the name of an office, title or position, and prohibits deposits of tax payments into accounts bearing only the individual's name. Further prohibits tax payments from being made payable in the name of the collector.

[ACT 40](#) (HB 118, P.N. 2256; October 30, 2017) – Omnibus amendments to the Administrative Code in conjunction with the FY 2017-2018 state budget. Among other provisions, increases the fee for a death certificate from \$9 to \$20, with \$1 distributed to the county coroner or medical

examiner. Allows the State Police to increase fees for criminal history record information by publishing a notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Requires the Pennsylvania Professional Liability Joint Underwriting Association to transfer \$200 million to the General Fund. Removes the sunset on the \$2 state tipping fee that funds grants to counties and municipalities through the state's Recycling Fund. Establishes the Emergency Drug and Alcohol Detoxification Program. Reauthorizes senior judge support grants to counties, retroactive to the June 30, 2017 expiration of the prior authorization.

[ACT 42](#) (HB 271, P.N. 2652; October 30, 2017) – Amends Titles 3 (Agriculture) and 4 (Amusements) to expand gaming in Pennsylvania. Authorizes up to ten Category 4 licenses (mini-casinos) and allows municipalities to opt-out of having a facility in their jurisdiction by Dec. 31, 2017. Authorizes video gaming terminals (VGTs) at truck stops and permits counties hosting a Category 1, 2 or 3 facility to opt-out of having VGTs in their counties by Dec. 30, 2017. Further provides for regulation of fantasy sports, authorizes iLottery and legalizes iGaming. Provides for distribution of revenues and local shares from expanded gaming programs. Reauthorizes the local share assessment to local governments from Category 1, 2 and 3 facilities.

[ACT 43](#) (HB 542, P.N. 2598; October 30, 2017) – Omnibus amendments to the Tax Reform Code in conjunction with the FY 2017-2018 state budget. Authorizes \$1.5 billion to be derived from the state's Tobacco Settlement Fund, either by borrowing against the funding stream or by selling a portion of the settlement fund over 10 years. Imposes a new tax on consumer fireworks and requires online vendors to remit the state sales tax, among other provisions.

[ACT 44](#) (HB 674, P.N. 2624; October 30, 2017) – Omnibus amendments to the Fiscal Code providing for implementation of the FY 2017-2018 state budget. Requires the Budget Secretary to develop a list of \$300 million to be transferred from restricted funds to the General Fund. Establishes the First Chance Trust Fund to create scholarships and provide grants to evidence-based programs for the benefit of youth at risk of entering the justice system. Authorizes the Department of Revenue to intercept state lottery winnings for the purpose of paying delinquent state taxes. Allocates \$750,000 to establish a statewide 2-1-1 system grant program.

[ACT 49](#) (SB 222, P.N. 1264; October 30, 2017) – Amends Title 42 (Judiciary) to add judges to the court of common pleas in Bucks, Cumberland, Wayne, Washington, Delaware, Montgomery and Monroe counties. Reauthorizes senior judge support grants to counties, retroactive to the June 30, 2017 expiration of the prior authorization.

[ACT 50](#) (SB 242, P.N. 1227; October 30, 2017) – Amends the Underground Utility Line Protection to transfer authority for the state's One Call System from the Department of Labor and Industry to the Public Utility Commission. Extends the sunset of the act to Dec. 31, 2024. Among other updates, removes exemptions for unconventional oil and gas well production and gathering lines, while still exempting gathering lines from stripper wells that are no wider than eight inches across that connect to low-producing wells.

[ACT 51](#) (SB 260, P.N. 1220; October 30, 2017) – Amends the Crime Victims Act to increase the membership of the Victims’ Services Advisory Committee of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency from 15 to 25 members, and requires appointees representing an area agency on aging, a county children and youth agency and county government.

[ACT 54](#) (SB 691, P.N. 849; October 30, 2017) - Amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) to clarify that an individual remains a resident of a municipality in which they had been previously domiciled during a period of active military duty, for purposes of meeting residency requirements for municipal office.

Appropriations Bills

[ACT 1A](#) (HB 218, P.N. 2196; July 11, 2017) – The Commonwealth general fund appropriation act for FY 2017-2018.

Joint Resolutions

[JR 1](#) (HB 1285, P.N. 1589; July 17, 2017) – Proposed constitutional amendment to allow taxing districts to expand the homestead exclusion from up to one-half of the median assessed value of all homestead properties within its jurisdiction, to up to 100 percent of the assessed value of each homestead property within its jurisdiction. The measure will be on the November 2017 ballot for voter referendum.

Vetoed Bills

[HB 1071](#) (P.N. 1270, Veto 1; June 30, 2017) – Prohibited local governments from imposing a ban, fee, surcharge or tax on recyclable plastic bags supplied by a retail store to a customer.

[HB 59](#) (P.N. 2255, Veto 2; October 24, 2017) – Omnibus amendments to the Human Services Code in conjunction with the FY 2017-2018 state budget.