



Acts Affecting County Government 2020

The following is a list of acts and vetoes affecting county government that passed in 2020. 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 12](#) (SB 422, P.N. 1608; March 27, 2020) – Amends the Pennsylvania Election Code to postpone Pennsylvania's primary election from April 28 to June 2, 2020. Includes other emergency provisions for the primary election to allow poll workers to come from any part of the county (rather than just the election district) and give counties flexibility to consolidate or move polling places. Further provides for additional updates to the Election Code, such as authorization for pre-canvassing of absentee and mail-in ballots starting at 7 a.m. on election day, rather than having to wait until 8 p.m., to help mitigate delays in election results due to expected demand for mail-in ballots and further adjusts the timeline to challenge applications for absentee and mail-in ballots to 5 p.m. the Friday prior to the election or during pre-canvassing (whichever is earlier) and extends the time for holding challenge hearings from five to seven days.

[ACT 15](#) (SB 841, P.N. 1623; April 20, 2020) – Amends Title 35 (Health & Safety) providing additional guidance to local governments conducting business remotely during the coronavirus pandemic, including the authority of local governments to use remote telecommunication tools for the duration of the COVID-19 disaster declaration in order to hold public meetings and conduct public business as well as authorizes remote notarization through communication technology during the COVID-19 disaster emergency. Further affirms and gives guidance to local governments regarding their authority to extend the property tax discount period until as late as Aug. 31, and to waive penalties or fees associated with late payments if the taxes are paid in full by Dec. 31, 2020.

[ACT 17](#) (HB 1869, P.N. 3582; April 29, 2020) – Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) allowing emergency medical services (EMS) agencies to file for a waiver or exception from the basic life support (BLS) staffing requirements for extraordinary reasons as determined by the department on a case-by-case basis. Further includes a provision that would provide for COVID-19 disability benefits for law enforcement officers, as well as sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and members of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

[ACT 18](#) (HB 360, P.N. 3660; May 8, 2020) – Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations) to extend the deadline for those whose child abuse history clearance recertifications required under the Child Protective Services Law and Pennsylvania School Code would expire during the COVID-19 disaster emergency until Dec. 31, 2020 to renew their clearances.

[ACT 24](#) (HB 2510, P.N. 3866; May 29, 2020) – Amends the Fiscal Code to define the use of County Block Grant funds distributed from the federal CARES Act to be divided amongst the counties based on population with a \$1 million minimum amount per county. Further requires any CARES funds unexpended by Dec. 1, 2020, to be redistributed through the County Block Grant program, and sets aside the remaining \$1.3 billion of federal CARES Act funding into a restricted revenue account to be used at a later date to address additional virus-related costs.

[ACT 35](#) (HB 2502, P.N. 3774; June 17, 2020) – Amends the Administrative Code to require the Department of State to work with counties to issue a report on the 2020 primary election administration, including mail-in and absentee ballot data.

[ACT 37](#) (HB 2418, P.N. 4015; June 30, 2020) – Amends the Administrative Code to require the Treasury Department to identify and review outstanding debt obligations and submit a report to the General Assembly. Further provides for the reauthorization of the State Geospatial Coordinating Board until 2024.

[ACT 46](#) (HB 1564, P.N. 3901; July 1, 2020) – Amends the Title 53 (Municipalities) to provide optional guidelines for assessing value of a mobile or manufactured home. Further extends the deadline for county boards of assessment appeals training an additional six months after the state’s emergency declaration is lifted. Also includes an extension for notices and appeals in Delaware County’s court-ordered countywide assessment.

Appropriations Bills

[ACT 1A](#) (HB 2387, P.N. 3837; May 29, 2020) – The Commonwealth General Fund Appropriation Act for FY 2020-2021, provides for a temporary \$26 billion budget to fund the commonwealth on a five-month basis until the fiscal impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic become clearer.

[ACT 2A](#) (SB 1108, P.N. 1730; May 29, 2020) – Supplement to the Commonwealth General Appropriations Act that allocates \$2.6 billion of Pennsylvania’s \$3.9 billion in CARES Act dollars, including \$625 million to the 60 counties that did not previously receive direct

federal CARES funds via the County Block Grant program housed in Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

Joint Resolutions

[SB 413](#) (P.N. 1653; #JR-2; April 29, 2020) – Amends the PA Constitution to remove language requiring a separate ballot or column for judicial retention elections as well as restrictions in the constitution to allow any qualified voter to vote by absentee ballot without excuse.

Vetoed Bills

[SB 327](#) (P.N. 1700, Veto 7; May 19, 2020) – Amended the Administrative Code providing for COVID-19 emergency statutory and regulatory suspensions and waivers reporting requirements and establishes the COVID-19 Cost and Recovery Task Force. Further provided authority for counties to develop a countywide business mitigation plan.

[SB 1027](#) (P.N. 1729, Veto 8; May 29, 2020) – Amended the Administrative Code to reauthorize the State Geospatial Coordinating Board for another four years. Further included provisions related to a 2020 primary election report, extension of judicial fees and other COVID-19 emergency statutory and regulatory suspensions and waivers reporting requirements.