

Bear den visit



As a member of the House Game and Fisheries Committee, I had the privilege in March to visit a bear den in Delaware, Pennsylvania. At the den, a Game Commission biologist tagged a hibernating bear and recorded its measurements. I even had a chance to get up close with a cub. While it was a great opportunity to get to see these amazing animals in their natural habitat, I also was pleased to know that the Game Commission is composed of amazing professionals who advocate and care for these animals and their habitats.

Sign up for the Do-Not-Call list

People can register their cell phone and landline numbers with the state and federal Do-Not-Call lists to avoid most telemarketing calls.

To register, call 1-888-777-3406. Registration is free. There is a rolling enrollment; you may sign up at any time and the registration is good for five years. After that, you can re-enroll. Signing up on Pennsylvania's list automatically adds those numbers to the national Do-Not-Call list.

If you continue to receive unwanted telemarketing phone calls, complaints can be filed with the Bureau of Consumer Protection in the Attorney General's Office by calling 1-800-441-2555. Violation of the law carries a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 and as high as \$3,000 if the person contacted is 60 or older.

Please keep in mind the law does not prevent telemarketers from calling those with whom they had an established business relationship within 12 months before the call, or telemarketers calling on behalf of charities, political parties or candidates.



Is the state holding your property?

It is estimated that roughly one in 10 Pennsylvanians has unclaimed property. The state treasurer is currently holding more than \$2.3 billion worth of that unclaimed property – such as closed bank accounts, uncashed checks, lost stocks and bonds, contents of safe deposit boxes, and unexpired gift certificates and gift cards.

You can search for and claim any property the treasurer is holding for you – it's easy and it's free! Simply visit the treasurer's website at www.patreasury.gov and click on the "Unclaimed Property" box on the left side of the page or call Treasury's Unclaimed Property Program at 1-800-222-2046.



From left to right, Courtney Schonewolf, Marie Smith, Danielle Cubas and Nick Graveley are ready to help! If you need assistance with any state service, call or stop by my district office and my staff and I will be happy to lend a hand.

Meet my staff!

Those of you who've visited my office or attended one of my district events know my staff is topnotch. They are my representatives in the district with a mission to provide high-quality constituent service. I wanted to take an opportunity to introduce you to them. If you ever need help with a state service or you have a question about a local or state issue, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 215-330-3714 or 16 Old Ashton Road, Philadelphia, 19152. My staff is ready to assist however you need!

Property Tax Rent/ Rebate Deadline Extended

The deadline to file a 2015 Property Tax/ Rent Rebate Program application has been extended from June 30 to Dec. 31, 2016 and my office is here to help!



Pennsylvania's Battle with Heroin and Opioid Addiction

Pennsylvania is dealing with a major epidemic. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heroin and opioid overdoses are the leading causes of accidental deaths, killing more Pennsylvanians than those involved in deadly crashes. This epidemic crosses all social, geographic and political lines.

A study by the Pennsylvania State Coroners Association provides a harsh reality: seven Pennsylvanians die every day due to heroin or prescription opioid overdose. In 2014, nearly 2,500 Pennsylvanians died from a drug overdose.

Pennsylvania has taken several important steps to combat the heroin and opioid crisis. Dr. Rachel Levine, the physician general, signed a standing order for naloxone, making access to this crucial anti-overdose drug available to all Pennsylvanians. State troopers are equipped with naloxone for when they arrive first on the scene of a drug overdose. This life-saving drug is also available free in many public high schools. Pennsylvania has developed a prescription drug monitoring program to help detect and prevent prescription fraud and abuse.

Gov. Tom Wolf has been hosting roundtable discussions with state lawmakers, local officials, law enforcement, emergency responders and health care professionals to discuss ways to work together to combat the opioid abuse and heroin use epidemic.

In June, he also announced that he intends to call a special session of the General Assembly later this year that will focus on combating the opioid crisis facing our communities.

I applaud Gov. Wolf for his leadership on this issue and I look forward to joining my colleagues — Democrat and Republican — in continuing our work on a way to address this crisis head-on. Pennsylvanians are counting on us to make it happen.



State to eliminate vehicle registration stickers

The state Department of Transportation is eliminating vehicle registration stickers on license plates beginning Jan. 1, 2017. PennDOT will issue the last registration sticker on Dec. 30.

Drivers still will need to have their vehicles registered and inspected, but they won't need to display a registration sticker after Dec. 31.

Law enforcement officers will use Automated License Plate Reader technology to check the status of vehicle registrations and insurance instead of looking for the stickers. The new system will permit officers to have real-time electronic access to PennDOT's database. PennDOT officials said the new technology is an improvement over the visual inspection of vehicle registration stickers, which can be counterfeited, sold, affixed to dead plates or applied to plates for which they were not intended.

Also starting Jan. 1, drivers who renew their vehicle registration online will be permitted to save a copy of and print a permanent registration card.

More information can be found on PennDOT's website at www.dmv.pa.gov.

'Stop and go' stores pose a continued threat to our community

Gov. Wolf signed a bill the House passed in June allowing wine sales in some restaurants and grocery stores, and making wine and liquor sales more convenient for Pennsylvania consumers.

Unfortunately, I was unable to vote for this legislation due to my serious concerns about the unintended consequences it would create with the numerous "stop and go" stores in Philadelphia. Due to previous legislation, these stores have been able to acquire restaurant licenses, despite the fact that many sell little more than candy and chips.

This law will allow these stores to sell even more alcohol with hardly any additional oversight. Additionally, the law commits insufficient enforcement resources to solve this complicated issue.

While I support liquor modernization efforts, I could not support this bill when it came up for a vote in the House. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the General Assembly and city officials to seek a solution to the "stop and go" issue that threatens the safety and well-being of communities throughout Philadelphia.