

THE POLICY RECAP

A summary of House Democratic Policy Committee Hearings..... May 1-3, 2017

Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski

Marcellus Shale Severance Tax
Wilkes-Barre | May 1

Rep. Pashinski hosted a hearing at Wilkes University to explore the impacts of implementing a Marcellus shale severance tax in Pennsylvania. Pashinski noted that the industry has had nearly 10 years to get operations up and running and he believes the time has come to pursue an amicable severance tax that is fair to both the people of Pennsylvania and the Marcellus shale companies.

Testifiers included:

- Dennis Davin, secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development;
- Scott Perry, deputy secretary for oil and gas, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection;
- Frank Joanlanne, president, Borton Lawson Engineering;
- Marleen Troy, professor of environmental engineering, Wilkes University; and
- Marc Stier, director, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center.



Rep. Kevin Haggerty

Human Services Olyphant | May 2

Rep. Haggerty hosted a hearing at his constituent service office in Olyphant to discuss human services and how to better serve Pennsylvania's most vulnerable residents and make sure policies are developed to efficiently and effectively serve constituents.

DHS discussed its new mobile app, myCOMPASS PA, for Pennsylvanians who have applied for or receive state benefits. More info is at dhs.pa.gov/citizens/compassmobileapp/



SCAN THIS QR CODE to learn more about the myCOMPASS PA app: <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/compassmobileapp/>



The committee heard testimony from: Patricia Allen, director of Bureau of Program Support, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services; Don Barney, director of clinical services, Keystone Community Resources; Paul Emark, program participant, Keystone Community Resources; and Don Broderick, executive director, The Arc of Northeastern PA.

Rep. Maureen Madden

Raising the Minimum Wage Tobyhanna | May 3

Rep. Madden hosted a hearing at the Pocono Mountain Public Library to discuss fair, family-sustaining jobs in Pennsylvania and raising the minimum wage. In 2017, 21 states will have higher minimum wages. PA has not raised its minimum wage since 2006.



The committee heard testimony from:

- Sean Ramaley, deputy secretary for safety and labor – management relations, Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry;
- Tarah Probst, owner of The Charcuterie and mayor of Stroudsburg Borough;
- Lisa Diemer, owner of Pocono Soap and Kitchen Chemistry; and
- Mark Price, labor economist, Keystone Research Center.





About the House Democratic Policy Committee

Rep. Mike Sturla is chair of the House Democratic Policy Committee. The Policy Committee holds public hearings and meetings across the state, and serves as the catalyst to enacting major policy initiatives put forth by members of the House Democratic Caucus.

You can find details about upcoming hearings, hearing testimony from previous hearings and Chairman Sturla's Policy Point of the Day by visiting www.pahouse.com/PolicyCommittee.

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