



THE Gavel



The Official Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus

State Representative Napoleon Nelson, *Chairman*

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

The 2023-2024 legislative term began in historic fashion and ended with no less significance. As we close the book on the term, it feels amazing to do so with a 38 member caucus, the largest Legislative Black Caucus to walk the halls of Harrisburg; a caucus that includes the Senate Minority Appropriations Chair (Sen. Vincent Hughes), the House Majority Appropriations Chair (Rep. Jordan Harris), and the Speaker of the House (Rep. Joanna McClinton).

We close the book on this term having affirmed the constitutional requirement to fund our public schools and putting \$1 Billion towards that effort. We close the book on this term having launched the Black Maternal Health Caucus, having provided record funding to public defenders, having broken down barriers to immigrants entering the education field, and having advanced

opportunities for justice involved individuals to pursue their dreams. We advocated for voting access, increased wages, housing affordability, gun violence prevention, and again, because it's worth repeating, education reforms. Perhaps most important, we awarded over \$35 thousand dollars in scholarships to students from around the state pursuing their higher education goals.

We were also blessed to host the Rev. Jesse Jackson to Harrisburg and welcome so many of our community partners and students. The PLBC celebrated the accomplishments of our retiring members, Rep. Donna Bullock and Rep. Steve Kinsey, and sadly celebrated the homegoing of former members, Rep. James Roebuck and Rep. Isabel Fitzgerald.

The 2023-24 term was full and rewarding! Don't just take my word for it. Here are some reflections from members of the caucus.



2023-2024 Session was an adventurous one.
Here's a few reflective thoughts from our PLBC Members.



Representative Joanna E. McClinton

Speaker of The House

191st Legislative District

“The 2023/24 legislative session was historic – not just because the Democrats took back the House after more than a decade in the minority or because we had the most diverse caucus on record, but because of all we were able to accomplish.

Not only did we use our platform to advance the policies our communities have been asking for like increased school funding, tax credits for working families, additional help for our seniors and to require police departments to collect and report data from traffic stops to combat racial profiling, but we blocked Republican efforts to expand Voter ID, to divert money for public schools to create a voucher program.

Not all of our priorities made it across the finish line. The Senate failed to act on gun safety and minimum wage. Throughout the legislative session, we’ve shown our neighbors who has their back in Harrisburg and proven that as House Democrats and the Pennsylvania Black Legislative Caucus, we can lead.”

Representative Jordan A. Harris

Chairman of The Appropriations Committee

186th Legislative District

“As Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the 2023-24 term has been both challenging and rewarding as we tackled critical needs and secured transformative funding across the Commonwealth—all with a narrow one-seat majority. This slim margin demanded resilience, collaboration, and a strong commitment to progress. Notably, we passed over 400 bills through our committee, addressing essential needs statewide.

Our accomplishments include significant increases in education funding, particularly for school districts in need. We also provided resources for menstrual hygiene products in schools, addressing a vital health and wellness need. In healthcare, we passed legislation on maternal morbidity and Black maternal health to combat disparities, and we secured essential funding for services supporting Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities and mental health challenges. Additionally, we bolstered violence intervention programs, indigent defense, school safety, and non-profit security grants to enhance community safety.

To strengthen our economy, we invested in job creation, Main Streets, and affordable housing initiatives, helping Pennsylvanians stay in their homes and manage costs. We also supported transit improvements, creating safer, more efficient commutes, and allocated substantial funds for road and bridge repairs to boost local economies and public safety.

We’ve made meaningful strides toward a more equitable, secure, and prosperous Pennsylvania. Our work continues, with an unwavering commitment to improving life for all Pennsylvanians.”





Representative Darisha K. Parker

Vice-Chair

198th Legislative District

“As we close the door to the 23-24 legislative session, I look back on it filled with joy, accomplishment and pride. As the Majority party in the Pennsylvania House, we worked hard and had some long nights, but in

the end, we did many great things for the people of Pennsylvania. We came together, putting our different identities and cultures aside for a common good. Thanks to the extension and expansion of the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program, thousands of additional seniors were able to stay in their homes with more money than ever before. For our young families both new and expanding, we increased the amount of the Child & Dependent Tax Credit so they can worry less about the rising costs of childcare. We took the information gathered from the Basic Education Funding Commission and increased funding for our schools – plus millions in extra funding to remedy toxic schools. These are just some of the things we achieved by working together, united by our shared vision for a better future for all of Pennsylvania. When I reflect on the past year, I have to mention my “personal” wins. While they were deeply personal to me, I know that legislation I wrote, advocated for, and had passed will help all Pennsylvanians.

My legislation, House Bill 1540, was recently signed into law by Gov. Shapiro. Agriculture is a huge part of Pennsylvania’s economy, contributing over \$130 billion a year. As farming evolves, technology becomes more advanced, we need to ensure that our agriculture students are prepared to be such an integral part of Pennsylvania’s success.

This new law will allow the Commission for Agriculture Excellence to extend the deadline for which they receive important data that will shape how future farmers of PA will learn. By extending the deadline, we will allow schools more time to gather this data, ensuring accuracy.

The most exciting efforts this year were the strides we made towards menstrual equity in Pennsylvania. You came to the press conferences, listened while women from all over Pennsylvania spoke about this problem. Thanks to those actions, Gov. Shapiro allocated \$3 million for schools to purchase pads and tampons and now municipalities are following this lead. While it’s been thrilling to see the change, I am truly humbled by the support.

The key to our success this past year was advocacy. By engaging with our communities, working with each other and actively listening to what stakeholders are saying, we ensured that our solutions were impactful, and they crossed the finish line. It’s through this engagement and advocacy that real change happens. I can’t wait to do it again in the new session. Thank you all.”

Act No. 73 of 2024, July 17, 2024 (HB1540)

Reporting Requirements for the Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence

Amends Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence, to push back the annual reporting deadline from May 1st to December 1st of each year.

Representative Regina G. Young

Subcommittee Chair | 185th Legislative District

“The 2023-2024 term was nothing short of an adventure. The various twists and turns built character and strength. This term also was a constant reminder that we, as elected officials need to focus on the people we serve and not get distracted by the chaotic noise that surrounds us.

Our historic budget was felt throughout our entire district; especially as it relates to mental health and school. We can do more. We should be more. As long as we stay at the table, we will do more.”





Representative Arvind Venkat, MD

30th Legislative District

“As a new legislator and member of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, I have learned a great deal from working with colleagues who are also legislators of color. Initially, I did not know what I could add to the PLBC given that I am not Black and do not have a large Black population in my district. But what I quickly learned is that the diversity in the caucus is a strength and that being able to understand the different perspectives of colleagues from across the Commonwealth has made me a more discerning and effective legislator.

I am particularly proud that the PLBC and its partner, the Black Maternal Health Caucus, have championed addressing the Black maternal health crisis and protecting access to healthcare of all types. As the only physician in the legislature, it has been an eye-opening experience to join members who have long backgrounds in advocacy to move these important policies forward.

I also am glad that we are finally addressing the significant disparities in public education funding in our state. This is an ongoing fight that will require a united effort both to raise up under-resourced school districts and continue to fund well-resourced school districts.

I am grateful for the leadership of the PLBC, particularly former Chair Bullock and Chair Nelson, for their efforts to foster inclusion across all members of the caucus and set an ambitious agenda for all Pennsylvanians of color. I look forward to seeing what the new term holds in advancing the important efforts of the PLBC.”

Representative Jose Giral

180th Legislative District

“As a first term legislator, the early months of the 2023-2024 session were at times overwhelming. There’s a lot to learn, the train is already running and it doesn’t wait for you to get up to speed. But it was endlessly rewarding and once I quickly got up to speed, I wasted no time getting to work. We passed two budgets, which is a grueling process that takes months to complete. The nights are long and the negotiations seemingly endless, but it is worth every second it takes when it’s those moments that result in better funding for vital assistance programs and legislation that bolsters working families.

I was proud to see legislation I introduced, H.B. 816, pass the House and Senate and be signed into law by Gov. Josh Shapiro. I had heard from countless constituents that the towing process in Philadelphia was an unaccountable mess. So, I teamed up with advocates and subject matter experts to draft this bill requiring tow truck operators to take photos of violations prior to towing a vehicle in Philadelphia. This will benefit everyone involved, the courts, drivers and towing companies, and will ensure greater accountability and transparency in our city.

We accomplished a lot in the term and passed legislation that made real and tangible improvements to the lives of working people in our commonwealth. However, there’s so much more left still to do, and I can’t wait to get started in the new term.”

Act No. 43 of 2024, July 8, 2024 (HB816)

Requiring Photo Evidence of a Violation for Removal of a Vehicle in Philadelphia

Legislation that requires tow truck operators in Philadelphia to take photographic evidence of the violation for which a vehicle is being towed or removed and furnish the evidence when a person claims the vehicle.





Representative Lindsay Powell

21st Legislative District

"Friends and neighbors, 2024 has come and gone, and I am eternally grateful for having the opportunity to serve as a State Representative for my community!"

During our time in the majority, my colleagues and I passed transformational investments in our Commonwealth, with more than \$1.3 billion going toward supporting our public schools, providing \$161 million for multi-modal transportation projects across Pennsylvania, and helping our older and at-risk neighbors access the help they need with \$237.4 million going toward Medical Assistance.

While we made significant progress toward achieving our goals, there is work left unfinished. In the new session, we need to prioritize the construction of new and rehabilitation of old homes in every corner of Pennsylvania to provide a new beginning for a family to plant their roots and to build a future. We need to support and expand access to public transportation throughout the Commonwealth, which requires additional, sustained investments into our transit agencies.

Above all, we need to protect the freedoms of our neighbors – the freedom from worrying about whether they can afford groceries, the freedom from the government dictating what to do with their bodies, and the freedom from being priced out of their neighborhoods. 2025 will bring challenges, but through fighting for our beliefs and for what is right, we can, and will, create a brighter future for all our neighbors."

Representative Manuel Guzman

127th Legislative District

"The 2023-24 legislative term has been marked by notable achievements for our state, and the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus has played a significant role in those efforts. The PLBC has been instrumental in propelling the final passage of policies that address issues such as healthcare access, education, housing insecurity, criminal justice reform, and civil rights, among many others. The PLBC has also consistently encouraged discussions around social equity and inclusion.



A pivotal factor in the success of this term is the 2024-25 state budget. It bolsters economic development and job opportunities and marks a groundbreaking step towards equity in education. The spending plan opens the door for a promising future, but much more needs to be done to continue strengthening school districts across the state and ensuring that all PA students receive a quality education and access to the resources they need and deserve.

In addition, I am proud to say that persistent efforts to address the crisis of housing insecurity have paid off in a remarkable way. The budget addresses this issue by increasing investments in affordable housing by \$5 million, and it expands transfers for the PA Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement program annually to \$100 million after five years. This spending plan protects hardworking families from evictions and adds funding for organizations that help people experiencing homelessness. This is not a perfect budget, but it takes care of pressing issues impacting all Pennsylvanians and delivers for the most vulnerable segments of the population."



Representative Greg Scott 54th Legislative District

“Reflecting on the 2023-2024 term, I am proud of the progress we’ve made and the hard work that went into addressing critical issues facing our communities. One highlight was the passage of HB1664, a bill that I championed to give medical practitioners the flexibility to

choose the payment options that best suit their offices and facilities. By removing restrictive barriers with insurers, we empowered healthcare providers to operate more effectively and serve patients more efficiently. Additionally, the 2024 Pennsylvania budget was a critical step forward in balancing investments across vital sectors such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure. It wasn’t without challenges, but we worked to ensure it reflected the needs of Pennsylvanians and set a foundation for sustainable growth. Overall, this term was defined by collaboration and commitment to making positive changes, and I am grateful for the opportunity to represent our community in these efforts.”

Act No. 58 of 2024, July 15, 2024 (HB1664)

Virtual Credit Card Legislation

Legislation that does not prohibit insurers from using virtual credit card payments. It simply requires insurers to provide other payment options and gives dentists the ability to opt into the payment option that works best for their dental office or facility.

Representative Dan Williams 74th Legislative District

“Representative Williams is pleased that his sponsored bill, House Bill 863, was signed into law. This legislation addresses the national challenge of recruiting new police officers amid a wave of retirements and resignations. It also lowers the fitness requirements for prospective officers while maintaining the essential capabilities needed to perform the job effectively.



In addition to the success of HB 863, Representative Williams was the prime sponsor of several bills addressing a wide range of issues, including substance use treatment, hospital acquisition and price transparency, and senior property tax freezes. One notable piece of legislation, House Bill 859, will empower local governments statewide to support neighborhood revitalization efforts that benefit communities for years to come. Representative Williams plans to reintroduce much of the legislation that did not pass this session in the new session.

While he is proud of the progress made, Representative Williams would have liked to see more funding allocated to underserved communities, particularly schools in low-income districts. He believes that equitable access to quality education is a fundamental right and intends to continue advocating for this issue. He is looking forward to another productive two years in office and is grateful for the opportunity to serve the wonderful people of Pennsylvania’s 74th district.”

Act No. 37 of 2023, Dec. 14, 2023 (HB863)

Revising Fitness Standards for Police Officers

Legislation that will reduce these requirements so that an applicant only has to score in at least the 15th percentile for these evaluations. Applicants would still be required to score no lower than the 30th percentile in order to be employed as a police officer.



Representative Gina H. Curry

164th Legislative District

“Throughout my term, I’ve fought for the health and well-being of Pennsylvania families, establishing the PA Black Maternal Health Caucus and championing the PA Momnibus bill package to combat inequities in maternal care. I’ve worked tirelessly to secure protections for mothers, reform juvenile detention facilities, increase financial

transparency in hospitals, and expand educational opportunities through initiatives like the student teacher stipend program. I’ve also advanced critical public safety measures, including the Ebony Alert to protect missing Black and Brown children and emergency towing laws to keep our roads safe for all.”

Act No. 46 of 2024, July 8, 2024 (HB2233)

Towing During an Emergency as Instructed by Law Enforcement

Permits a tow truck operator to violate certain state or local traffic laws during the rescue or removal of a disabled vehicle when directed to do so by an on-duty police officer.



Senator Vincent J. Hughes

7th Senatorial District

“The 2023-24 legislative term marked many achievements for Pennsylvania and the priorities of the Legislative Black Caucus. Most importantly, we made a historic down payment on our responsibility to fix Pennsylvania’s education funding system with an increase of over \$1B for Pre-K to 12 education funding. Our work isn’t finished but that investment marked a significant milestone for Pennsylvania’s public education system. We also celebrated first-time, state investments in indigent defense and student teacher stipends.



With billions in surplus, we’re going to keep fighting for Pennsylvania to invest in areas that need more, including more for education, measures to address the Commonwealth’s teacher shortage, and affordable housing. Investments in these areas directly impact our communities and are necessary to grow opportunity and prosperity for Black Pennsylvanians.

We’re moving on to the next session with many wins, but we can’t forget that Senate Republicans left many commonsense laws untouched, including universal background checks for gun purchases, red flag laws, and a cost-of-living increase for pensions for retired state workers. Those issues will remain top priorities for the PLBC as we begin our work next year.”

Act No. 50 of 2024, July 8, 2024 (SB645)

An Act that establishes a ten-year statute of limitations on acquisition of privately owned vacant land for community gardens in Philadelphia, and adds vacant lot provisions to current law allowing a communities in Philadelphia to obtain title to privately owned vacant lots in their neighborhoods, if the privately owned lot is used as a garden.



Representative Carol Hill-Evans

95th Legislative District

"As the 2023-2024 legislative session term closed for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, I reflect with great joy and optimism about the achievements we have been able to collectively accomplish.

In my first few months as the State Government Committee Chair, I was proud to lead the charge in the bipartisan effort toward election integrity by passing the Electoral Count Reform Act (ECRA) Bill out of the State Government Committee. Agreeing on Pennsylvania's election procedures and codifying them to be in line with the rest of the country is exactly where the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania needed to be.

I am extremely pleased with the passage of HB1100 that I prime sponsored with several other legislators which expands the Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program. This was a big win for homeowners, renters and seniors, all over Pennsylvania. Not only did this expand the amount recipients would be eligible for, but the law includes an annual cost of living adjustment so that in future years, the Property/Rent Rebate Program will keep pace with inflation, and no one will lose their rebate just because they received a modest increase in their Social Security benefits.

There was the passage of HB1171, the Master/ Emergency Shut Off Legislation I introduced which would increase the maximum distance between master control emergency shut-off devices and fuel dispensers from 200 feet to 350 feet at refueling stations. This bill increases safety for pedestrians and the vehicles requiring service. Fuel dispensers will be placed farther from the convenience stores, and therefore farther from pedestrians. It will create safer vehicle circulation around the site and separate traffic flows of commercial and passenger vehicles. The bill will also create jobs as gas stations will have the ability to expand.

It was wonderful to be a part of supporting education funding for mental health resources for school aged children and beyond. I'm proud to be one of the legislators who helped deliver increased education funding as part of a \$1.3 billion investment and a fundamental reimagining of how we pay for schools via Governor Shapiro's budget-finally making sure we put the money where it does the most good. I voted for HB2370 which drives more than \$5 billion in targeted investments over 7 years to address inequities in funding all while reducing the taxpayer burden. I will continue to advocate for the delivery of equity and equality in school funding for every kid-because everything starts with a good education.

Certainly, I want to add that I support Veterans and have legislation in circulation to that fact, like HB235 which would establish the Veteran's Housing Assistance Program and HB2652 which would expand access to free death certificates for Veterans.

Overall, it has been a successful, exciting, and productive legislative term, I am honored to have been a part of it and look forward to another opportunity to serve. I am motivated to continue making a positive impact for the people I serve and this Commonwealth as a whole."

Act No. 12 of 2023, Oct. 11, 2023 (HB1171)

MASTER/ EMERGENCY SHUT OFF LEGISLATION

Legislation amending Pennsylvania's Combustible and Flammable Liquids Act to increase the maximum distance between master control emergency shut-off devices and fuel dispensers from 200 feet to 350 feet. Making it so fuel dispensers can be placed farther from convenience stores, and therefore, farther from pedestrians. Also creating safer vehicle circulation around the site and separate the traffic flows of commercial and passenger vehicles.



Senator Anthony H. Williams

8th Senatorial District

“As we reflect on the past two years, Pennsylvania’s General Assembly has achieved notable legislative and budget accomplishments aimed at uplifting our communities and promoting equity across the Commonwealth.

The Fiscal Year 2023-24 State Budget included transformative initiatives such as expanding Property Tax and Rent Rebates, reaching nearly 175,000 additional Pennsylvanians and increasing rebates for existing

beneficiaries. We established universal free breakfast for all public-school students, ensuring that every child begins the day with a nutritious meal. For the first time, we allocated funding for indigent defense, a crucial step toward fair representation in our justice system.

We also invested in Student Teacher Stipends and over \$100 million in enhancements for the Child & Dependent Care Tax Credit, which benefits working families. Mental health support received a boost with \$20 million allocated for county services and \$100 million for school mental health grants, enhancing student well-being.

In Fiscal Year 2024-25, our focus on vulnerable populations continued with increased funding for affordable housing, homelessness assistance, and domestic violence programs. We allocated \$56.5 million for gun violence intervention and prevention, addressing a critical issue affecting many communities. While making historic investments in public education, we also increased the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) by \$75 million to support nonpublic school education for students in need of greater academic opportunities.

The budget also reflected a commitment to economic development, building on first-time funding for the Historically Disadvantaged Business Program by investing \$20 million to support small minority-owned businesses. Additionally, we secured \$500 million for the PA SITES Debt Service program to facilitate business relocation and expansion.

Legislatively, we extended PACE/PACENET eligibility for continued prescription drug coverage and implemented telemedicine insurance coverage to enhance healthcare access. We passed comprehensive probation reform and advanced Clean Slate 3.0, both aimed at improving justice outcomes. The bipartisan Stop-and-Go Legislative Task Force released its report, paving the way for future initiatives to address community safety and responsible business ownership in Philadelphia’s liquor licensed establishments. Furthermore, the enactment of Act 100 introduced a natural hair braider license exemption, promoting inclusivity and entrepreneurship. Together, these legislative accomplishments reflect a commitment to justice, equity, and community empowerment throughout Pennsylvania.

While celebrating these achievements, I acknowledge that our work is far from finished. Many noble and greatly needed legislative initiatives withered on the vine of inaction. We must continue to advocate for robust mass transit funding to get folks to work and school, as well as critical gun safety laws to ensure no man, woman or child continue to know the scourge of gun violence. Looking ahead, the goal must remain a more equitable future for all communities in our great Commonwealth.”



Senator Patty Kim 15th Senatorial District (Former Representative of 103rd Legislative District)

“Reflecting on my time in service, several major milestones stand out to me.

For one, the members of the Black Caucus have shaped the way I led in the House.

I remember being on the House floor and former Representative Brian Sims was speaking up on equality rights. During his plea, Representative Vanessa Lowery Brown, who is Black, got out of her seat and quietly stood behind him.

Other members of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus joined him, including myself, as we stood behind Representative Sims in solidarity.

Rep. Lowery Brown taught me a powerful way to show our support: simply and literally by standing up for others.

We do a lot of standing for causes in the Capitol and across Pennsylvania – too many news conferences and rallies to count – but each time we stand we are sharing the stories of the people. That is what we are: representatives of the people; the more vulnerable the more important.

I will always be grateful for former PLBC Chairman Representative Ron Waters. He knew I wanted to join the Pennsylvania Black Legislative Caucus so he changed the Caucus’s bylaws so I could join.

He also recommended that I hold pardon seminars in my district when I was a freshman, some 12 years ago. My office’s pardon expos are the most popular events that we do, and it truly allows us to see lives changed. Again, the most rewarding work is work performed for the most vulnerable and in need of help.

My other milestones revolve around the yearly state budget. Most years, the most important and impactful thing we legislators do is advocate for state spending that prioritizes the people. Each year, we strive to put forth a budget that invests in the poor, working poor and middle classes. This year’s budget was no exception as it made critical, desperately needed investments into struggling schools that need it most. Education funding in every Democratic-shaped budget has been our primary focus – because it makes the most impact on our future in Pennsylvania.

The budget also supports the vulnerable by cutting taxes and costs for working families and delivering more money to create jobs on Main Streets across the commonwealth. Small businesses – and especially minority owned small businesses – are what deliver us prosperity for all. This year’s budget provides \$20 million in funding specifically to support Pennsylvania’s small, minority-owned businesses to help close the racial wealth gap.

And finally, Pennsylvania tripled its child care and dependent tax credit this year, putting more money in families’ pockets than ever before. We show our values in the budget, and this commitment expresses our faith in everyday Pennsylvanians.

In short, budget investments not only provide immediate relief through essential services such as health care, housing, and education but also lay the groundwork for long-term growth by breaking the cycle of poverty. For this, I am most proud.”



Representative Aerion A. Abney 19th Legislative District

Act No. 118 of 2024, Oct. 29, 2024 (HB2378)

Exclusion of Savings Bonds being counted towards income

Legislation that excludes the principal and any interest accrued from savings bonds for seniors 65+ when calculating income eligibility for PACE and PACENET prescription drug programs.



Representative Rick Krajewski 188th Legislative District

Act No. 48 of 2023, Dec. 14, 2023 (HB1058)

Giving Kinship Care Providers a Voice in Child Custody Proceedings

Legislation to require that in child custody proceedings, courts solicit and consider the opinions of those who engaged with the family finding and kinship care programs before and during the proceedings.



Representative Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz 129th Legislative District

Act No. 31 of 2024, June 28, 2024 (HB1818)

Strengthening the Self-Service Storage Facility Act

Legislation that amends the Self-Storage Facility Act to allow an owner to publish a redundant advertisement on an internet website. If the newspaper advertisement fails to be timely published by the newspaper, the redundant advertisement shall be considered valid on the date the advertisement is published on the internet.



Representative Morgan Cephas 192nd Legislative District

Act No. 47 of 2023, Dec. 14, 2023 (HB900)

Dignity for Incarcerated Women

An Act that limits the use of restrictive housing, restraints, and cavity searches on pregnant or postpartum incarcerated women and children, and provides for trauma-informed care, family visitation opportunities, postpartum recovery, and issuance of feminine hygiene products at no cost.

Act No. 55 of 2023, Dec. 14, 2023 (HB1478)

Dental Screenings by Dental Hygienists

An Act that amends the Public School code to provide school districts flexibility with providing dental screenings and dental hygiene.

Act No. 115 of 2024, Oct. 29, 2024 (HB1608)

Addressing Maternal Mortality: Medicaid Coverage for Doulas (Former HB1175)

Legislation that would extend Medicaid coverage to doula services while also creating a Doula Advisory Board.



Representative Jason Dawkins 179th Legislative District

Act No. 30 of 2024, June 28, 2024 (HB1333)

Allowing Recycled Materials in Stuffed Toys

Allows for the use of recycled materials in stuffed toys manufactured in Pennsylvania and requires an annual report.



Former Representative Stephen Kinsey 201st Legislative District

Act No. 52 of 2023, Dec. 14, 2023 (HB1258)

Calculating ADM for College in the High School - Dual Enrollment

An Act that allows high school students enrolled in a dual credit course through an institution of higher education and do not leave their school entity to attend the dual credit course to be included in the school entity's average daily membership.



Representative Napoleon Nelson

Chairman of The Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus

154th Legislative District

Act No. 51 of 2023, Dec. 14, 2023 (HB1160)

Permanently Allowing Unlimited Off Premise Catering Permits for Licensees

Legislation that would allow these licensees to hold an unlimited number of off premise catering events.

Act No. 114 of 2024, Oct. 29, 2024 (HB1509)

Empowering Counties to Expand Boards of Inspectors for Jails and Prisons

Legislation to allow boards of inspectors for county jails and prisons the option to include 2-4 members of the public on their board.



Representative Chris Rabb

200th Legislative District

Act No. 30 of 2023, Nov. 21, 2023 (HB295)

Updating the Pennsylvania Soil & Plant Amendment Acts

Eliminates registration fees, tonnage fees and tonnage reporting for soil amendments and plant amendments for products that have a dual use as a fertilizer.



Representative Ismail Smith-Wade-El

Secretary

49th Legislative District

Act No. 44 of 2024, July 8, 2024 (HB1477)

LGC Bill Summary

Amends the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) to provide authorization for electronic transmittals and submissions, including proposed comprehensive plans, proposed land use ordinances or adopted comprehensive plans and amendments.

Act No. 148 of 2024, Nov. 18, 2024 (HB1850)

LGC Bill Summary

Clarifies advertisement provisions of the Second Class Township Code when townships reappoint certified public accountants (CPAs) to replace elected auditors.



Former Representative Donna Bullock 195th Legislative District

Act No. 46 of 2023, Dec. 14, 2023 (HB666)

Permitting Work Contracts for Philadelphia Housing Authority Employees

Legislation that amends the Pennsylvania Housing Authorities Law to remove the requirement for “at will” executives and allows the PHA to negotiate performance-based contracts and compensation arrangements.

Act No. 100 of 2024, Oct. 16, 2024 (HB1820)

Natural Hair Braiders Exemption

An Act that exempts braiders from having to obtain a cosmetology license.

Representative Justin C. Fleming Treasurer 105th Legislative District

Act No. 54 of 2023, Dec. 14, 2023 (HB1289)

Removing Racially Restrictive Deed Covenants

An Act that provides property owners or homeowner associations a streamlined process to repudiate racially restrictive deed covenants.

Act No. 117 of 2024, Oct. 29, 2024 (HB2185)

Type 1 Diabetes Education Parental Notification

Directs the Department of Health to develop a fact sheet to parents and guardians of students educating them about the warning signs of Type-1 Diabetes (T1D).





Save The Date 2025

James R. Roebuck Scholarship Applications Open – January, 2025

Black History Month Program with PUC – February 19, 2025

Crystal Bird Faucet Awards – March 27, 2025

Black Maternal Health Week – April, 2025

4th Annual K. Leroy Irvis Conference – May 21-22, 2025

Be on the lookout for “The Gavel” Podcast – February, 2025

AND SO MUCH MORE ...

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