

**UPDATE OF STATE SENATE BILLS OF INTEREST
2019-2020 LEGISLATIVE TERM**

**Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
November 2019 through January 2020**

Bills introduced or moved by the legislature these months appear in red.

<u>Bill Number & Prime Sponsor</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>PFB Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
SB 27 Brooks	Would proportionately reduce and eliminate in eight years the rate of inheritance tax imposed on property received by a decedent's surviving siblings.	SUPPORTS AND SEEKS FURTHER AMENDMENTS	In the SENATE FINANCE Committee
SB 28 Brooks	Would proportionately reduce and eliminate in ten years the rate of inheritance tax imposed on property received by a decedent's surviving siblings.	SUPPORTS AND SEEKS FURTHER AMENDMENTS	Reported from Original Senate Committee In the SENATE APPROPRIATIONS Committee
SB 46 K. Ward	Would require municipalities that do not have independent police forces to enter into contracts with the State Police for furnishing of police protection. Contracts would require payment of municipal revenues for services provided.	OPPOSES	In the SENATE LAW & JUSTICE Committee
SB 100 Brooks	Would require all health insurance policies to include coverage for longer-term antibiotic treatment of patients documented with Lyme disease or related tick-borne illness and prohibit denial of coverage for longer-term antibiotic treatment on the basis that such treatment is unproven, experimental or investigational.	SUPPORTS	In the SENATE BANKING & INSURANCE Committee

<u>Bill Number & Prime Sponsor</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>PFB Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
SB 114 Boscola	Would amend the Vehicle Code to: (1) require vehicle operators to take reasonable action to remove ice and snow from a vehicle within 24 hours of the ending time of snowfall or an ice storm, with imposition of fines for failure to take action; (2) increasing from \$1,000 to \$1,500 the maximum fine for violation of the Code's current violation of allowing snow or ice to fall from a vehicle that results in death or serious injury.	NOT ADDRESSED IN PFB POLICY	Passed by the Senate In the HOUSE TRANSPORTATION Committee
SB 124 DiSanto	Would exempt schools and school districts from prevailing wage requirements.	SUPPORTS	In the SENATE LABOR & INDUSTRY Committee
SB 145 Yaw	Would amend the Ag Area Security Law to: (1) allow the owner of a preserved farm to waive the right of future construction of a residence on the farm property; (2) allow for subdivision of an existing residence on a preserved farm.	SUPPORTS	<i>Enacted – See discussion of HB 370 in PFB's House Legislative Report.</i>
SB 147 Laughlin	Would amend the Game and Wildlife Code by: (1) authorizing the Game Commission to establish three Sundays that general hunting would be permitted, two of which would occur during archery and rifled seasons for deer; (2) strengthening trespass while hunting provisions to make violation a summary offense and increase penalties; (3) requiring hunters to obtain written permission from the landowner for hunting on private land during those days authorized for Sunday hunting under the legislation.	NEUTRAL (Based on Amendments Made in House Game & Fisheries Committee)	Amendments to Senate Version Passed by the House Senate Concurs in House Amendments Signed by the Governor ACT 107 OF 2019

<u>Bill Number & Prime Sponsor</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>PFB Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
SB 169 Schwank	Would allow for offers for supply of locally grown or processed food and food products be given preference in bids in State food contracts, provided the total cost of the offer would not exceed 10 percent of the lowest responsible bid.	NOT ADDRESSED IN PFB POLICY	In the SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT Committee
SB 170 Haywood	Would amend provisions of the state Farmers' Market Grant program to expand the scope of projects and enterprises eligible for cost-share program grants (such as agritourism enterprises); increase the maximum amount that can be obtained by a marketing location; and establish a continuing level annual appropriation for program grants.	SUPPORTS	In the SENATE AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS Committee
SB 188 Leach	Would prohibit and assess civil penalties for use of "nontherapeutic" antibiotics in animals for health or growth management. Would also require animal farm operations to file affidavits annually confirming that the operations have not administered antibiotics in violation of the prohibition in antibiotic use. Would also require that priority be given in use of appropriations for animal health or agricultural research to development of alternatives to use of antibiotics in animals.	OPPOSES	In the SENATE AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS Committee
SB 201 DiSanto	Would amend the state income tax law to allow for use of like-kind exchange strategies in management of capital gains tax on sales of held property.	SUPPORTS	Reported from Original Senate Committee In the SENATE APPROPRIATIONS Committee

<u>Bill Number & Prime Sponsor</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>PFB Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
SB 202 J. Ward	Would amend the state income tax law to allow for deduction of net business losses from taxable income from other income classes.	SUPPORTS	In the SENATE FINANCE Committee
SB 203 Hutchinson	Would amend the state income tax to increase to \$100,000 the maximum amount of business expense deduction that may be claimed from purchase of equipment in a tax year.	SUPPORTS	In the SENATE FINANCE Committee
SB 213 Farnese	Would establish an animal abuser registry in each county and require persons residing in a county who have been convicted of a felony offense of cruelty to animals, a felony violation of a statute protecting animal welfare, or a second or subsequent conviction of the “neglect” provisions of the cruelty to animals law to register.	OPPOSES	In the SENATE LAW & JUSTICE Committee
SB 256 Dinniman	Would amend the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act to encourage the use of compost, including spent mushroom compost, in best management practices to be employed in municipal projects for erosion and sediment control and post construction stormwater management.	NOT ADDRESSED IN PFB POLICY	Reported from Original Senate Committee ON THE SENATE FLOOR CALENDAR
SB 305 Baker	Would statutorily designate the regulatory action by the Delaware River Basin Commission to ban the use of hydraulic fracturing within the watershed basin as a taking of property interest, entitling landowners affected to just compensation through eminent domain.	SUPPORTS	Reported from Original Senate Committee In the SENATE APPROPRIATIONS Committee

<u>Bill Number & Prime Sponsor</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>PFB Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
SB 318 Yaw	Would increase the minimum level of total cost necessary for a public work project to be subject to requirement for payment of prevailing wages from \$25,000 to \$185,000.	SUPPORTS AND SEEKS FURTHER AMENDMENTS	In the SENATE LABOR & INDUSTRY Committee
SB 334 Argall	Would eliminate authority of school districts and municipalities to file appeals to challenge tax assessment values of individual real property tax parcels, except when the parcel has gone through a countywide reassessment, been divided into smaller parcels, or a change in the productive use of the property has occurred.	SUPPORTS	Reported from Original Senate Committee In the SENATE APPROPRIATIONS Committee
SB 335 Schwank	Would establish a specific standard of THC content for cannabis that qualifies as “industrial hemp” under state law, and would authorize the production of plants and the use and marketing of food products made from cannabis meeting that standard.	NOT ADDRESSED IN PFB POLICY	In the SENATE AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS Committee
SB 338 Langerholc	Would amend the Vehicle Code to increase the maximum width allowance for implements of husbandry to be operated on highways other than freeways under the Code’s special width provisions to 18 feet.	SUPPORTS	ACT 28 OF 2019
SB 342 Stefano	Would exempt from state inheritance tax transfers of property to individuals 21 years of age and younger.	SUPPORTS AND SEEKS FURTHER AMENDMENTS	<i>Enacted – See discussion of SB 262.</i>
SB 453 Ward	Would provide a conditional exemption from requirements and standards normally imposed under the Statewide Building Code in use of agricultural buildings originally constructed before 1999 for social events (such as weddings), provided the building and event meet standards and requirements	SUPPORTS	Passed by the Senate In the HOUSE LABOR & INDUSTRY Committee

<u>Bill Number & Prime Sponsor</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>PFB Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
	specifically prescribed in the legislation.		
SB 478 Vogel	Would provide state income tax credits to owners of agricultural assets (such as land, livestock buildings and machinery) who sell or lease such assets to beginning farmers.	SUPPORTS	ACT 65 OF 2019
SB 485 Laughlin	Would transfer authority for sale and issuance of antlerless deer licenses from county agencies to the Game Commission, and would direct the use of the PA Automated License System for application and issuance of licenses.	NOT ADDRESSED IN PFB POLICY	Reported from Senate Committees ON THE SENATE FLOOR CALENDAR
SB 552 Stephano	Would give the Game Commission authority for approximately one year to increase by regulation hunting license and permit fees. Any proposed increase in fee would be subject to a formal process for public review and comment, review and comment by House and Senate Committees, and potential disapproval by the General Assembly (subject to veto by the Governor).	NOT ADDRESSED IN PFB POLICY	Reported from Original Senate Committee In the Senate APPROPRIATIONS Committee
SB 553 Stephano	Would give the Fish and Boat Commission authority for approximately three years to increase by regulation fishing and boating license and permit fees. Any proposed increase in fee would be subject to a formal process for public review and comment, review and comment by House and Senate Committees, and potential disapproval by the General Assembly (subject to veto by the Governor).	NOT ADDRESSED IN PFB POLICY	Reported from Original Senate Committee In the Senate APPROPRIATIONS Committee

<u>Bill Number & Prime Sponsor</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>PFB Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
SB 575 Yaw	Would establish by statute a program for state purchase of tradable nutrient and sediment credits from performance of conservation measures through competitive bidding process, to be administered by PennVEST. The legislation would also provide for an appropriation of \$20 million for purchasing credits under the program.	SUPPORTS	Passed by the Senate In the HOUSE STATE GOVERNMENT Committee
SB 583 Aument	Would authorize performance of agritourism activities on farms preserved under the state farmland preservation program, and provide means for farmers to obtain timely approval of practices from county preservation boards.	SUPPORTS	Passed by the Senate In the HOUSE AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS Committee
SB 585 Corman	Would create and establish a Dairy Future Commission, comprised of representatives of the public and private sector (including a representative of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau), to review factors affecting the state's dairy industry and offer recommendations to improve economic opportunities for and minimize economic barriers imposed on persons engaged in commercially in dairy enterprises.	SUPPORTS	ACT 66 OF 2019

<u>Bill Number & Prime Sponsor</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>PFB Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
SB 622 Sabatina	Would amend tax provisions of the REAP tax credit program to: (1) increase the maximum amount of total annual tax credits that may be approved by Commonwealth by \$3 million (\$13 million total); (2) increase the total REAP credits that may be provided to any individual from \$150,000 total to \$250,000 per any 7-year period; (3) increase to 50 percent (previously 25 %) the portion of cost for streambank erosion projects that could approved for REAP credits; (4) increase to 90 percent (previously 50 %) the portion of cost for “high priority best management” projects that could approved for REAP credits; (5) Allow for tax credits to be applied to offset taxable income of spouse when credit holder and spouse file a joint tax return.	SUPPORTS	<i>Enacted – See discussion of HB 262 in PFB’s House Legislative Report</i>
SB 623 Schwank	Would establish a program for administration and promotion of Pennsylvania-produced organic products through the PA Preferred trademark.	SUPPORTS	<i>Substantially accomplished as part of the enacted state budget legislation (HB 790)</i>
SB 624 Schwank	Would exempt from realty transfer tax transfers of farm real property to beginning farmers.	SUPPORTS	<i>Enacted – See discussion of HB 262 in PFB’s House Legislative Report</i>
SB 627 Street	Would establish the Urban Agricultural Infrastructure Grant Program to provide grants for improving development or marketing of farm products within urban areas.	SUPPORTS	<i>Enacted – See discussion of SB 661</i>
SB 634 Yaw	Would establish a Conservation Excellence Grant Program for providing financial and technical assistance to farmers implementing best management practices in high priority watersheds.	SUPPORTS	ACT 39 OF 2019

<u>Bill Number & Prime Sponsor</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>PFB Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
SB 661 J. Ward	Would: (1) establish an Agricultural Business Development Center within the PA Department of Agriculture to assist farmers in development of business plans, transition plans, and succession plans for economic enhancement; (2) re-establish the Agriculture and Rural Youth Development Program to provide grants to rural youth organizations for personal development in agriculture, vocational training and social and community development; (3) establish a state Specialty Crop Block Grant Program to financially assist farmers in production of high-priority crops to supplement the federal specialty crop program; (4) establish the Urban Agricultural Infrastructure Grant Program administered by the PA Department of Agriculture to provide grants for improving development or marketing of farm products within urban areas.	SUPPORTS	ACT 40 OF 2019
SB 679 Yaw	Would establish a program for expedited permitting for counties to perform stream maintenance and cleaning in response to effects of flooding and post flood conditions.	SUPPORTS	Reported from Original Senate Committee In the SENATE APPROPRIATIONS Committee
SB 741 Costa	Would require municipalities who utilize State Police in performing responsibilities of law enforcement to pay fees for services provided.	OPPOSES	In the SENATE FINANCE Committee
SB 835 Langerholc	Would establish a pilot program to provide cost-share grants through the Department of Community and Economic Development to improve broadband infrastructure in underserved areas (service with less than 25 megabits per second downstream and 3 megabits per second upstream).	SUPPORTS	In the SENATE COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY Committee

<u>Bill Number & Prime Sponsor</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>PFB Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
SB 838 Phillips-Hill	Would amend the Prevailing Wage Law by allowing municipalities and school districts optional authority not to be subject to the Law’s wage payment requirements. The bill would also require the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to complete in 5 years a study and report of impacts resulting from exercise of optional authority.	SUPPORTS	In the SENATE LABOR & INDUSTRY Committee
SB 875 Stefano	Would exempt from state sales tax the purchase of protective equipment by a volunteer firefighter that will be used by the person in performance of emergency response activities by his or her fire company.	SUPPORTS	In the SENATE FINANCE Committee
SB 915 Yaw	Would impose additional restrictions and requirements in the use and commercial application of lawn fertilizer on residential properties, including some potential uses of fertilizer on farms.	STUDYING	In the SENATE AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS Committee
SB 928 Leach	Would amend the Crimes Code by creating a new criminal offense for use of live animals in traveling exhibitions, punishable as a third-degree misdemeanor.	AMENDMENTS NEEDED	In the SENATE JUDICIARY Committee
AB 995 Laughlin	Would amend the Vehicle Code by increasing the maximum width of eligibility for a vehicle to be a “multipurpose agricultural vehicle” from 62 to 66 inches.	SUPPORTS	In the SENATE TRANSPORTATION Committee