



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Association of Pennsylvania

Acts Affecting County Government 2024

The following is a list of acts and vetoes affecting county government that [passed in 2024](#). 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 4](#) (HB 1564, P.N. 2568; March 28, 2024) - Amends the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapist and Professional Counselors Act, creating a Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist (LAMFT) credential for the commonwealth to add crucial resources for mental health care providers. This amendment expands the pool of qualified mental health care providers, consequently enhancing the accessibility of mental health services.

[ACT 8](#) (SB 55, P.N. 1169; April 15, 2024) - Amends Titles 23 (Domestic Relations) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), enhancing the criteria judges must consider for custody and visitation decisions, prioritizing child protection and mandates safety measures in custody order if there's a history or ongoing risk of abuse. Additionally, establishes annual training for judges and court staff on child abuse, adverse childhood experiences, and domestic violence.

[ACT 11](#) (HB358, P.N. 1789; May 8, 2024) Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), establishing the Keystone First Responder Award in recognizing public servants who were either killed or suffered a career ending injury in the line of duty. The award honors emergency responders, firefighters, emergency medical service personnel, coroners, and 911 dispatchers.

[ACT 12](#) (HB 917, P.N. 2874; May 8, 2024) - Amends the Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), adopting the Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act that provides families with a voluntary and private process for resolving disputes instead of going to court.

[ACT 14](#) (SB 945, P.N. 1111; May 8, 2024) - Amends Title 16 (Counties), consolidating the freestanding County Code into Title 16 of the Consolidated Statutes. The bill provides several modifications to conform to case law developments, removes obsolete provision and incorporates other minor substantive changes.

[ACT 18](#) (SB 37, P.N. 1588; June 5, 2024) - Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in establishing comprehensive standards and penalties for the use of cellphones and other electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle. It includes specific exemptions for radios and emergency response equipment.

[ACT 21](#) (SB 277, P.N. 1589; June 10, 2024) - Amends the Rural Pennsylvania Revitalization Act, in restructuring the board of directors for the Center for Rural Pennsylvania and establishing the Rural Population Revitalization Commission. The Commission must issue biennial reports on

population change in rural areas of the commonwealth, seeking recommendations focused on both in retaining and attracting residents to rural Pennsylvania while addressing challenges faced by rural communities due to population shifts. Two CCAP representatives are designated to serve on the Commission: a representative from a rural county with interest or experience in Human Services and a representative who holds office in a rural county.

[ACT 23](#) (SB 1018, P.N. 1275; June 10, 2024) - Amends Title 2 (Administrative Law and Procedure), adding a subchapter to provide for child victims and witnesses, establishing rights to protect children who witness or are victims of abuse. The Department of Human Services (DHS) may assign an advocate for the child and the court may permit alternative forms of testimony to support the child's well being. Further, a petition may be submitted on behalf of a child using department-developed form to access specific provision. The petition can be made by an attorney representing a county agency in the proceeding in which the child will testify.

[ACT 27](#) (SB 126, P.N. 1681; June 17, 2024) - Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), exempting 100% of disabled veteran's benefit payment from being counted as income when determining eligibility for any program or benefit provided by the commonwealth. Further, extends this exemption to unmarried surviving spouses of veterans.

[ACT 33](#) (SB 824, P.N. 1151; June 28, 2024) - Amends the Breach of Personal Information Notification Act, providing for access to free credit reports and monitoring in the event of a data breach. This legislation requires businesses and organizations to notify Attorney General when a data breach impacts more than 500 individuals. Further allows affected individuals to access a free credit report once a month for a period of six months following notification and credit monitoring services for each year.

[ACT 34](#) (SB 887, P.N. 1053; June 28, 2024) - Amends Title 9 (Burial Grounds), exempting municipalities and counties from specific deposit and registration requirements for cemetery companies. Specifically, the bill includes municipalities and counties into the pre-existing exceptions for religious and fraternal organization, removing the permanent lot care fund with the State Real Estate Commission.

[ACT 35](#) (SB 1138, P.N. 1725; June 30, 2024) - Amends the Administrative Code, in extending the sunset of the State Geospatial Coordinating board to June 30, 2028.

[ACT 41](#) (SB 1084, P.N. 1440; July 1, 2024) - Amends Title 13 (Commercial Code) and 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries), in modernizing the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) establishing uniform rules to govern digital asset transactions. This legislation establishes guidelines to for "controllable electronic records", which includes assets such as virtual currencies, non-fungible tokens, and electronic accounts and payment obligations. Lastly, the bill updates other technical terms in the UCC.

[ACT 42](#) (SB 739, P.N. 1670; July 3, 2024) - Amends Title 40 (Insurance), in establishing guidelines for telemedicine services and clarify insurance company reimbursement for these services.

Payments are established between the provider and the insurer. Further, the bill clarifies behavioral health services are included in the definition of a “health care service” for diagnosis, prevention, treatment, cure or relief of a health condition, illness, injury or diseases. Additionally, it clarifies that a county or multicounty agreement with the Department of Human Services (DHS) for behavioral health is captured under the umbrella term of provision of services in agreement with DHS, solidifying counties collaboration with the Department to regulate and administer telehealth services throughout the commonwealth.

[ACT 44](#) (HB 1477, P.N. 1663; July 8, 2024) - Amends the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, to provide authorization for digital submissions and electronic transmittals of comprehensive plans or amendments and land use ordinances or amendments for review, comments, or recommendations. The bill codifies what is generally already current practice and eliminates confusion on whether digital transmittals are permissible.

[ACT 48](#) (SB 149, P.N. 734, July 8, 2024) - Amends the Real Estate Tax Sale Law, establishing a county demolition and rehabilitation fund in each county. Specifically allows counties to levy a fee up to \$250 on delinquent property sales or mortgage foreclosures to fund demolition projects. The fund and fees are optional for counties.

[ACT 53](#) (SB 219, P.N. 188, July 11, 2024) - Amends the First and Second Class County Property Tax Relief Act, changing the program name to the Longtime Owner-Occupant Property (LOOP) Tax Relief program and expanding the program to include second-class cities, in addition to first and second class counties.

[ACT 54](#) (HB 2310, P.N. 3506, July 11, 2024) - Omnibus amendments to the Fiscal Code providing for implementation of provisions contained in the FY 2024-2025 state budget.

- Confirms the \$20 million increase in county mental health base funds for FY 2024-2025.
- Increase in the Payment in lieu of Taxes (PILTs) for state forests and parks from \$2.40 to \$3.00 per acre for counties
- Extends the elimination of local match requirements for entities that receive funding through the MultiModal Transportation Program until December 31, 2025.
- Establishes the Streamlining Permits for Economic Development Program and tasks the Department of Environment Protection to administer the program and the Mixed-Use Revitalization program.
- Further allows for up to \$165,000 in state agricultural conservation easement funds to be allocated for grants of up to \$5,000 each. These grants are intended for succession planning, ensuring that agricultural operations can continue on preserved farmland.
- Reauthorizing the Fire and EMS grant program through December 31, 2029.
- Provides \$80.5 million in one-time funding for transit agencies.

[ACT 70](#) (SB 447, P.N. 1799; July 17, 2024) - Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), codifying the PA VETConnect Program into law.

[ACT 71](#) (HB 1086, P.N. 1303; July 17, 2024) - Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), mandating that information collected under the Veterans Registry be transmitted to County Directors of Veterans Affairs and utilized by DMVA's PA VETConnect program for community outreach services.

[ACT 75](#) (HB 1853, P.N. 1853; July 17, 2024) - Amends the Health Care Facilities Act, in requiring the Department of Health's Nursing Care Field Offices to hold annual meetings with staff from the licensed nursing facilities under their jurisdiction to review information on survey results, patterns, trends, and best practices to improve quality care.

[ACT 78](#) (HB 2182, P.N. 3145; July 17, 2024) - Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in permitting highway construction and maintenance vehicles to be equipped with flashing or revolving green lights. This legislation applies to any municipality or department owned vehicle that is used for maintenance, construction, or repair of a highway or bridge.

[ACT 85](#) (SB 656, P.N. 1811; July 17, 2024) - Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), imposing an annual fee on electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and provides for an alternative fuels tax on electricity. The revenue generated from the fee is deposited into the Motor License Fund for highway maintenance and construction, aligning with the states infrastructure funding goals related to electric vehicles.

[ACT 87](#) (SB 831, P.N. 1793; July 17, 2024) - Establishes the Carbon Dioxide Geologic Sequestration Primary Act, in authorizing the legal and regulatory framework for carbon dioxide capture, utilization and sequestration (CCUS) in Pennsylvania. Further mandates the commonwealth to seek primary enforcement authority from the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency for carbon dioxide underground injection wells (Class VI wells). Requires counties to keep records of the collective storage order process and maintaining transparency in leasing or conveying pore space under public land. Further requires any lease or conveyance of pore space under public land must proceed with public notice for opportunity for public comment and the county is responsible for facilitating the publication of this notice.

[ACT 91](#) (SB 1246, P.N. 1805; July 17, 2024) - Amends Title 74 (Transportation), codifying PennDOT's current State Safety Oversight Program for Rail Fixed Guideway Public Transportation Systems, which ensures that Pennsylvania's trolleys, subways, incline cars, and light railcars are operating safely and that transit agencies are properly maintaining them. Further, this program revises the existing authorization of PennDOT's safety oversight of transit in Title 74 to align with The Federal Transit Administration required risk-based inspection practices.

[Act 96](#) (HB155, P.N. 951; Oct 16, 2024) - Amends the Health Care Facilities Act, to modernize hiring practices for home care agencies and registries. This legislation eliminates the mandate for in-person, face-to-face interviews with employees or independent contractors. Instead,

agencies are now permitted to conduct interviews remotely using two-way video technology, enhancing flexibility and efficiency in the hiring process.

[Act 97](#) (HB269, P.N. 2187; Oct. 16, 2024) - Amends Title 16 (Counties) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in modernizing and consolidating provisions concerning the recording of military discharges by county recorder of deeds. The recording of a discharge received by the recorder of deeds must be confidential and may not be disclosed except to the individual, their immediate family, or authorized representatives, unless specific conditions – such as a court order or a request for records older than 85 years – are met.

[Act 107](#) (SB169, P.N.159, Oct. 16, 2024) - Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in shortening the timeline for county officials to hold disposition hearings in juvenile cases from at least every nine months to every three months.

[Act 108](#) (SB170, P.N. 160; Oct. 16, 2024) - Amends Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in streamlining the process for expunging juvenile records by shortening the eligibility timeline for expungement from five to two years for certain misdemeanor offenders.

[Act 109](#) (SB 668, P.N. 1928; Oct. 16, 2024) - Amends the Health Care Facilities Act, in authorizing Certification Medication Aides in long-term care facilities. This legislation allows Certified Nurse Aides (CNAs) to expand their responsibilities with long-term care facilities. Under the bill, CNSs listed on the Pennsylvania Nurse Aide Registry, with at least 1,000 hours of experience in a single facility over two years, can qualify for CMA certification through a state-approved training program.

[Act 113](#) (HB843, P.N. 2748; Oct. 29, 2024) - Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes), directing the Joint State Commission to undertake a comprehensive study of the Commonwealth's urban search and rescue capabilities. In collaboration with Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Service, the study will evaluate the overall emergency response system, identifying existing gaps, and develop recommendations to address those deficiencies. A detailed report of the findings and recommendations must be submitted to the General Assembly by the close of 2024.

[Act 114](#) (HB1509, P.N. 3742; Oct 29, 2024) - Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and Title 61 (Prisons and Parole), in establishing protection and protocols for the treatment of pregnant and postpartum youth in Pennsylvania's juvenile detention facilities. This legislation restricts the use of seclusion and physical restraints on these individuals, permitting such measures only in situations where immediate safety risks are present. It further allows class 2A counties and 6th through 8th class counties to include two to four members of the public on their prison boards, by resolution of the commissioners.

[Act 121](#) (SB365, P.N. 1944; Oct. 29, 2024) - Amends the Workers' Compensation Act, in extending workers' compensation benefits to include coverage for post-traumatic stress injury

(PTSI) among first responders. This legislation enables first responders to receive up to 104 weeks of benefits specifically for PTSI resulting from qualified traumatic events encountered in the line of duty. The bill further establishes a cap on PTSI-related benefits, limiting coverage to a maximum of two years.

[Act 134](#) (SB 267, P.N. 1954; Oct 31, 2024) - Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in permitting urgent care centers to be on the list of “safe havens” where a parent may surrender his or her newborn.

[Act 138](#) (SB 1118, P.N. 1945; Oct. 31, 2024) - Amends Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. It allows a magisterial district judge to assign community service as an alternative to indefinite license suspension for individuals, regardless of age, who are financially unable to pay fines and fees associated with traffic offenses. The bill also permits individuals with suspended licenses due to driving without a license, failure to appear, or failure to pay fines to access this alternative, including the ability to obtain a provisional license. It further allows community services as a payment alternative for suspensions related to driving while under suspension.

[Act 147](#) (HB1304, P.N. 3736; Nov. 18, 2024) - Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, which makes updates to Pennsylvania’s 911 statute that will enable the implementation of Next Generation 911 (NG911) system and technologies. This legislation introduces changes, including targeted amendments to the Right-to-Know Law for NG911, stricter penalties for misuse of the 911 system, and new requirements for communication providers to report service outages. It further extends the financial audit cycle for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) from every two years to every three years.

Appropriations Bills

[ACT 1A](#) (SB1001, P.N. 1817, July 11, 2024) - the Commonwealth General Appropriation Act for FY 2024-2025 provides funding for FY 2024-2025 at approximately \$47.6 billion in total for the year, representing a \$2.72 billion (6.2%) increase from the prior year. The final budget also transfers \$740 million into the state “Rainy Day Fund”. Notably, the FY 2024-2025 state budget includes many lines and programs important to counties, but received flat funding or nominal increases, with a few exceptions. It does not include any tax increases or across the board cuts. A complete analysis of county impacts can be found on the CCAP Budget News [webpage](#).

Resolutions

[HR 425](#) (P.N. 3292; July 3, 2024) - A resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study on the growth and changes of short-term rentals in the commonwealth.