

Government Relations Report

March 26, 2026

Good Afternoon Brothers and Sisters!

Since the beginning of January 2025, which is just 15 months ago, both the Pennsylvania House and Senate have been very busy introducing various pieces of legislation. As of this report the House of Representative members have introduced over 2300 pieces of legislation and 400 resolutions. The Senate has introduced over 1200 proposed bills. These pieces of proposed legislation cover a wide range of subject matter, but most will never get out of committee and go to the floor for a vote. In fact, only 67 of these bills have become law since this session began in January 2025.

On a positive note, Pennsylvania did finally pass a 2025-25 budget on November 12, 2025. It was only 135 days beyond the deadline of June 30, 2025. As all of you know, we are now in the new budget season which began when the Governor presented his proposed budget to the General Assembly in February of this year. In his budget address, he emphasized the need to create new revenue streams to be able to fund whatever budget is finally approved. The two new revenue streams he suggested were legalization of marijuana and skill games at a 52% tax rate. Let's hope that it does not take as long as it did last year.

There has been no movement towards the regulation of Skill games. Seven bills have been introduced HB 1141 Cashing in by Regulating Skill Games, SB 626 Regulating, SB 756 Taxation and Regulation of Skill Gaming Machines and Taxing Skill Video Games, HB 1619 Skill Game Regulations, HB 2046 Video Gaming Act and SB 1079 Bipartisan Regulations of Skill Video Games. All six bills are very similar for the most part, but the major factor is the taxing of the bills. HB 1141 wants to tax at 49%, SB 626 is at 16%, SB 756 wants to tax at 35%, HB 1619 really does not address tax rate, HB 2046 wants to tax at 16%, SB 1079 and HB 2213 wants to place a \$500.00 monthly fee on all terminals. This will be the biggest hurdle in finding a compromise for a tax rate that both parties can live with. It will eventually happen, just not sure when.

So far, there have been 10 bills introduced regarding attempting to amend December 19, 1988 (P.L. 1262) known as the Local Option Small Games of Chance. Only one of which has even moved out of committee. The one that was to be getting a lot of attention is HB 1050 Small Games of Chance Modernized. If this is passed, it would be a game changer for us. This bill would change the split from 60/40 to 25/75. It would introduce electronic pull-tabs, event games, progressive pull-tabs and increase prize limits to \$5,000 and the weekly prizes limit to \$70,000. Currently, this has not had any movement out of committee since was introduced a year ago. One bill did finally get some consideration, SB 416 which would allow for mobile payment. This bill passed the Senate and currently is in the House Gaming Oversight Committee.

Some other bills that may be of interest that have been introduced include 2 bills that would move the first day of deer season back to the Monday after Thanksgiving. SB 1011 would reduce the size of the General Assembly. Under this proposal, the House of Representatives would decrease from 203 members to 101 members, and the Senate would decrease from 50 members to 38 members. For our Moose Riders, HB 1809 the Motorcycle Helmet Law would require all motorcycle riders to wear a

helmet while riding. Most recently, Act 2 of 2026 was signed by the Governor that now mandates the teaching of cursive handwriting in schools.

Finally, as reflected, there are many other pieces of legislation that are being considered that could affect us both personally and fraternally. Most will never get out of committee and go to the floor for a vote. If any do begin getting movement, I will share this information with the Association and Lodges.

This concludes the report of the Government Relations Committee. Thank you and enjoy the rest of the Mid-Year Conference.

Fraternally,

Jim Hudack
Government Relations Chairperson