

PA Adopts Five-Month Budget

During the last week of May, the General Assembly approved, and Gov. Wolf signed into law, a \$25.8 billion interim five-month budget for fiscal year 2020-21.

Significant legislative elements include:

- [House Bill 2387](#) – The interim spending plan provides five months of funding for most state agencies and services. The appropriations in the bill are primarily based on current funding in the 2019-20 budget but allocated at a five-month level. However, full-year funding is provided for a few select line items including education and food security programs.
 - [House Bill 2510](#) – This legislation provides for the distribution of \$2.1 billion of the \$2.6 billion Pennsylvania received in federal CARES Act funding to respond to the impacts of COVID-19. Of particular interest to members, in this legislation the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency is appropriated \$175 million to provide rent and mortgage assistance payments for those who experienced income loss due to the pandemic. The budget also allocates \$150 million for rental assistance of \$750 per month for no more than six months and \$25 million will be provided for mortgage assistance of \$1,000 per month for no more than six months.
 - [House Bill 1083](#) – This legislation amends the fiscal code to make several changes. One provision addresses the potential shortfall in gaming revenue that is used for property tax relief. The legislation ensures that the full \$621 million estimated for 2020-21 will be available to school districts to provide property tax relief.

First-Time Homebuyers Savings Accounts

[Senate Bill 309](#) (Mensch, R-Montgomery) – SB309 was reported out of the House Urban Affairs Committee on May 19, received second consideration by the House on May 26 and was then referred to House Appropriations Committee. The bill only needs to be reported out of Appropriations and given a final vote in the House. We continue to press House leadership on this and do anticipate this legislation will be enacted by the end of June.

Senate Committee Approves Home Inspectors Licensing Bill

[House Bill 21](#) (Helm, R-Dauphin) was amended and voted out of the Senate Consumer Affairs and Professional Licensure Committee on June 9. HB21 would establish a state license requirement for home inspectors under the State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers. The legislation previously passed the House at the end of 2019. The bill will now go to the full Senate for consideration.

PAR Obtains More Clarification on State Guidance for Business Restrictions

As the state COVID-19 business restrictions are being lifted, PAR is still working to get clarification on some of the inconsistencies that still exist in the various guidance documents. This may look similar to previously released guidance, but we've got a few small updates based on newly updated general business guidance and recent conversations with the administration. Read the [JustListed](#) article for further guidance on counties that will be phasing to green.