

Pennsylvania Association of Realtors® - March 2025

Capitol Report

Pennsylvania State Budget Hearings Conclude

The Pennsylvania General Assembly just concluded its annual budget hearings for 2025. This three-week period is when the Appropriations Committees of the House and Senate invite various state departments and institutions with budget requests to come and testify before the committees and open themselves to questions.

Current Pennsylvania Secretary of State Al Schmidt touted the administration's efforts to reduce the average wait times for license issuance, renewal and reactivation for the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs' one million licensees. Additionally, he touched on the governor's budget request for \$7 million to "modernize" the PALS system and anticipated having a phase one rollout in "early 2026."

The conclusion of these hearings marks a first step in the annual budget process, which will pause until later spring when lawmakers begin negotiations on various budget proposals.

With the hearings out of the way, the legislature will resume normal business with sessions that will stretch into late April. It is expected that committees like the House Housing and Community Development, Senate Urban Affairs and Local Government Committees will have meetings to vote on bills and forward legislation to the full House and Senate for consideration.

Rural Population Revitalization Commission

Last month, the Rural Population Revitalization Commission released a report laying out some of its preliminary ideas to mitigate rural population decline. This report included feedback from stakeholders who called for more options for housing, healthcare, jobs and transportation to make their communities more attractive for new residents and businesses. To aid communities in these projects, the commission plans to evaluate state criteria for awarding grant funding and ensure these communities have the tools to receive the money. The commission will continue to release reports with feedback and proposed solutions on a rolling basis.

For more information about the commission, [visit the Center for Rural PA's website.](#)

2025 Advocacy Virtual Training

Registration is now open for PAR's first Advocacy Virtual Training session of 2025! PAR's Advocacy Virtual Trainings give members the tools they need to engage in PAR's advocacy efforts and help them better represent the industry. Now in a virtual format, members will be able to attend shorter, one-hour sessions, each focused on different aspects of our advocacy program.

Feb. 13: RPAC Campaigns & Elections – Learn how RPAC supports candidates for state elections and how members play a critical role in this process.

Visit the [Advocacy Virtual Training page](#) on PAR's website to register.

Legislation Tracking

View [the list of state legislation](#) that PAR is currently monitoring.