

PAR CAPITOL REPORT – OCTOBER 2020

General Assembly Moves Home Inspector Licensing and Rural Broadband Bills

The General Assembly continued with session in September and early October, with the House and Senate meeting in alternate weeks and focused primarily on election-related legislation.

Several bills of interest to PAR have been progressing through the General Assembly. [House Bill 21](#) (Helm, R-Dauphin), establishing a state license requirement for home inspectors, has been moving in the Senate and [Senate Bill 835](#) (Langerholc, R-Cambria), addressing the need for rural broadband service, is moving in the House.

We are continuing to meet with legislators and legislative leaders to advocate for passage of [Senate Bill 309](#) (Mensch, R-Montgomery), the First-Time Homebuyers Savings Accounts legislation, and are still hopeful we can get that to the governor's desk before the end of the 2019-2020 legislative session.

The House and Senate were expected to quickly move legislation modifying the PA CARES Act rental and mortgage assistance program. Legislative has been introduced and approved by committee in the House – [House Bill 2868](#) (Helm, R-Dauphin) – and is awaiting consideration by the full House. Currently, it is unclear if program modifications will be completed due to ongoing fiscal concerns and debate regarding the most appropriate uses for the commonwealth's limited COVID relief funds.

Earlier this week, Gov. Tom Wolf announced an executive order extending the current rental and mortgage assistance program application deadline by 30 days to Nov. 4. The program application deadline had ended on Sept. 30. See article below for additional details.

PHFA Rental Assistance Program Application Deadline Extended

Gov. Tom Wolf issued an executive order earlier this week that extended the deadline for the COVID Relief-Mortgage and Rental Assistance Grant Program until Nov. 4. Renters and homeowners may continue to apply for the relief funds and there are no changes to the program requirements and relief amounts. Read more about the extension in this [JustListed article](#).

RPAC Launches Updated Election Guide

The Pennsylvania Realtors® PAC has launched its updated [Election Guide](#) on the PAR website. The guide highlights the candidates RPAC is supporting in the general election on Nov. 3. Members and the public can visit the guide and learn about the RPAC-supported candidates that they will see on their ballot. [Check out the Guide today.](#)

Key election dates:

- Oct. 19 – deadline to register to vote in the general election
- Oct. 27 – deadline to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot
- Nov. 3 – Pennsylvania general election. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.