

Budget Update

Senator Pat Vance

July 2007

Vance Legislation Pending Before Governor

Senate Bill 455 - improves access to dental care.

Senate Bill 704 - establishes licensure and regulatory requirements for assisted living residences.

General Assembly Continues Work on Clean Indoor Air Act

The Senate and House approved different versions of **Senate Bill 246**.

The Senate voted to create a conference committee to resolve the differences between the two versions. The House must now take similar action.

Funding for Cleanup of Hazardous Sites Delayed Until Fall

Disputes over a funding source for hazardous sites cleanup have delayed action until September.

The cleanup fund is almost out of money. Short-term funding out of the Growing Greener II Bond Fund expired at the end of June.

Fiscal Year 2007-08 Budget Enacted

A \$27.162 billion 2007-08 state budget, which does not raise taxes and holds the Governor to the lowest spending plan since he took office, recently became law.

"We were able to stop all seven tax increases that Governor Rendell proposed in February," said Sen. Pat Vance. "While I voted against all of Governor Rendell's previous budgets, I supported this compromise plan because it is the smallest spending increase in the past five years."

The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) was increased 27 percent to \$75 million. EITC gives tax credits to eligible businesses that contribute to a scholarship organization, an educational improvement organization and/or a pre-kindergarten scholarship organization.

The budget includes an additional \$167 million in basic education, a \$29 million increase for special education and an additional

\$34 million for charter school reimbursements.

In addition, the budget includes a 3 percent cost-of-living increase for mental health/mental retardation workers and virtually eliminates the waiting list for those seeking mental health/mental retardation services.

Legislation enacted with the budget also provides \$25 million for the volunteer fire and ambulance company grant program.

Vance Opposes Gaming Fund Capital Projects, Transportation, Film Tax Credit Bills

Legislation that changed transportation funding, authorized gaming money to capital projects in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and created a film tax credit was opposed by Sen. Pat Vance.

The transportation funding bill raises additional funds for mass transit and for highways and bridges. The vast majority of the new funding will come from tolling of Interstate 80, issuance of nearly \$11 billion in debt and toll hikes on the Pennsylvania Turnpike beginning in 2009.

"I opposed this bill for a number of reasons," Vance

said. "First, no reforms were required of the mass transit systems in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Second, Cumberland and York counties will only see a small benefit. Finally, it is unclear whether the federal government will allow Interstate 80 to be tolled. Without the tolling, the entire plan falls apart."

The Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund Capital Budget also passed without Vance's support. The legislation funds construction of a new arena for the Penguins, expansion of the convention

center in Philadelphia and other projects in the cities.

"I have always opposed the use of public funds to finance professional sports facilities," Vance said.

Finally, Vance voted against the bill creating a film tax credit in the Commonwealth.

"It is inappropriate to give \$75 million to Hollywood yearly for a few short-term jobs," Vance said. "While other components of the bill were worthy of support, the film tax credit outweighed the benefits of the bill."

2007-08 Education Funding - 31st Senatorial District

BASIC EDUCATION FUNDING (BEF)

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING (SEF)

School District	<u>06-07 BEF</u>	<u>07-08 BEF</u>	<u>\$INC</u>	<u>%INC</u>	<u>06-07 SEF</u>	<u>07-08 SEF</u>	<u>\$INC</u>	<u>%INC</u>
Big Spring SD	\$8,256,969	\$8,422,108	\$165,139	2.0%	\$1,643,259	\$1,693,695	\$50,436	3.1%
Camp Hill SD	\$1,092,401	\$1,115,410	\$23,009	2.1%	\$435,601	\$446,923	\$11,322	2.6%
Carlisle Area SD	\$10,914,297	\$11,132,583	\$218,286	2.0%	\$2,540,228	\$2,606,611	\$66,383	2.6%
Cumberland Valley SD	\$9,247,927	\$9,485,373	\$237,446	2.6%	\$3,214,357	\$3,278,644	\$64,287	2.0%
Dover Area SD	\$8,873,407	\$9,326,593	\$453,186	5.1%	\$1,716,829	\$1,779,615	\$62,786	3.7%
East Pennsboro Area SD	\$4,495,877	\$4,662,386	\$166,509	3.7%	\$1,179,522	\$1,217,227	\$37,705	3.2%
Mechanicsburg Area SD	\$5,066,869	\$5,168,206	\$101,337	2.0%	\$1,514,247	\$1,550,112	\$35,865	2.4%
Northern York Co SD	\$6,467,430	\$6,667,313	\$199,883	3.1%	\$1,446,255	\$1,491,486	\$45,231	3.1%
Shippensburg Area SD	\$7,472,840	\$7,718,132	\$245,292	3.3%	\$1,592,030	\$1,649,119	\$57,089	3.6%
South Middleton SD	\$3,690,892	\$3,809,240	\$118,348	3.2%	\$921,252	\$950,094	\$28,842	3.1%
West Shore SD	\$11,282,709	\$11,620,089	\$337,380	3.0%	\$3,474,700	\$3,559,473	\$84,773	2.4%

PA ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANTS (PABG)

TOTAL OF BEF, SEF & PABG

School District	<u>06-07 PABG</u>	<u>07-08 PABG</u>	<u>\$INC</u>	<u>%INC</u>	<u>06-07 Total</u>	<u>07-08 Total</u>	<u>\$INC</u>	<u>%INC</u>
Big Spring SD	\$461,279	\$470,505	\$9,226	2.0%	\$10,361,507	\$10,586,308	\$224,801	2.2%
Camp Hill SD	\$49,330	\$50,340	\$1,010	2.0%	\$1,577,332	\$1,612,673	\$35,341	2.2%
Carlisle Area SD	\$544,704	\$565,341	\$20,637	3.8%	\$13,999,229	\$14,304,535	\$305,306	2.2%
Cumberland Valley SD	\$425,957	\$474,869	\$48,912	11.5%	\$12,888,241	\$13,238,886	\$350,645	2.7%
Dover Area SD	\$498,394	\$525,427	\$27,033	5.4%	\$11,088,630	\$11,631,635	\$543,005	4.9%
East Pennsboro Area SD	\$294,775	\$312,134	\$17,359	5.9%	\$5,970,174	\$6,191,747	\$221,573	3.7%
Mechanicsburg Area SD	\$245,251	\$250,156	\$4,905	2.0%	\$6,826,367	\$6,968,474	\$142,107	2.1%
Northern York Co SD	\$385,432	\$393,141	\$7,709	2.0%	\$8,299,117	\$8,551,940	\$252,823	3.0%
Shippensburg Area SD	\$451,981	\$619,250	\$167,269	37.0%	\$9,516,851	\$9,986,501	\$469,650	4.9%
South Middleton SD	\$197,600	\$208,515	\$10,915	5.5%	\$4,809,744	\$4,967,849	\$158,105	3.3%
West Shore SD	\$783,052	\$877,446	\$94,394	12.1%	\$15,540,461	\$16,057,008	\$516,547	3.3%