

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# TOM MEHAFFIE

## 106<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

SPRING  
2025



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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

House and Senate members took the oath of office Tuesday, Jan. 7, for the 2025-26 Legislative Session. When a new session starts, there is a flurry of activity as bills are introduced and, in some cases, reintroduced from the previous session.

I wanted to provide you with information about some initiatives on which I'm working. All bills must clear the House and Senate (and their associated committees), then go to Gov. Josh Shapiro, to become law.

Subscribe to my e-newsletter at [repmeahaffie.com/email-signup](http://repmeahaffie.com/email-signup) for updates on all my legislation. You can find a full list of bills at [palegis.us](http://palegis.us) under my name.

### Voter ID:

Reps. K.C. Tomlinson (R-Bucks), Frank Burns (D-Cambria) and I are spearheading efforts to require voter ID at the polls during elections in Pennsylvania. The Legislature can no longer ignore a growing chorus saying it can do more to secure the votes of every Pennsylvanian.

We are working on commonsense, bipartisan legislation that would require all voters arriving at their election precincts to show identification or attest under penalty of law that they are legally able to vote. House Bill 771 recognizes that 77.1% of registered voters cast ballots in the last election.

### Ticket Fees:

Rep. Mary Isaacson (D-Philadelphia) and I are seeking to cut costs for event tickets purchased through resellers. Our bill would cap extra fees at 5% for buyers and 5% for sellers, allowing eventgoers to save money while still allowing ticket resellers to profit.

### Death Benefits:

This legislation would seek parity among all law enforcement officers' line-of-duty death benefits, regardless of which agency they serve. The idea is to provide comprehensive health benefits to the families of officers who are killed or disabled on the job. The same benefits would be extended to municipal officers that are afforded to troopers with the Pennsylvania State Police.

### Bow Creek Road:

I'm working with East Hanover Township's municipal leaders to transfer Bow Creek Road from a locally owned and maintained road to a state highway. House Bill 333 is likely to pass the House this spring.

**legislative update continued on page 2...**





# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE *(continued)*

## Long-term Care Insurance:

This newly drafted bill would place a cap on premium increases in long-term care insurance. After decades of paying premiums, our vulnerable seniors are often left with only three choices – pay high premiums to continue coverage, reduce their benefits or cancel their policies.

## Hershey's Kisses:

High school students from Bucks County are again working with me to try to name Hershey's Kisses the official state candy of Pennsylvania. We got close last session but fell short in the Senate. The students are seniors this year, so I'm hopeful we can get this legislation across the finish line to recognize the impact Milton and Catherine Hershey had on Derry Township, Pennsylvania and the global economy.

## Keystone STARS:

Rep. Jared Solomon (D-Philadelphia) and I have long advocated for Keystone STARS, a program that assigns a quality rating score for childcare centers. We need to update the program to reward providers' on-the-job experience.

## Patient Safety Act and Jack Schwab Worker Safety:

These are bipartisan efforts to, respectively, limit how many hospital patients are under a single nurse's care and offer Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)-type protections to public sector employees.

## EDGE Tax Credit

Pennsylvania has lost out because the PA EDGE tax credit program was not utilized to support power production within the state. I'm joining with bipartisan lawmakers to revive the program and roll it into the governor's "Lightning Plan" to secure our energy future.

## LEGISLATURE TACKLES Heightened Avian Flu Response



Two House committees – House Agriculture and Rural Affairs as well as Health – are tackling issues related to avian flu in Pennsylvania. Sadly, close to 2 million laying hens were depopulated in Lower Swatara Township this February due to an outbreak confirmed by the USDA.

The first law passed this year expands the number of people qualified to become certified poultry technicians taking samples from birds.

The USDA predicts egg prices could increase by more than 40% this year in large part due to highly pathogenic avian flu, the H5N1 strain of which has been found in cattle, cats and humans.

The Legislature is looking to expand capacity at animal testing laboratories within Pennsylvania. Outbreaks have hit more than a dozen farms in the state.

## Property Tax/Rent Rebate Applications DUE JUNE 30



The application period for the state's 2024 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is now open for eligible Pennsylvanians to begin claiming rebates on property taxes or rent paid last year. Applications are **due June 30**.

Income limits increased again this year to \$46,520 for both homeowners and renters. This is due to a 2023 law that calls for adjusting the income limit based on annual increases in the Consumer Price Index. Remember to exclude 50% of Social Security when determining your income. The maximum rebate is \$1,000.

The program is open to residents aged 65 years and older; widows and widowers 50 years and older; and people with disabilities 18 years and older.

**REMEMBER** – you do not need to pay anyone for assistance to apply for the rebates. Apply online at [mypath.pa.gov](https://mypath.pa.gov) or contact my office for help.



## Scouting Encourages Leadership



Adele Hosenfeld from Hummelstown reached the rank of Eagle Scout and was recognized in a ceremony hosted by Troop 2200 in January. The talented musician is the daughter of Jeffrey Hosenfeld and Jennifer McCall-Hosenfeld.



Hershey's Cub Scout Pack 203 hosted me for a discussion about civic engagement.



Jude Petersen from Troop 65 is an Eagle Scout who designed and fabricated cornhole sets for Derry Township's recreation areas. He attends Hershey High School.



Cub Scout Pack 97 from Londonderry Township toured the Capitol in February.



Lydia Wolf is an Eagle Scout with Troop 2200 in Hershey. She is an honors student and talented musician who plays several instruments.

## After-School Club Strengthens STEM Education

The club known as First Robotics Team 2539: Krypton Cougars showed me its latest project as it geared up for a regional robotics competition. The club for K-12 students provides science, technology, education and mathematics learning in a fun environment.



## Yokl Offers Food Tour



A new food tour of greater Hershey had its inaugural run in late February. Realtor Eileen Voyles has long taken clients on tours of local places she enjoys. She and her partner, Rhett Hintze, decided to formalize that initiative by buying a trolley and launching a website and app at [shopyokl.com](http://shopyokl.com).



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106<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



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## Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events



### Health Expo

| Thursday, May 22, from 10 a.m. to noon

| Leader Center for Active Life, 605 Cocoa Ave., Hershey.

Vendors must pre-register. Guests do not need to RSVP.

### Stop the Bleed

| Thursday, June 12, from 6-8 p.m.

| Hummelstown Chemical Fire Co., 249 E. Main St., Hummelstown.

Penn State Health will provide information on how to provide life-saving aid in the first minutes of a medical emergency. Call 717-534-1323 to register or get more information.

### National Night Out

| Tuesday, Aug. 5

| Locations throughout the 106th District.

National Night Out is a great event to link first responders with the communities they serve. Stay tuned for more information about the event closest to your home.

### Veterans Breakfast

| Friday, Nov. 7, from 8-10 a.m.

| Lower Swatara Volunteer Fire Co., 1350 Fulling Mill Road, Middletown.

This event is open to veterans and active-duty military personnel from the 106th District. Attendees must pre-register, as space is limited. Call 717-534-1323.