

BUSINESS LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY GROUP

UPDATES FROM COUNCIL SESSION HELD 9/19/19

Welcome to the Weekly Business Legislative Updates newsletter! As always, we welcome your questions and feedback on any of the legislation below, which you can share with the Commerce Department by emailing Libby.Peters@phila.gov.

NEW LEGISLATION

Below are new business-related bills and resolutions that were introduced during the City Council session held on Thursday, September 19th.

LEGISLATION

STATUS

Bill 190713 (Sanchez): Making additional additions, deletions, and amendments to the City's adoption of the International Plumbing Code	Introduced
Bill 190715 (Sanchez for Squilla): Establishes a prescription data collection program	Introduced
Bill 190716 (Green): Requires benchmarking and reporting of energy and water usage data for certain buildings participating in the CPACE program	Introduced
Bill 190717/Res 190730 (Green): Continuing and approving a new plan for the Philadelphia Hospitality Improvement Levy District	Introduced
Resolution 190721 (Greenlee): Calling on the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development to hold hearings concerning the unbanked and underbanked in Philadelphia and the City's plans for helping to provide access to banking services to all residents	Introduced

PENDING LEGISLATION

Below is pending legislation on which **action was taken** since the Council session held on Thursday, September 12th.

LEGISLATION

ACTION/STATUS

Bill 190233 (Squilla): Continuing the East Passyunk Avenue Business Improvement District beyond its termination date in the 1st District	Received Final Passage In Mayor's Office
Bill 190505 (Brown): Requires that the default drink offered in children's meals at food service establishments be a form of water or low fat milk	On First Reading

Below is pending legislation on which **no action was taken** since the Council session held on Thursday, September 12th.

Resolution 190686 (Oh): Authorizing City Council's Committee on Global Opportunities and Creative/Innovative Economy to hold hearings regarding the Music Industry Task Force Report and Recommendations	In Committee
Bill 190660 (Squilla): Establishing the South Philly Market District (BID)	In Committee
Bill 190659 (Squilla): Establishing the Fishtown Area Business Improvement District	In Committee
Bill 190650 (Parker): FY20 Appropriations Transfer to establish a city-wide commercial corridor cleaning program	In Committee
Bill 190636 (Brown): Amends the Section of the Code entitled "Sale of Fuel Oil" to revise permissible grades and sulfur content of commercial fuel oil	In Committee
Bill 190610 (Squilla): Prohibits the use of certain bags (plastic) and establishes a charge for other types of bags (paper and reusable)	In Committee
Bill 190601 (Henon): Creates the use category "smoking lounges"	In Committee

Bill 190600 (Brown): Creates a Building Energy Performance Policy to require owners of large buildings to conduct tune-ups of energy and water systems	In Committee
Bill 190553 (Johnson for Clarke): Requires Community Benefits Agreements for certain high impact projects or development projects that receive City support	In Committee
Bill 190466 (Squilla): Revises permit fee and applicable penalties for contractor parking	Held in Committee at call of the Chair
Bill 190460/Resolution 190479 (Green): Continues the Philadelphia Hospitality Improvement Levy District and Corporation and approves a new plan for the District	Held in Committee at the call of the Chair
Bill 190290/Resolution 190299 (Green): Charter change; revising the City procurement procedures to raise the threshold of non-competitively bid contracts from \$34,000 to \$100,000	Adopted Charter Change: Will go on ballot in November to be approved by voters
Bill 190366 (Bass): Approving a new plan for improvements to the Germantown Special Services District	Held in Committee at the call of the Chair
Bill 190133 (Sanchez): Creates fees in connection with accelerated review of various permit applications by L&I	Held in Committee at the call of the Chair
Resolution 190421 (Green): Authorizing hearings regarding the PHL Neighborhood Growth Project	In Committee
Bill 190382 (Johnson for Clarke): Provides that no variance shall be granted to permit the multi-family use of a property located in certain defined Single Family Preservation Districts	In Committee
Bill 190183 (Sanchez): Amends the Philadelphia Beverage Tax to begin phase out process	In Committee
Bill 190160 (Squilla for Clarke): Exempts from BIRT 10% of rent received from affordable rental units	In Council
Bill 190134 (Domb): Reduces the amount and duration of certain real estate tax exemptions by reducing the amount of the tax abatement in years 8, 9, and 10	In Committee
Bill 190106 (Squilla): Establishing various requirements for landlords and tenants relating to bed bug infestation	In Committee
Bill 190060 (Henon): Proposing an amendment to the Charter to provide for the creation of a Contractor Review Board within L&I	In Council
Bill 190059 (Henon): Proposing an amendment to the Charter to provide a mandatory minimum staffing level for the building and code inspectors within L&I	In Council

[Bill 190008](#) (Green): Authorizing referendum vote to be put on ballot to call upon the PA General Assembly and Gov. Wolf to pass legislation to decriminalize, regulate, and tax cannabis for non-medical purposes

Held in Committee at the call of the Chair

[Bill 190003](#) (Henon): Revising provisions of the Code relating to the form of naloxone pharmacies must have available

Held in Committee at the call of the Chair

[Bill 180015-A](#) (Squilla): Authorizing the Callowhill Business Improvement District under the PA Municipal Authority Act

Held

NOTE: When a BID is organized as a municipal authority instead of a non-profit, it must first be approved by Council and then is required to hold public hearings before collecting fees and delivering services. In summer of 2019, this BID did not receive the necessary support from affected parties to become operational.

Failed to gain support from affected parties in summer of 2019

UPCOMING HEARINGS

No business-related hearings scheduled at this time.

REGULATIONS

New regulations must be approved by the Law Department and then filed with the Department of Records and [advertised publicly](#) for 30 days before becoming law. Within this period, any member of the public who is affected may request a hearing through the Department of Records. Note: Some regulations pertain to older legislation and processes that are already in place, but not yet formally adopted.

DEPARTMENT/REGULATION

FILING DATE

[Procurement: Non-Competitively Bid Contracts, Financial Assistance](#)

9/16/2019

Amends Regulations for Section 17-1400 of the Code pertaining to transparency for political contributions, specifically when dealing with non-competitively bid professional contracts, and the receipt of financial assistance.

[Commerce: Philadelphia Int'l Airport Off-Airport Parking, News Media, Fines](#)

8/30/2019

Amendment to Rules & Regulations For Philadelphia International Airport Related to Off-Airport Parking Operators, News Media Procedures, Violations and Fines

[PCHR: Cash Payments in Retail Establishments](#)

Hearing held
9/13/2019

Provides additional definitions and direction pertaining to the Cashless Retail Prohibition Ordinance; specifically providing examples of which transactions are covered and which are exempt

[Revenue: Excise Tax on Outdoor Advertising Transactions](#)

Hearing scheduled
10/29/2019

Provides definitions and establishes rates for excise tax on outdoor advertising. Also clarifies collection methods and liability for uncollected or unpaid taxes.

The Business Legislation Advisory Group was created to inform Philadelphia's business community of relevant legislation, regulations, and updates, and to gather your feedback. **Feel free to forward to those who may be interested in receiving these updates, or email Libby.Peters@phila.gov to be added to the weekly email list.**