



Milliron & Goodman

UPDATES FROM HARRISBURG

KERRY LANGE, *SENIOR ASSOCIATE*

MILLIRON GOODMAN

KERRY@MILLIRONGOODMAN.COM



Milliron Goodman is one of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's premier government relations and professional services firms.

Since 1980, clients from around the Commonwealth and across the nation have trusted the professionals at Milliron Goodman to provide strategic counsel, effective government relations, winning public policy strategies, grassroots advocacy, and association management services, all with outstanding results.





Kerry Lange

Senior Associate

Kerry is responsible for client advocacy and implementing various legislative strategies in the Capitol. She embraces the fact that success for each client often requires a unique and frequently-evolving strategy.

- Has over decade of professional experience in government relations.
- Experienced in topics related to agriculture, healthcare, housing, and hospitality.
- Earned a B.A. in Political Science from York College of Pennsylvania.



Harrisburg Overview

The Pennsylvania General Assembly is finishing the second quarter of the two-year legislative session. All bills have until the end of the session, November 30th, 2026, to get through the legislative process and across the Governor's desk.

So far this session (since January 1st), over 3,000 bills have been introduced.

We continue to monitor for any bills that could potentially harm the community, as well as for bills that could support the community. Our firm coordinates directly with BDF to review the bills introduced and determine levels of engagement (support/oppose/amend/neutral).



House of Representatives

The current ratio in the House is:

- **102 Democrats; 101 Republicans.**



House Leadership

House Democrat Leadership

- Speaker Joanna McCClinton (D-Philadelphia)
- Leader Matt Bradford (D-Montgomery)
- Whip Mike Schlossberg (D-Lehigh)
- Appropriations Chair Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia)

House Republican Leadership

- Leader Jessie Topper (R-Bedford)
- Whip Tim O'Neal (R-Washington)
- Appropriations Chair Jim Struzzi (R-Indiana)



House Committee Chairs

House Health Committee

- Majority Chair Dan Frankel (D-Allegheny)
- Minority Chair Kathy Rapp (R-Crawford)

House Insurance Committee

- Majority Chair Perry Warren (D-Bucks)
- Minority Chair Tina Pickett (R-Bradford)



Senate

The current ratio in the Senate is:

- **27 Republicans; 23 Democrats.**



Senate Leadership

Senate Republican Leadership

- President Pro Temp Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland)
- Leader Joe Pittman (R-Indiana)
- Whip Wayne Langerholc (R-Cambria)
- Appropriations Chair Scott Martin (R-Lancaster)

Senate Democrat Leadership

- Leader Jay Costa (D-Allegheny)
- Whip Tina Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia)
- Appropriations Chair Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia)



Senate Committee Chairs

Senate Health & Human Services Committee

- Majority Chair Michele Brooks (R-Crawford)
- Minority Chair Art Haywood (D-Montgomery)

Senate Banking & Insurance Committee

- Majority Chair Chris Gebhard (R-Lebanon)
- Minority Chair Sharif Street (D-Philadelphia)



Budget Proposal

Governor Josh Shapiro proposed a \$51.3 billion spending plan for the FY 2025-26 budget.

It did not include any increases to the personal income tax (PIT) rates or sales & use (S&U) tax rates.

However, to help offset the state's current \$3.4 billion operating deficit, the Governor proposed the legalization and taxation of recreational marijuana, taxed at 20%, and skill games, taxed at 52%.

The Independent Fiscal Office projects the state's operating deficit to increase from \$3.4 billion to \$6 billion by next year.

The legislature has a constitutional deadline for passing a balanced budget by June 30th.



2025-26 Budget

The 2025-26 budget was completed on November 12th, **135 days past Pennsylvania's Constitutional deadline of June 30**. It has a total cost of **\$50.1 billion**, about \$2 billion more than last year's budget.

No new taxes were created, no tax exemptions were removed, and no existing tax rates were increased in the plan. It's also important to note that the budget *does not* rely on the state's \$7.5 billion Rainy Day Fund.

While the passage of this budget came as a relief to many organizations relying on state funding, the Shapiro Administration and the General Assembly will now quickly pivot and begin preparing for the 2026-27 budget. In fact, the Governor will give his next budget address on Tuesday, February 3rd, just 9 weeks away.



State Funding for PA's HTCs

SB 160: 2025-26 General Appropriations Budget Bill

- Provides full funding for the hemophilia line item at \$1,017,000.
- Separates HTC line item from other rare diseases.
- *STATUS*: Passed the House (156-47). Passed the Senate (40-9).

HB 416: 2025-26 Fiscal Code Bill.

- Protects the current funding distribution formula for the hemophilia line item.
- *STATUS*: Passed the Senate (43-6). Passed the House (189-14).



SB 160 - GA

2	FOR MOST OTHER CHRONIC RESPIRATORY	
3	OTHER CHRONIC RESPIRATORY	
4	ILLNESSES.	
5	STATE APPROPRIATION.....	795,000
6	FOR DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT	
7	FOR COOLEY'S ANEMIA.	
8	STATE APPROPRIATION.....	106,000
9	FOR HEMOPHILIA SERVICES.	
10	STATE APPROPRIATION.....	1,017,000
11	FOR LUPUS PROGRAMS.	
12	STATE APPROPRIATION.....	106,000



HB 416 –Fiscal Code

19 (III) ANY MONEY NOT USED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OR
20 (II) SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO GRANTEEES IN THE SAME
21 PROPORTION AS DISTRIBUTED IN FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020.

22 (5) MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT FOR
23 COOLEY'S ANEMIA SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO GRANTEEES IN THE SAME
24 PROPORTION AS DISTRIBUTED IN FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020.

25 (6) MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR HEMOPHILIA SERVICES SHALL BE
26 DISTRIBUTED TO GRANTEEES IN THE SAME PROPORTION AS DISTRIBUTED
27 IN FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020.

28 (7) MONEY APPROPRIATED FOR LUPUS PROGRAMS SHALL BE
29 DISTRIBUTED PROPORTIONATELY TO EACH ENTITY THAT RECEIVED
30 FUNDING IN FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019.

20250HB0416PN2576

- 110 -



Budget Line Item

Previous Annual Budget Line Items:

SECTION 221. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
FOR HEMOPHILIA SERVICES....\$959,000

2022-2023 Line Item: 6% Increase

FOR HEMOPHILIA SERVICES.
STATE APPROPRIATION..... 1,017,000

2025-26: \$1,017,000



Save the Date!

BDF will be hosting the **2026 Advocacy Day on Tuesday, May 5th in Harrisburg.**

Another opportunity to explore the Capitol, engage with your legislators and voice concerns of the community.

More info to come!

House Session Days

January: 6 (NV), 26, 27, 28

February: 2, 3, 4

March: 23, 24, 25

April: 13, 14, 15, 27, 28, 29

May: 4, 5, 6

June: 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

September: 28, 29, 30

October: 5, 6, 7, 19, 20, 21

November: 9, 10

Senate Session Days

January: 6, 26, 27, 28

February: 2, 3, 4

March: 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25

April: 20, 21, 22

May: 4, 5, 6

June: 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30



Questions from Legislators

How is the line-item funding is spent and how much does each treatment center receive?

- We shared the HTC's responses with legislative offices, but might be helpful for you to share with your legislators as well.
- **Funding is applied to:**
 - Unified Care Protocol, which helps eliminate barriers to care;
 - Consumer Advocacy Council, which provides a platform for patients to voice concerns and suggestions;
 - Mental health support, including routine screenings; and
 - Initiatives for job readiness and vocational training.



Questions & Answers



Q: Aside from the budget requests, are there other top priorities for BDF?

A: Yes, BDF is actively engaged on **co-pay accumulator** issues.

Senator Judy Ward reintroduced her bill (SB 268) that protects patients by allowing copay assistance to count towards their deductibles or out-of-pocket maximums. The bill is currently waiting for consideration in the Senate Banking & Insurance Committee.

We're also continuing direct conversations with PA Insurance Commissioner Mike Humphreys and his team on this. He encourages those who are experiencing these issues to reach out to the Department so they can flag and investigate. The Department operates on a **complaint-driven basis**, so if they don't hear from you, they won't know about it.

We had a follow-up call with his office in April.



- **Non-medical switching**
 - Co-sponsorship memo circulated by Rep Tarik Khan.
 - Amends the Pennsylvania's Unfair Insurance Practices Act to prohibit health insurers from changing the coverage or a premium during a policy term. It will also prevent these companies from sneaking language in the fine print, allowing them to pull out the rug for patients' medical coverage during the contract year.
- **Mental health**
 - Partnership with the Bleeding Disorders Substance Use & Mental Health Access Coalition
 - Conversations with the DHS re: improving coordination across systems and access to mental health care in rural PA.



- Women with Bleeding Disorders
 - BDF submitted letter of support for HB 337 and HB 1100
 - **HB 337:** Requires the Dept of General Services to make hygiene products available in bathrooms of all state buildings.
 - Passed the House State Government Committee (14-12).
 - **HB 1100:** Requires DHS and DOH to submit a waiver to the federal government for coverage of hygiene products under SNAP.
 - Passed the House (138-64). Waiting for Senate consideration.
 - **DCED** is making free menstrual products available in 68 state parks and budgeted \$38k for the initiative.
 - Potential future partnership with the **Governor's Advisory Commission on Women**. They are highly focused on hygiene product access.



Q: I didn't vote for my Representative/Senator and I'm not affiliated with their party. Should I still meet with them?

A: Absolutely. Regardless of your party affiliation, we will need strong bi-partisan support on any piece of legislation that we are advocating for. Please don't mention political differences in the meeting.



Q: I met with my legislators last year. Do I need to meet again?

A: Yes! Like any relationship, ongoing conversations are essential.

Particularly right now, legislators need to be reminded about the line-item requests.



Q: How long does a district meeting typically last?

A: You should prepare to meet for about 30 minutes. It may run shorter or longer depending on schedules.



Q: Besides potential differences in party affiliation, is there anything else I shouldn't discuss during my meeting?

A: Do not discuss political contributions of any kind!



Q: I'm not familiar with the state legislative process and I'm hesitant to get involved in politics. Why should I meet with my legislator?

A: There is no better advocate than the constituent/stakeholder. You know the community's concerns better than anyone else. You are also a voting constituent, so the legislators will be very interested in learning your perspective.



Q: What do I do if it becomes clear in a meeting that my legislator doesn't support a particular issue?

A: That's okay! Your legislator might not always agree with you.

Be persistent, but not argumentative. Provide points to support your issue. Ask thought provoking questions to encourage them to contemplate your position.

Remember that a legislator, who opposes you on an issue now, might become an ally on another issue in the future. Don't burn bridges!



Q: Who are some of our prime champions in the Capitol?

A:

- Representative Tom Mehaffie
- Senator Patty Kim
- Senator Tina Tartaglione
- Senator Nikil Saval

Let's add your legislator to this list!



Thank you for choosing
Milliron Goodman
Government Relations!

Kerry Lange

Senior Associate

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(717) 232-5322



200 North 3rd St | Suite 1500
Harrisburg | PA 17101

