



NEWS:

Looking Back on the 149th General Assembly - Part I

July 13, 2018 – While the 149th General Assembly will continue through Election Day, it concluded its traditional legislative session July 1st.

With approximately 750 combined House and Senate bills (excluding resolutions) introduced during the two-year session, this series will review the fate of many of the measures that garnered public interest.

Senate Bill 266 (Sponsors: Sen. Anthony Delcollo & State Reps. Dave Wilson & William Carson): This measure will allow the Department of Agriculture to adopt any policies and regulations necessary to permit the cultivation of industrial hemp, positioning Delaware to immediately launch such efforts should legislation pending in Congress to repeal federal hemp restrictions be enacted.

FATE: Approved by the General Assembly and awaiting the signature of the governor.

House Bill 427 & House Bill 428 (Sponsors: Rep. Osienski, et al.): These bills would have imposed an annual fee on certain aircraft and a tax on aviation fuel, directing the funds to the Transportation Trust Fund to be used to upgrade aviation facilities statewide.

FATE: Both bills died on the House Ready List*.

House Substitute 1 for House Bill 198 (Sponsors: Rep. Lyndon Yearick, et al.): This bill sought to allow the tasting and limited sale of craft alcoholic beverages at farmers' markets.

FATE: Died on the House Ready List*.

House Bill 165 (as amended) (Sponsors: Reps. Baumbach & Deborah Hudson, et al.): This bill would have removed Delaware from the short list of six states that presently prohibit wine from being shipped directly to consumers' homes.

FATE: Initially passed the House. Passed the Senate, with an added amendment. The amendment required a reconsideration in the House, where it was defeated.

Senate Bill 200 (Sponsors: **Sen. Lopez, Rep. Ron Gray, et al.**): This bill will prohibit drilling for oil or natural gas in Delaware's Coastal Zone and territorial waters.

FATE: Approved by the General Assembly and awaiting the signature of the governor.

Senate Bill 197 (as amended) (Sponsors: **Rep. Lavelle, et. al.**): This act will provide mandatory expungement eligibility to individuals who were convicted of the possession, use or consumption of marijuana prior to Delaware's decriminalization of these offenses.

FATE: Approved by the General Assembly and awaiting the signature of the governor.

House Substitute 1 for House Concurrent Resolution 34 (Sponsors: **Rep. Kevin Hensley, et al.**): This concurrent resolution would have established a task force to investigate the cost of special education and make recommendations related to cost efficiency.

FATE: Died on the House Ready List*.

Senate Bill 239 (Sponsors: **Sen. Hansen, Rep. Rich Collins**): This legislation was intended to curtail littering and illegal dumping through enhanced penalties and the creation of the Litter Investigation and Enforcement Fund, financed through restitution paid by offenders.

FATE: Passed the Senate (17 to 0). Died on the House Ready List*.

House Bill 157 (Sponsors: **Rep. Jeff Spiegelman, et al.**): This bill would have authorized the use of "airbows" -- a weapon that shoots arrows pneumatically -- for hunting deer in place of a shotgun during any shotgun deer season.

FATE: Died on the House Ready List* after being on the list for more than a year.

House Bill 73 (Sponsors: **Rep. Ruth Briggs King, et al.**): This bill would have required elected and paid appointed government officials in Delaware -- who are also employed by any state agency, education, or other institution, or any other political subdivision of this state -- to disclose such employment to the Public Integrity Commission (PIC) to ensure such officials are not receiving dual compensation for overlapping hours of work.

FATE: Died on the House Ready List*.

* A bill released from committee and eligible to be acted on by the full House of Representatives is placed on the House Ready List. The Speaker of the House is responsible to moving a bill from the Ready List to the House Agenda for consideration.