

HARRISBURG ONLINE

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TIPPING POINT

Earlier this week, Washington DC's City Council took action to stop the implementation of their previous plan to eliminate the tipped credit. This comes after a slew of restaurant closures and unintended consequences resulting from the action. Yesterday, PA's House Labor and Industry Committee voted out an increase to the minimum wage that included a drastic increase to the tipped credit. *Clearly there is more work to be done...*

THE CLOCK IS TIK-KING

The Pennsylvania Senate unanimously passed Senate Bill 376, which would ban TikTok on state-owned devices due to cybersecurity concerns tied to its parent company, ByteDance. Sponsored by Sen. **Kristin Phillips-Hill** (R-York), the bill aligns Pennsylvania with over 39 states and follows previous action by the state treasurer **Stacy Garrity**. The Senate also passed Senate Bill 377, requiring state IT contracts to meet federal cybersecurity standards. Both measures now move to the House for consideration.

FOOD FIGHT

Pennsylvania is suing the U.S. Department of Agriculture, claiming the agency illegally pulled out of a program that provides over a billion dollars to states for food aid. Governor **Josh Shapiro** says the USDA, under President Trump, cut off \$13 million meant for Pennsylvania's food banks, schools, and childcare centers without proper explanation. The lawsuit argues the USDA ended the contract without justification. "A deal is a deal," said Shapiro. "They broke it." Filed in federal court, the case seeks to reinstate the program that supports farmers and vulnerable communities.

APPLE FOR NO ONE

A new report from the #PANeedsTeachers coalition warns that Pennsylvania is in a "teacher shortage crisis," with Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry, and Lebanon counties facing "extremely severe" staffing gaps. The report highlights declining teacher certification rates, high attrition, and stark racial disparities between student and teacher demographics. In Dauphin County, for example, only 59 certificates were issued in 2024 despite a need for 502 teachers, with students of color making up 53% of enrollment but only 6% of teachers.

The coalition is urging the legislature to invest over \$60 million in stipends, apprenticeship programs, and workforce data improvements to help address the crisis.

HU LEAVES PHILLY

Earlier this week, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology announced it will be closing its Philadelphia campus in an effort to “reimagine” its presence in the city. HU will continue to participate in College in the High School initiatives, dual enrollment partnerships, and non-degree and workforce-aligned programming. The closure is scheduled for August 31, 2025. The university has assured those currently enrolled in Philadelphia that it will provide support for a smooth transition to the Harrisburg campus.



Happy Birthday

- U.S. Congresswoman **Chrissy Houlahan**
- Former Lt. Governor **Michael J. Stack, III**
- Former State Representative **Jess M. Stairs**
- **Dennis Yablonsky**, CEO, DYablonsky Consulting LTD
- **Megan McDonough**, **Solution Consultant**, **Deloitte**
- **Matthew Gregorits**, Director, State and Regulatory Affairs, First Energy Corporation
- **Jacqueline Shogan**, former Judge of the Superior Court



GREENLEE PARTNERS

230 State Street,
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-236-0443

CONTACT US

Greenlee Partners, LLC | 230 State Street | Harrisburg, PA 17101 US

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