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AGRICULTURAL REFORM

State Representative **Paul Friel** (D-Chester) and State Senator **Greg Rothman** (R-Cumberland) helped advance a new Pennsylvania law, included as part of the Fiscal Code amendments to the state budget, regulating how food processing waste, or residuals, is used on farmland. The material referenced is often used as a cheaper alternative to traditional fertilizer but has raised concerns because of odors and environmental impacts. Improperly applied food residuals can pose risks that outweigh its farming benefits. The law directs state agencies to create rules for how the waste is transported and spread on fields.

PHRC

Seven new commissioners have been named to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) to fill the numerous vacancies on the board following controversy within PHRC. The newly named commissioners include former State Representative **Seth Grove**, who resigned from his seat early this year following conflict of interest concerns. The commissioners are appointed by the Governor and approved the State Senate. The newly confirmed members will be sworn in by the end of the month.

PUT THE BRAKES ON

State Representative **Ben Waxman** (D-Philadelphia) is proposing a new bill to restrict the use of self-driving vehicles for public transit. Waxman is calling for a mandate that large public transit vehicles with autonomous driving features must be operated with a licensed driver in the car. This bill does not address cars and would not ban the large vehicles from being driven by computers; it would only prohibit them from driving without direct human supervision. Waxman cited safety concerns as the reason for this proposal, fearing the consequences of a technology-induced bus crash.

MEASLES TRACKED

Pennsylvania is now reporting 105 measles cases, according to a new online tracker developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The department plans to update the tracker every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with newly reported cases. The dashboard also includes hospitalization

rates, age demographics, an interactive county map, the percentage of cases involving vaccinated individuals, and the number of vaccines administered by the department.

THE BLOB

Phoenixville was transformed with horror-inspired decorations this past weekend for its 27th Blobfest, an annual event celebrating the 1958 film *The Blob*. The horror film follows a red, flesh-eating alien that roams the Pennsylvania town and attacks moviegoers in the historic Colonial Theatre, a scene that visitors recreate each year during Blobfest. Businesses also participated in this year's decoration theme, 'Cirque du Blobfest,' helping to highlight Phoenixville's local establishments while paying tribute to the film.



Happy Birthday

- *Former State Representative **Jamie Santora***
- ***Amie Downs Sr.**, VP of Communications, C&G Strategies*
- ***John Bane**, Director of Government Affairs, EQT Corporation*
- ***Holly Lubart**, VP of Government Affairs, News Media Alliance*
- ***Alisa Harris**, VP of Legislative Affairs, PA State Alliance of YMCAs*
- ***Deb Joyce**, Paralegal, PA Gaming Control Board*
- ***Gina Gabel***, Assistant General Manager, Tröegs Independent Brewing*



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