

Legislature Finishes, Work To Continue

(Continued from Page A1)

during the previous Legislative session because of a lack of consensus.

While local tax reform seemed promising, a Senate bill was heavily amended in the House, and more or less rejected by the Senate. When the Senate returned the proposal to the House, it was stripped of the amendments.

In a separate, but related matter, residents could get to vote on a referendum to allow a constitutional change that would allow local taxes to be paid from an assessment upon income tax rather than all from real estate.

If the next Legislature picks up the issue early and becomes the second consecutive Legislature to approve a constitutional change, then the matter can be put on the general ballot.

The gas tax, called for by Gov. Ridge almost immediately following winter storms and flood-related damages to state bridges and highways, was left undelivered in large part because of dissatisfaction and disagreement over spending priorities and performance by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Many local communities were left empty handed after spending so much on road cleanup and treatment of highways with ice-melting and traction-improvement materials.

Other proposals, such as one targeted at "puppy mills" and pet stores that would have given consumers the right to be compensated for losses because of disease or health problems that should have been addressed by the supplier before the animal was offered for sale.

The proposal sought to make breeders and retailers more responsible, and, more or less, to force them to improve conditions or quit the business.

Some changes to state dog law were made in another proposal. That increased fees and, according to agricultural leaders, gave the state Department of Agriculture the tools it needs to get on with the job of enforcing state dog law.

Legislation was also approved to change the state law regarding the enforcement of weights and measures laws, another responsibility that currently falls within the purview of the PDA.

Those regulated by the PDA Bureau of Weights and Measures

should not expect to actually see any changes. The change to law was made to recodify the laws, which means they were made to be less confusing. They were also changed to settle disputes between local authority and state responsibility.

While the Legislature stayed late both of the last two days this week to finish, the reasons for staying late were not clear, expect to allow for some last-minute repositioning on the major issues and possibly approval.

The governor is expected to approve into law legislation sponsored by Rep. Arthur Hershey that amends the state clean air law to more clearly define what is agriculture, in terms of the Clean Air Act.

The proposal began because of local non-farming attempts to restrict mushroom farmers, on the premise that odors associated with the practice were a violation of the provisions of the clean air law; and the fact that the state Department of Environmental Protection did not consider mushroom growing to be farming, as protected under the

act.

The proposal is expected to bring permanent relief to agriculture, at least from complaints based on the Clean Air Act.

Also approved was legislation that allow a farmer to conduct activities on the farm to further process crops for use on the farm.

According to Brenda Shambaugh, legislative director for the Pennsylvania State Grange, "The Grange has seen significant legislative accomplishments, not only for the agricultural community, but for all rural people as well."

"There are obviously some issues not resolved, like local tax reform, but overall we've had an extremely successful legislative session."

The Grange was the first to notice and lead the battle against a "rebalancing" plan submitted by Bell Atlantic that would have allowed the telephone service provider to lower charges in high density areas and to raise costs to rural costumers.

The rebalancing proposal is a direct result of the populist notion that deregulation of an industry

improves it because it allows for more competition.

However, in Bell's case, the historic provider is locked in by the state at charging certain rates and providing service to both rural and intercity customers, while those "competing providers" are able to serve only the innercity customers and can undercut Bell's charges.

While Bell may have developed and installed the infrastructure for the telephone system, it has to allow other companies to use the infrastructure.

The result is that Bell can be expected to suffer somewhat from small companies seeking to capitalize by focusing only on undercutting Bell's prices in cities.

The final decision on the Bell request is to come soon, though it is expected to be refused.

The Grange also supported the deregulation of the electric industry to the degree that costumers are to be allowed to select the electric provider of their choice, instead of having regions allocated to specific providers and having the companies trade energy as demand and

(Turn to Page A15)

HOME HEATING OIL USERS

Save money & stay warm this winter
For indoor & outdoor oil tanks

USE POLAR POWER FUEL ADDITIVE

(32 OZ. TREATS UP TO 240 GAL.)

- * Cleans Tank Nozzle
- * Removes Sludge & Varnish
- * Creates a Better Burn-Cleaner Flame
- * More Efficient Fuel Usage
- * Prevents Waxing & Gelling in Freezing Temperatures
- * Disperses Water
- * Prevents Algae
- * and Much, Much More...



Sold at:

MILLER DIESEL INC.

Central Warehouse Distributor & Diesel Fuel Injection Specialist
6030 Jonestown Road Harrisburg, PA 17112
(717)545-5931

Year-End 1996 ANNUAL APPRECIATION SALE

Dec. 26 thru Dec. 31st

10% OFF

every item in our hardware store
(Cash and Carry only)

Check Dec. 21 Issue
For Complete Details

Holiday Hours

December 24 7:00 am - 4:00 pm
December 25 CLOSED
December 31 7:00 am - 4:00 pm
January 1 CLOSED

PAUL B. ZIMMERMAN, INC.

50 Wood Corner Rd., Lititz, PA 17543
Phone: 717-738-7350

OPEN HOUSE SPECIALS

Dec. 4, 5, 6, 7, 1996

8 AM - 8 PM Sat. 8-5

Located between Reading & Allentown 1 Mile East of Fleetwood on Main St.

10% Off on all Tingleys

We now have children's sizes

Safeguard Cattle Wormer.....	\$61.00
Penicillin 250 ml.	\$12.95
Aldadry & Albacillin..... a box	\$12.50
Neomix 325.....	\$4.95
812 Paper Towels.....	\$13.50
Equimectrin.....	\$8.95
LA - 200 100 ml.....	\$10.95
Ralgro.....per reel	\$21.95

Weaver's
Animal
Shack

610-944-0593

FREE
REFRESHMENTS

Now Open

Nutrena Feeds is now open and fully operational in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. We can help you meet your goals for improved farm profits:

- On-Farm nutritional consulting .
- Custom nutrient design for every farm.
- Technology backed by extensive research.
- Personalized service.

Give us a call today at 1-800-613-4459



Nutrena Feeds