

What Does the Current State Surplus Mean for YOU?



As the state Legislature prepares for its annual state budget, the Commonwealth is flush with cash, but economic storm clouds are on the horizon. [In this week's podcast](#), I outline why it's necessary to save for a rainy day.

REAL ID Update

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is reminding residents that enforcement of the federal REAL ID Act will begin May 3, 2023. At that time, residents will have to present a federally accepted form of identification to board a commercial domestic flight or visit a secure federal building that requires ID to enter. Federally accepted forms of identification include a Pennsylvania REAL ID driver's license or ID card, a U.S. Passport or Passport Card or a military ID., a REAL ID. While REAL ID is not mandatory, about 1.6 million Pennsylvanians have already chosen to get one. PennDOT continues to offer standard-issue driver's licenses and photo IDs. To learn more about REAL ID and how to obtain one, visit penndot.gov/REALID.



House Advances 'Smart Justice' Measures

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The state House of Representatives recently passed a bipartisan package of legislation to increase public safety through its "Smart Justice" initiative. The measures aim to ensure proper enforcement of current laws governing violent crime – particularly in Philadelphia – and strengthen laws to better support and protect crime victims. They include:

- [House Bill 2238](#), which would enact term limits for the district attorney in cities of the first class (Philadelphia).
- [House Bill 2275](#), which would grant the state attorney general the authority to investigate and institute criminal proceedings for violations of certain firearm laws within Philadelphia.
- [House Bill 2271](#), which I co-sponsored, would strengthen penalties on those who sexually extort their victims to such a degree that the extortion leads to serious bodily injury or death.
- [House Bill 2464](#), which would give crime victims legal standing to assert and enforce their rights in court.



The bills now go to the Senate for consideration.

Coming Up!

Representative Frank Ryan
invites you to a
Seminar for Senior Citizens:

SCAMS

and How to Prevent Them

ID Theft | Financial Planning | Living Wills | POA
There will be a representative from the Attorney General's Office.

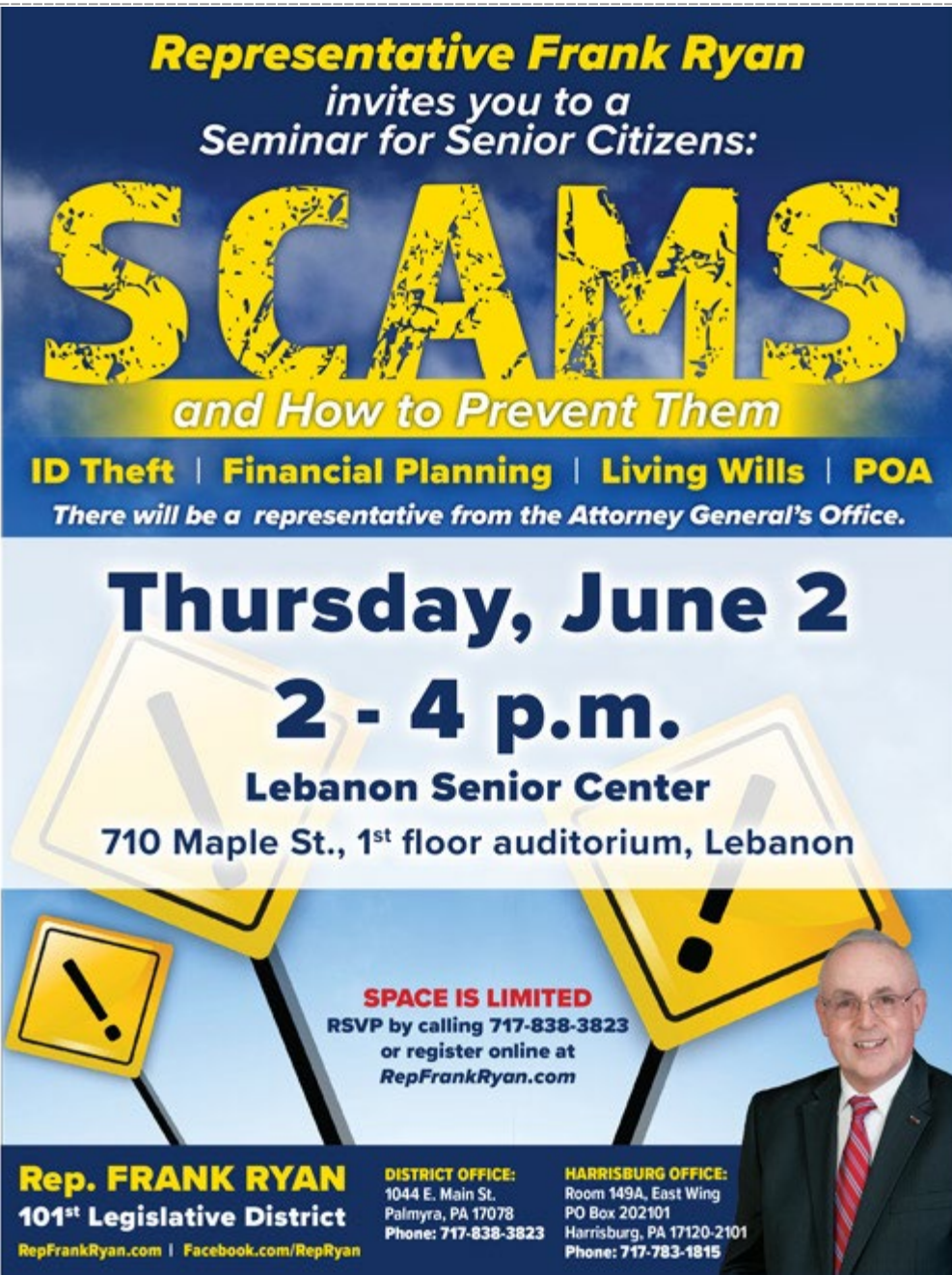
Thursday, June 2
2 - 4 p.m.
Lebanon Senior Center
710 Maple St., 1st floor auditorium, Lebanon

SPACE IS LIMITED
RSVP by calling 717-838-3823
or register online at
RepFrankRyan.com

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Bill to Aid EMS Response Passes House

I recently voted to approve legislation to make permanent regulatory waivers regarding staffing on basic life support (BLS) ambulances. Emergency medical services (EMS) crews are facing staffing shortages that sometimes prevent them from leaving the station to respond to a call. The problem is particularly prevalent in rural areas. Under previous state regulations, certified emergency personnel, such as firefighters with specific first-aid, CPR and emergency vehicle training, were permitted to drive ambulances with an EMT on board.



Those regulations were changed several years ago to increase the number of emergency medical responders (EMRs) or EMTs required per ambulance. That means if an ambulance company does not have the required staffing, they must defer to another, which can significantly delay care for people in dire health conditions. This regulation was waived during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure access to health care. I fully support a permanent change to give EMS agencies the regulatory flexibility to meet the public safety needs of their communities. [House Bill 2097](#) is pending action in the Senate.

House Advances Government Transparency Bill

I recently voted to approve legislation to require the electronic quarterly publication of expenses incurred by members of the state House of Representatives. [House Bill 2449](#) would require the chief clerk and the comptroller of the House to provide a quarterly list of certain expenses to the Legislative Data Processing Center for publication on a publicly available website. The list would include detailed travel expenses on legislative business; administrative, clerical and professional services; rent for office space; official entertainment, including restaurant and beverage charges; purchase of flags, plaques, publications and other similar items in connection with legislative activities; and communications and donations in extending congratulations or sympathy of an illness or death. While this information is currently available via a



right-to-know request, the bill would make it more easily accessible to all Pennsylvanians. The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Honoring Fallen Troopers

In conjunction with its 117th anniversary, the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) honored its 102 fallen troopers, including four members who died in the line of duty since the agency's last in-person ceremony in 2019. The four lost recently were Trooper Donald C. Brackett, who died on May 18, 2019, due to a medical emergency; Trooper First Class Dung X. Martinez, who died on Oct. 21, 2021, due to complications from COVID-19; and Troopers Martin F. Mack III and Branden T. Sisca, both of whom died on March 21, 2022, after being struck by a drunk driver. Monday's ceremony

included the reading of the names of all 102 fallen troopers. An online version of the PSP memorial wall, including photos and biographies of each member who died in the line of duty, [is available here](#). PSP was established by Gov. Samuel Pennypacker on May 2, 1905, becoming the first uniformed police agency of its kind in the United States.

