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GPUAC News

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## GPUAC Budget Watch

November 15-28, 2009

*Budget Watch* provides **information on and analysis of Pennsylvania's fiscal year 2010 budget implementation.** We will be taking a closer look **as the executive and legislative branches of government form the budget for fiscal year 2011.** As appropriate, we will also **report on local county and federal budget processes** and their impact on nonprofits, service providers and communities.

**We welcome your feedback and input as we do our part to ensure an informed and engaged public and nonprofit sector in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Please register any comments [here](#).**

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### BUDGET UPDATE

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#### Table Game Legislation

**Table game legislation continues to be stalled in the House,** and given the Thanksgiving holiday, **legislation will not be considered until the week of November 30 at the earliest.**

As previously reported in *Budget Watch*, the delay in approving table game legislation has an **impact on the approval and allocation of funding for universities, hospitals, and museums.** Despite funding freezes, four Pennsylvania universities are attempting to hold tuition increases at a minimum. However, universities may need to review the current tuition rates for the spring semester if **state funding ends up less than what is being projected.**

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#### State of the State Budget

Cuts included in the final approved budget have resulted in **319 state employees being furloughed, effective December 4.** The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Historical and Museum Commission are the state agencies hardest hit by the furloughs. **DEP will furlough a total of 138 employees, which is nearly 5 percent of the agency's staff.** In addition, they will not fill 120 vacant positions.

For the first time since 1995, **executive branch officials, legislators, and state and local judges will not receive an automatic cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2010.**

A law passed in 1995 grants these officials **an automatic COLA if there is a rise in the Consumer Price Index in the Philadelphia metropolitan area in the preceding 12 months.** Over the past year, the cost index declined, which **means that the automatic COLA for 2010 will not go into effect.**

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## GREATER PHILADELPHIA URBAN AFFAIRS COALITION

The Coalition unites government, business, neighborhoods, and individual initiative to improve the quality of life in the region, build wealth in urban communities, and solve emerging issues. We strengthen the nonprofit sector and drive sustainable change through policies and programs that lead to economic growth and opportunities. Visit us online at [www.gpuac.org](http://www.gpuac.org)

