

## July 2021 TCTA Legislative Update

### Already Enacted Public Laws

This were passed in June and has already been signed into law. Because the Public Law version of the law is not available yet, the link is to the final legislative version that shows all the amendments made from an initial introduced version.

[c. 136](#). concerns assessment of real property in counties operating under "Real Property Assessment Demonstration Program." This only affect Monmouth, Gloucester, and Burlington counties. It focuses primarily on procedures for internal inspections, and other technical issues. [Read a summary here.](#)

### Bill on the Governor's Desk

Keep in mind the Governor can sign as is, conditionally veto, absolute veto, or let be enacted without his signature. The links are to the version that are on his desk and show all the amendments made from the introduced version.

### Assembly Bills

[A681](#) - Expands the scope of law prohibiting age discrimination. It does so by deleting a law that can permit a government employer to require retirement when an employee reaches a particular age; employers can no longer refuse to hire someone for the sole reason of being more than 70 years old; removes limits on reinstatement with back pay and interest as the remedy for such discrimination and allows other penalties.

[A2374](#) - Directs EDA to establish program for public or private financing of certain renewable energy, water, and storm resiliency projects through use by municipalities of voluntary special assessments for certain property owners.

This amends the existing (but not implemented anywhere) PACE – Property Assessed Clean Energy – program to focus on commercial properties, but with a wider range of improvements that can be financed. They are repaid as a special assessment on the property and lenders have no recourse to the municipality for the debt. Delinquencies are treated as a first lien except for subsequent taxes (page 12-13).

It permits municipalities or counties to set up their own program (subject to EDA guidelines) or participate in a statewide program run by the EDA. Nothing happens until EDA adopts its guidelines which may take up to 9 months.

[A2617](#) - Requires employers to provide a hiring preference to employees who have reached maximum medical improvement following work-related injury. "The bill does not require an employer to create a new position for the injured employee, nor does it require the employer to remove another employee from an existing but filled position to accommodate the injured employee."

[A5231](#) - Allows county or municipal governing bodies to enter into revenue sharing agreements for alcoholic beverage sales by concessionaire permit holders. In other words,

it permits a municipal governing body to enter into an agreement to share a fixed percentage of the revenue from the sale of alcoholic beverages by the private vendor serving as a contractor on government property.

[A5343](#) - Requires public community water systems to inventory and replace lead service lines within 10 years; provides for recoupment of costs by investor-owned public water systems. There are lots of details to this. [Read the summary here.](#)

[A5407](#) – This 35-page bill removes restrictions on special assessments and bond issuances for replacement of residential lead service lines; revises budgetary requirements for operators of certain water systems. Generally, it revises various public finance laws to remove existing restrictions on the ability of local governments and authorities to finance the costs of lead service line replacements. [Read the summary here.](#)

[A5580](#) - Restores and revises Urban Enterprise Zone program and appropriates \$42,500,000 for its first year.

#### Senate Bills

[S1010](#) - Permits counties and municipalities to bond for alternative fuel vehicles. It would permit these vehicles to be financed for up to five years.

[S3049](#) - Establishes a regional municipal court pilot program. It is an application only process for municipalities located in counties with less than 300,000 people and a density of less than 500 people/sq mi., aka., Warren, Cape May, and Salem counties.

[S3488](#) - Modifies certain procedures pertaining to school district regionalization; establishes grant program for cost reimbursement of conducting regionalization feasibility studies; and provides financial incentives for regionalization.

[S3868](#) - Concerns construction code enforcing agency fee revenue when UCC funds increase by more than 12% a year.