

Law Would Ensure Caregivers Access to their Loved Ones



By State Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - In response to the forced isolation of long-term care residents from their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have adopted a new state law to ensure this tragedy does not happen again.

Act 67 of 2021 will safely allow family members to visit long-term care facilities as essential caregivers for our most vulnerable citizens. Mirroring regulations already successfully implemented in Minnesota and Indiana, the law amends the Pennsylvania Health Care Facilities Act to allow a designated essential family caregiver to be named for each resident of a licensed long-term care facility during a declaration of disaster emergency.

Too many long-term care residents died alone or experienced a significant decline in their physical and mental well-being as a result of the pandemic isolation. This law recognizes the importance of a wholistic approach to caring for these residents in emergency situations.

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PennDOT Seeking Workers for Winter Maintenance Program

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - While we are still feeling the summer heat, PennDOT is preparing for cooler temperatures by gearing up for its winter maintenance program, which will run from September through April to supplement the permanent workforce.

Positions and paid hourly rates are as follows: transportation equipment/CDL operator (\$17.05-\$19.24, based on location); diesel and construction equipment mechanic (\$20.40-\$21.70, based on location); auto mechanic (\$18.08); semi-skilled laborer (\$16.05); tradesman helper (\$16.05); welder (\$18.08); radio dispatcher (\$14.25); custodial worker (\$14.25); and stock clerk (\$14.25).

Anyone wishing to apply should visit employment.pa.gov and go to the PennDOT Winter Maintenance Program posting under the "Open Jobs" section of the website.

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