



Senator Lisa M. Boscola Joins Governor Shapiro for Signing of Outdoor Seating Legislation

By Office of Senator Lisa M. Boscola

HARRISBURG - Bill Signing Three years after the COVID-19 pandemic originally hit the United States, our food service industry and liquor licensees are still struggling. Earlier this week, I was joined by Rep. Matthew Gergely (D-Allegheny) and other members of the General Assembly as Governor Josh Shapiro signed House Bill 829 into law. The bill, now Act 57 of 2024, made numerous changes to the Liquor Code, including Senator Boscola's language from Senate Bill 1180 making COVID-era outdoor seating provisions at licensed establishments permanent and will extend happy hours from 14 hours per week to 24 hours per week.

Outdoor seating has been a lifeline for PA's restaurants and bars – it's success to date made keeping it in place an easy choice. Restaurants found that these extensions were popular with customers and helped with the bottom line, and the extension of happy hours is something, I think, that will be beneficial to both consumers and small business owners.

The outdoor seating provision was enacted in 2021, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, to provide flexibility to restaurants in response to the pandemic and the various restrictions it placed on their businesses. Specifically, the provision extended the licensed premises of an establishment to include any outside serving area that is immediately adjacent to the existing licensed areas; or within one thousand feet of the main licensed building.

Free Tech Tutorial & Open Forum for Community Members

By Brittney Waylen

EASTON - The Northampton County Digital Navigator Coalition will host a Digital Device Tech Tutorial and Open Forum on Thursday, November 14, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. This free community event will take place at the Palmer Library, 1 Weller Place, Easton, PA in the Conference Room.

The event will begin with an open discussion from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM, where community members can discuss if their broadband needs are being met and if services are available and/or affordable. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own devices, such as smartphones, laptops, or tablets, to receive personalized assistance.

From 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, staff from the Easton Area School District will provide hands-on training, helping attendees with internet navigation, setting up smartphones, and adding apps to your devices.

Representatives from several area internet service providers are expected to attend to provide information about their services and answer questions

For more information, contact the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development at 610-829-6306.

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