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Ann Flood

Pennsylvania State Representative
138th District

RepAnnFlood.com

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High School Seniors Eligible for America250PA Scholarship

By State Rep. Ann Flood

An application window is open for 25 scholarships of \$10,000 each available to Pennsylvania high school seniors who will be attending a Pennsylvania college or university in the 2026-27 academic year. Recipients will be selected based on a demonstrated understanding of civic values as America marks 250 years of American independence.

The scholarships are available through the Semiquincentennial Scholarship Program. In addition, some educational institutions are offering to match America250PA scholarships with contributions up to \$10,000. America250PA is Pennsylvania's official commission to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States this year. It highlights how the Commonwealth helped shape American history and creates opportunities for residents to take part in this historic milestone.

More information can be found here. The deadline is Jan. 31.



Improving PA DUI Laws

By State Rep. Ann Flood

Working to ensure repeat DUI offenders are held accountable, a new state law creates the offense of "DUI Following Diversion."

Act 58 of 2025 applies to a person who is convicted of driving under the influence (DUI) within 10 years of completing an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) for a DUI offense. The change comes in response to a Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision stating it is unconstitutional for a trial court to treat a defendant's prior acceptance of ARD for a DUI as a "prior offense" for the purpose of imposing an enhanced sentence on a subsequent DUI conviction.

ARD is a longstanding and successful pretrial diversion program intended for low-level offenders with little or no prior criminal history but should not prevent the courts from holding repeat offenders accountable for their actions and protecting public safety.

More People Can Save Through PA ABLE

By State Rep. Ann Flood

The PA ABLE Savings Program, which provides a tax-free way for people with disabilities to save, now has expanded program eligibility, allowing more Pennsylvanians to open a PA ABLE account.

Individuals can now open an account if their disability began before age 46. Previously, the disability must have occurred prior to the age of 26. The expansion is the result of a change in federal law.

Since 2017, PA ABLE has helped provide financial security for Pennsylvanians with disabilities. It allows people to contribute up to \$20,000 annually without impacting eligibility for important disability benefits like Medical Assistance (Medicaid) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Savings can be used for a wide variety of disability-related expenses, and contributions can be deducted from PA state income taxes.

To learn more about saving with PA ABLE, visit paable.gov or call 855-529-ABLE (2253).

