

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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Measure to advance to vote

Council could consider controversial parental leave policy as soon as Oct. 20

By Jacob Geanous
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A proposal to require employers in Allegheny County to provide paid parental leave cleared a key hurdle Thursday when County Council's Committee on Health voted to send the legislation to the full council, which could vote on it as early as Oct. 20.

Committee members voted 5-1 to approve the ambitious and controversial 12-week paid parental leave policy proposed in March by county Executive Sara Innamorato, despite pushback from some business owners in the area.

Health officials have said the proposal is a public health measure that will support infant health and maternal recovery.

"The benefits extend beyond the individual family," Health Department Director Iulia Vann told members of the committee. "Healthier parents and children contribute to healthier communities and policies that support families can strengthen workforce participation and employee retention."

Councilwoman Suzanne Filaggi, the lone Republican on council, was the only committee member to vote against advancing the measure with council members Paul Klein, Dan Gryzbek, Kathleen Madonna-Emmerling, Lissa Geiger Shulman and DeWitt Walton voting to move it forward.

Walton had initially asked his colleagues to push back the committee vote but ultimately voted to send the bill to the full council. He said he had concerns about the pace at which the policy is heading toward a final vote.

"I have some serious trepidation about the speed in which we are moving forward," he said. "With serious, serious, serious reservations, I guess I vote yes."

The committee's decision to advance the legislation comes after the initial proposal of 18 weeks of paid parental leave received mixed reactions from hundreds who submitted comments to local officials.

In response to the outpouring of feedback, officials amended it, scaling it back to 12 weeks and exempting small businesses with fewer than 15 employees.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

SEE **LEAVE**, PAGE A-5

WAR IN THE MIDEAST

TRUMP: U.S. WILL PAUSE STRIKES

Holding off on military action until after election

By Josh Boak and Aamer Madhani
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Thursday that he will not order a resumption of military strikes on Iran before the Nov. 3 midterm elections in the United States.

Trump, while stumping for Republicans this week, has hinted that he was confident that an endgame to the war could come in the days before or after the election, while also hinting that he remained open to resuming full-scale military operations against Iran.

For weeks, Trump has been threatening that a post-midterm election escalation in the 7-month-old war remains a viable option, despite his initial promises to Americans of a military campaign that would last a matter of weeks.

But Trump in a social media post on Thursday said the U.S. "will not be attacking Iran at any time prior to the Midterm Elections to be held in the United States on November 3rd."

SEE **STRIKES**, PAGE A-10

SPOTLIGHT PA

Shapiro, Garrity face off

Sole debate offers little new about candidates

By Stephen Caruso and Kate Huangpu
Spotlight PA

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's major party candidates for governor met in Harrisburg for the first and only debate of the 2026 election on Wednesday, staking out familiar positions on affordability issues, looming healthcare cuts and education funding.

Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro sought to tie Republican state Treasurer Stacy Garrity to Donald Trump's administration and defended his own record, saying Pennsylvania's economy has seen "unheard-of growth." He repeatedly noted he can only pass what can get through the divided Legislature.

Garrity cast looming Trump-backed Medicaid cuts as common sense and painted a picture of a Pennsylvania that is "falling behind." She tried to differentiate herself from Shapiro on data centers, skill games and education.

SEE **DEBATE**, PAGE A-5

BRACING FOR HURRICANE ISAIAS



Residents pick up sandbags for storm preparation Thursday at the James Seals Jr. Parks & Recreation Center in Mobile, Ala., ahead of Hurricane Isaias' expected landfall along the Gulf Coast. The storm is expected to affect weather in the Pittsburgh region on Sunday after making landfall along the Gulf Coast late Friday or early Saturday. **More coverage in Local, Page A-4, and at post-gazette.com.**

Groups seek to delay deadline on skill games

By Jacob Geanous
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A bipartisan group of state lawmakers filed an emergency petition to the state Supreme Court late Wednesday asking for a judge to push back the Oct. 13 deadline for businesses to get rid of their skill games machines.

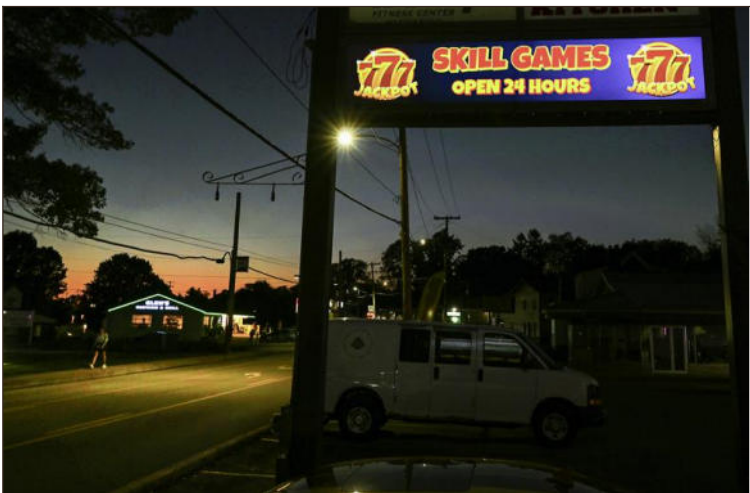
The filing — submitted by state Sens. Gene Yaw, a Republican, and Anthony Williams, a Democrat, as well as Republican state Rep. Jonathan Fritz — asks the court to grant a new deadline of Feb. 10 to give state lawmakers more time to come up with a solution to allow skill games to remain in operation throughout the state.

In a separate filing on Tuesday, a skill games industry group also submitted a request for the court to grant more time, arguing that the financial impact could be devastating to owners of small bars and restaurants, as well as local VFWs and American Legions.

The requests come after the high court ruled in June that skill games terminals actually are slot machines under Pennsylvania law — immediately making the games illegal to operate outside of the state's strictly regulated casino industry.

At the time, the court delayed the enforcement of its decision for 120 days, setting the mid-October deadline to stave

SEE **GAMES**, PAGE A-4



The sun sets on Skill Games in Keystone Plaza in Lower Burrell on Wednesday. Skill games could become illegal in the state on Tuesday.



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Weather
Mostly sunny and nice.
Daytime high, 70;
tonight's low, 51.
Page B-10

Almanac	A-2
Bridge	B-9
Business	A-8
Classified	B-10
Comics	B-8

Crosswords	B-9
High Schools	B-5
Horoscope	B-9
Local News	A-4
Lottery	A-5

Obituaries	A-6
Scoreboard	B-6
Sports	B-1
Sudoku	B-9
Television	B-7



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