



Joseph C. Hohenstein

Pennsylvania Representative, HD-177 (D)

freedomindex.us/10182/

Scan to view
vote history



PA Legislative Scorecard 2025: 0%

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

✓ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	— Did not Vote	Vote
1. LGBTQ+ Pride Month: Recognizes the month of June 2025 as "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" in Pennsylvania.			✗
Constitutional: No · Cast: Yes · HR231 · 06/11/2025			
2. Contraceptive Access for All Act: Mandates that all Pennsylvania health-insurance plans cover every FDA-approved contraceptive at no cost, with state oversight, limited exemptions, and penalties for noncompliance.			✗
Constitutional: No · Cast: Yes · HB1140 · 06/03/2025			
3. Food Bucks Program: Creates a program giving SNAP recipients \$0.40 in bonus "Food Bucks" per \$1 spent on fruits and vegetables, administered by a nonprofit with most funds directed to incentives.			✗
Constitutional: No · Cast: Yes · HB1096 · 06/03/2025			
4. Equal Pay: Broadens pay-equity rules by adding race and ethnicity, banning pay secrecy and salary-history use, requiring pay-range disclosure, and imposing stricter enforcement. Estimated Cost per household: -\$0.23/year.			✗
Constitutional: No · Cast: Yes · HB630 · 05/05/2025			
5. Blighted Areas and Property Rights: Allows counties to combat blight by adopting standardized property codes, and creates grant and mitigation funds to support local revitalization. Estimated Cost per household: -\$0.02/year.			✗
Constitutional: No · Cast: Yes · HB273 · 04/23/2025			
6. Noncitizens in Agriculture and Licensure: Updates poultry technician licensing by expanding eligibility to all legal U.S. residents, raising fees, granting the state agriculture secretary broader power, and strengthening enforcement.			✗
Constitutional: No · Cast: Yes · HB324 · 02/03/2025			



View the Freedom Toolbox

Scan to learn more about the Freedom Index, view legislative alerts, and deepen your understanding of the U.S. Constitution and America's founding principles. Visit <https://freedomindex.us/tools/>

\$297,626

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of September 2,
2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. LGBTQ+ Pride Month

HR231 recognizes the month of June 2025 as "LGBTQ+ Pride Month."

The Pennsylvania State House of Representatives passed HR231 on June 11, 2025 by a vote of 120 to 83. We have assigned pluses to the nays because homosexual *behavior* and "same-sex marriages" should be illegal in Pennsylvania, not honored. As with abortion, there is nothing in the U.S. Constitution that can be used to support homosexuality because true "equality" under the law means that there can be no appeal to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" for anyone apart from the moral sanctions set forth by "their Creator" who grants them with "certain unalienable Rights."

2. Contraceptive Access for All Act

HB1140 requires that all health-insurance plans in Pennsylvania cover every FDA-approved contraceptive drug, device, and service, including emergency and over-the-counter contraceptives, with no cost-sharing for consumers.

The Pennsylvania State House of Representatives passed HB1140 on June 3, 2025 by a vote of 116 to 87. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill forces taxpayers to fund abortion and birth-control coverage in public health-insurance plans and compels private companies to provide contraceptives against their beliefs. High-dose "morning-after" pills act as abortifacients, causing silent abortions. Government has no authority to finance or mandate the destruction of innocent life; it must uphold the God-given right to life affirmed in the Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by the Fifth and 14th Amendments.

3. Food Bucks Program

HB1096 enacts a new nutrition incentive initiative aimed at SNAP recipients. Under the proposed law, eligible participants receive at least \$0.40 in bonus "Food Bucks" for every \$1 of SNAP benefits spent on qualifying fruits and vegetables at participating food retailers.

The Pennsylvania State House of Representatives passed HB1096 on June 3, 2025 by a vote of 164 to 39. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this measure expands the unconstitutional Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), a federally funded welfare scheme that fosters government dependency and undermines personal responsibility. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution grants no authority for these programs.

4. Equal Pay

HB630 expands nondiscrimination protections to include race and ethnicity, banning pay secrecy and salary-history use, requiring pay-range disclosure, and imposing stricter enforcement and fines.

The Pennsylvania State House of Representatives passed HB630 on May 5, 2025 by a vote of 102 to 101. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the so-called "wage disparity" is a myth. Pay should be based on merit, not government mandates. By forcing businesses to disclose pay ranges in job postings, HB630 undermines free enterprise and removes the natural incentive structure of the workplace. The bill violates property rights by interfering with voluntary contracts between employers and employees.

5. Blighted Areas and Property Rights

HB273 gives counties in blighted areas more tools for property maintenance and neighborhood revitalization. It authorizes counties to adopt a property maintenance code—aligned with national or standardized guidelines—alongside provisions for enforcement, inspection, and penalties. The bill also establishes a Municipal Codes Enforcement Grant Program and a Municipal Neighborhood Mitigation Fund.

The Pennsylvania State House of Representatives passed HB273 on April 23, 2025 by a vote of 110 to 93. We have assigned pluses to the nays because authorizing counties to impose standardized "national" codes, it hands sovereignty over to outside authorities. Such programs violate constitutional limits, erode the Fifth Amendment's protection of property rights, and grow state control.

6. Noncitizens in Agriculture and Licensure

HB324 updates Pennsylvania's Poultry Technician Licensure Law to modernize and expand regulation of poultry technicians. It enables any U.S. legal resident to become a Certified Poultry Technician after completing a training course from the state Department of Agriculture, removing previous citizenship and education restrictions. The Secretary of Agriculture is granted broader authority to establish licensing standards and training procedures, which may include offering courses in Spanish. The bill also increases the licensing fee from \$5 to \$10 and enhances enforcement power.

The Pennsylvania State House of Representatives passed HB324 on February 3, 2025 by a vote of 161 to 41. We have assigned pluses to the nays because expanding licensure to noncitizens undermines state sovereignty and advances globalist efforts to dilute American culture through mass migration. Such measures erode freedom, weaken American sovereignty, and feed into the broader agenda of merging the United States into a North American Union.