



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

PHILLY BEVERAGE TAX NOT A “SWEET DEAL” FOR THE TEAMSTERS. THE COMPANIES THEY REPRESENT AND THE HOME TOWN GROCERY STORES

Pepsi to lay off 80 to 100, blames soda tax

According to Philly.Com ® because of slumping sales due to the new Philadelphia sweetened beverage tax, Pepsi said it will lay off 80 to 100 workers at three distribution plants that serve the city. The company, which employs 423 people in the city, sent out notices Wednesday, March 1, 2017 and said the layoffs would be spread over the next few months. The layoffs come in response to the beverage tax, which has cut sales by 40 percent in the city, PepsiCo Inc. spokesman Dave DeCecco said. “Unfortunately, after careful consideration of the economic realities created by the recently enacted beverage tax, we have been forced to give notice that we intend to eliminate 80 to 100 positions, including frontline and supervisory roles,” DeCecco said.

Bob Brockway, chief operating officer of Canada Dry Delaware Valley, which distributes about 20 percent of the city’s soft drinks, said sales were down 45 percent in Philadelphia. The company will lay off 20 percent of its workforce the first week in March. Two months into

the city’s sweetened-beverage tax, supermarkets and distributors are reporting a 30 percent to 50 percent drop in beverage sales and are planning for layoffs.

Brown's Super Stores, which manages six ShopRite stores in the city, said beverage sales were down 50 percent from Jan. 1 to Feb. 17 compared with the same period in 2016. More concerning, he said, is a 15 percent dip in overall sales at city stores.

Danny Grace, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 830, which represents many of the employees affected, said in a statement: “Our worst fears have been realized today. ... This terrible news, although not surprising, is particularly disastrous for the members of Teamsters Local 830, who rely on a strong soda industry for their livelihoods.”

PA SENATE BILL 241 “THE EQUAL PAY BILL”

Attached is a copy of PA Senate Bill 241 for your information only - as amended on third consideration, in the PA Senate, February 7, 2017.

. These Legislative Action Alerts will be posted on the PA Conference of Teamsters web site at www.pacfteamsters.com Go to the home page and click on the black box titled Legislative Action Alert Bulletins. Please share these alerts with your officers, agents and stewards.