

WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

Monday, April 20, 2015

[Senate Bill 385](#) (Pileggi) would amend the Transit Revitalization Investment District Act to add a new chapter relating to the capture of TRID tax revenue. Among other provisions, the legislation would:

- Allow a “management entity” to apply to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to establish a TRID fund for the purpose of funding an eligible project or for covering debt service payments;
- Require DCED to approve two applications within six months of the effective date of the legislation and to authorize DCED to approve additional applications thereafter;
- Require DCED to make a decision on an application within 90 days of submission;
- Authorize a management entity to borrow money for the purposes of executing a TRID or TRID planning study for which a TRID fund has been approved;
- Prohibit a member of the management entity from receiving money directly or indirectly from the TRID fund;
- Require the management entity to file annually with DCED a list of all businesses located in the TRID and all construction contractors engaged in construction, reconstruction or renovation of a facility in the TRID in the prior calendar year;
- Direct a qualified business located in a TRID to file a report with DCED including the amount of each eligible tax paid to the Commonwealth by the business for the previous year and the amount of each eligible tax refund received by the business;
- Require the Department of Revenue to verify the state baseline tax amount which consists of 75 percent of taxes paid by qualified businesses. Within 10 days of receiving the certified TRID tax amount from the Department of Revenue, the Office of the Budget would have to direct the State Treasurer to transfer the amount of certified TRID tax revenues from the General Fund to each TRID fund. (Provided that a transfer could not exceed \$350,000 to each TRID fund);
- Clarify that if a transfer is insufficient to make payments on issued bonds, the management entity would have to notify DCED and the Budget Office of the additional money necessary to make the payments. Within 90 days, the Budget Office would direct the State Treasurer to transfer money from the General Fund to a restricted account for the use of the management entity to make payments on the bonds (a transfer could not exceed \$100,000 and would only be in effect for the first seven years following the

baseline year.) Money transferred under this provision would have to be repaid by the management entity to the General Fund. The municipality and the transit agency which established the management entity would be responsible if the management entity fails to make repayment;

- Establish restrictions on how the money transferred to the management entity can be utilized;
- Provide that money transferred from the TRID fund for eligible projects would have to be matched by other sources of funding at a ratio of two fund dollars to one private dollar; and
- Provide that a TRID fund would remain in effect for the period of time required to complete any project for which debt was incurred or a period equal to the time for the repayment of debt incurred for the TRID. Bonds would have to be paid no later than 30 years following their initial issuance.

The legislation would also:

- Add a definition for “management entity;”
- Require that a TRID and its boundaries be established by ordinance;
- Provide that the participating municipality or county and the transit agency approving the TRID planning study designate the management entity to administer, manage and facilitate implementation of the TRID planning study;
- Clarify that any funding utilized by DCED to assist with TRID planning studies require a 25 percent match; and
- Provide that a portion of the incremental tax revenues generated within a TRID be dedicated to transit capital and public infrastructure improvements designated in the comprehensive plan. A public transportation agency could not use the tax revenue for a transit capital investment outside of a designated TRID unless the investment is necessary and integral to achieve an approved TRID implementation objective. Incremental tax revenue generated by a TRID property could be directed for use in TRID projects for up to 20 years from the date the property is designated as a TRID. **Passed: 47-0.**

[Senate Bill 427](#) (Greenleaf) would amend the Precious Metal Sale Regulation Law to increase the time period a dealer in precious metals would have to retain each item of precious metal purchased in unaltered condition from five days to ten days. The bill would also allow a law enforcement officer to seize and retain an item in unaltered condition for no more than 30 days to determine whether the item was stolen. The law enforcement officer would have to provide notice to the dealer. A court could order that a law enforcement officer retain an item of precious metal for a period of more than 30 days or order the return of an item to the dealer. An

additional change would remove a requirement from the law that items of precious metals must be retained at the location where purchased by the dealer. **Passed: 47-0.**

Senate Bill 562 (Gordner) would amend the Regulatory Review Act to require committee chairpersons to provide copies of proposed regulations, public comments and any Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) comments to each committee member of the chairperson's caucus within five business of the receipt of the information. The chairpersons could distribute an electronic copy of the information in lieu of a paper copy. The statement of need or purpose for the regulation could be submitted to IRRC and the committees but could not be submitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. An additional provision would require a committee member making a comment, recommendation or objection to the proposed regulation to also submit the comments to each committee chairperson. The majority chairperson could convene a meeting of the committee to adopt any comment, recommendation or objection to the proposed regulations or could conduct an informational hearing on the regulations. The majority committee chairperson would be required to conduct an informational hearing if petitioned to do so by a majority of the committee members.

At any time prior to 24 hours before the commission's meeting to consider a regulation, a committee may notify the commission and the agency that it disapproves or intends to further review a final-form regulation. If notified by a committee that it disapproves of the regulation, the commission could not approve or disapprove the regulation for a period of 30 days or nine legislative days, whichever is longer. If the commission is notified that a committee intends to further review a final-form regulation, the commission could not approve or disapprove the regulation for period of 14 days or six legislative days, whichever is longer. If the commission approves a regulation that has been disapproved by or is being reviewed by a committee, the agency could not promulgate the regulation for 14 days or six legislative days, whichever is longer. If at the end of this period the committee has not taken action, the agency could promulgate the regulation. The legislation would also further provide for the time periods for a concurrent resolution relating to a rulemaking. **Passed: 47-0.**

Senate Resolution 82 (Greenleaf) designates the month of May 2014 as "Lyme Disease Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 83 (Greenleaf) designates the month of May 2015 as "Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 84 (Greenleaf) designates May 1, 2015 as "The Battle of the Crooked Billet Day" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 85 (Alloway) recognizes the week of April 19 through 25, 2015 as "Adopt a Shelter Pet Week" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 86 (Gordner) recognizes the month of April 2015 as "Financial Literacy Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 87](#) (White) designates the month of April 2015 as “Community Banking Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

[Senate Bill 487](#) (McIlhinney) would amend the Insurance Company Law of 1921 by adding an article, Fairness in Multiple Copayments, concerning physical therapy, chiropractic and occupational therapy services. The bill would prohibit health insurance policies from requiring insured patients utilizing physical therapy, chiropractic or occupational therapy services to pay more than one copayment amount per visit or to deplete more than one visit. A violation of the article would be deemed an unfair method of competition and an unfair deceptive act or practice under the Unfair Insurance Practices Act. [Passed: 47-0.](#)

[Senate Resolution 88](#) (Rafferty) recognizes the week of May 10 through 16, 2015 as “National Police Week” and May 4, 2015 as “Police Officers’ Memorial Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 89](#) (Leach) designates April 24, 2015 as “Pennsylvania’s Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923.” [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 90](#) (Leach) recognizes the month of April 2015 as “Multiple Birth Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 91](#) (Yaw) designates the week of May 3 through 9, 2015 as “Drinking Water Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 92](#) (Tartaglione) recognizes 2015 as the “Year of the Borinqueneers” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 93](#) (Ward) designates April 21, 2015 as “Independent College and University Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 94](#) (Tartaglione) designates the week of April 19 through 25, 2015 as “National Crime Victims’ Rights Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

[Senate Bill 494](#) (Ward) would amend the Flood Insurance Education and Information Act to repeal the requirement that the Insurance Department present an annual report to the General Assembly on its flood insurance consumer education plan. [Passed: 48-0.](#)

[Senate Resolution 96](#) (Teplitz) designates April 28, 2015 as “Workers’ Memorial Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 97](#) (Yudichak) recognizes April 22, 2015 as “Earth Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

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