

WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

Monday, May 4, 2015

[Senate Resolution 98](#) (Greenleaf) designates the month of May 2015 as “Phenylketonuria Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 99](#) (Bartolotta) designates the week of May 11 through 15, 2015 as “Women’s Lung Health Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 100](#) (Gordner) recognizes May 7, 2015 as the “National Day of Prayer” in Pennsylvania and encourages the celebration of religious freedom. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 101](#) (Farnese) designates the month of May 2015 as “Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 102](#) (Vance) recognizes the week of May 10 through 16, 2015 as “National Hospital Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 103](#) (Baker) recognizes the month of May 2015 as “Building Safety Month” and encourages residents to participate in “Building Safety Week” from May 3 through 9, 2015 in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 104](#) (Fontana) designates the month of May 2015 as “Brain Tumor Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 105](#) (Teplitz) commemorates the 67th anniversary of the birth of the State of Israel. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 106](#) (Vulakovich) recognizes the week of May 3 through 9, 2015 as “National Arson Awareness Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[House Bill 159](#) (Kampf) would amend Title 40 (Insurance) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by adding a chapter to allow medical professional liability reciprocal insurance exchanges to reorganize and convert into stock insurance companies. The proposed legislation would:

- Require a plan of conversion to be approved by two-thirds of the subscribers’ advisory committee or an equivalent governing body; or in the absence of a governing body, by the board of directors or governing body of the attorney for the reciprocal insurer.
- Provide that, before a vote is taken, the following documents would have to be filed with the Insurance Commissioner: the plan of conversion, including an independent evaluation of pro forma market value; the notice of the subscribers’ meeting; the proxy

form; the proposed articles of incorporation and bylaws of the stock company; and an acquisition of control statement.

- Require the reciprocal insurer to send a notice to eligible subscribers advising them of the adoption and filing of the plan, the ability of subscribers to provide comments to the Commissioner, and the procedure for making comments.
- Require the plan of conversion to contain the following: the reasons for the proposed conversion; the effect of conversion on existing policies; the voting rights of the eligible subscribers; the grant of subscription rights to subscribers; the purchase price of the capital stock and the minimum subscription amount; the limitation on the purchase of the stock by subscribers, directors and officers; the limitation of the sale of stock by directors and officers; and the restrictions on the repurchase of capital stock.
- Provide that capital stock not subscribed by an eligible subscriber must be sold in a public offering unless conditions warrant otherwise.
- Provide an alternative conversion plan that may be adopted if the Commissioner finds the plan does not prejudice the interest of the subscribers, is fair and equitable, and is not inconsistent with the purpose and intent of the chapter.
- Provide for the rights of a subscriber whose policies are issued after adoption of a plan and before the effective date.
- Allow the Insurance Commissioner to waive the requirements of the chapter if the reciprocal insurer is insolvent or is in hazardous financial condition. **Passed: 47-0.**

Executive Session

William Lieberman – Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. **Confirmed: 47-0.**

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Senate Bill 330 (Ward) would amend Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to further provide for the failure to comply with a code requirement. The bill would amend the Crimes Code to repeal the offense of municipal housing code avoidance under Section 7510 and amend the Municipalities Code to provide for the offense of failure to comply with a code requirement. Under these provisions, the owner of real property would commit an offense if all of the following apply:

- The owner has been convicted of a second or subsequent serious violation of the same provision of a municipal code for the same property;
- The violation poses a threat to the public's health, safety or property and the owner has not taken a substantial step to correct the violation; and

- The violation is considered a public nuisance and the owner has not made a reasonable attempt to correct the violation.

Failure to comply with a code requirement would be graded as a second degree misdemeanor if the offense is a second conviction of a serious violation of the same provision of a municipal code relating to the same property; or a first degree misdemeanor if the offense is based on three or more convictions of serious violations of the same provision of a municipal code relating to the same property. As used in the section, the term “code requirement” would mean a building, housing or property maintenance code or ordinance of a municipality.

Passed: 48-0.

Senate Bill 622 (Mensch) would eliminate certain recurring projects completed by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee. These projects would include: the annual study of the impact of slots gaming on the State Lottery; the performance audit of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation completed every six years; and, the biennial cost benefit study of mental health insurance coverage required under Act 150 of 1998. **Passed: 48-0.**

Senate Resolution 107 (Rafferty) recognizes May 8, 2015 as the 70th anniversary of “Victory in Europe Day” or “V-E Day.” **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 108 (Ward) recognizes the week of May 2 through 10, 2015 as “National Travel and Tourism Week” and May 5, 2015 as “Tourism Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 109 (Pileggi) designates the week of May 11 through 15, 2015 as “Juror Appreciation Week” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 110 (Teplitz) designates May 8, 2015 as “Military Spouse Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 111 (Wozniak) designates the month of May 2015 as “Sleep Apnea Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 112 (Scavello) recognizes May 9, 2015 as “National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive Day” in Pennsylvania and commends the National Association of Letter Carriers for its humanitarian efforts to eliminate hunger. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Senate Bill 442 (Folmer) would create the Taxpayer-Funded Advertising Transparency Act. The bill would require media advertising by a Commonwealth agency paid for with monies appropriated, executively authorized, or otherwise made available from the General Fund or any special fund to include a statement that it is funded in whole or in part with Pennsylvania taxpayer dollars. These provisions would not apply where the materials provided to the broadcast or print media are broadcasted or published free of charge. The provisions of the act

would not apply to media advertising that was printed, manufactured or produced prior to its effective date. **Passed: 47-0.**

Senate Bill 644 (Folmer) would amend Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to require the Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) to provide a cost analysis for the current and five subsequent fiscal years, of the impact of each proposed collective bargaining agreement under the jurisdiction of the Governor, prior to execution. The Office of Administration and the Office of the Budget would be required to submit to the IFO, at least ten days in advance of its execution, copies of each proposed collective bargaining agreement and the last best offers associated with the proposed agreement. The entities would also have to provide the IFO with a detailed cost analysis comparing the collective bargaining agreement in effect at the time of the submission to projections for the proposed agreement. Additional information requested by the director of the IFO determined to be necessary to complete its analysis would have to be provided within four days. **Passed: 29-19.**

Senate Bill 645 (Stefano) would create the Public Employer Collective Bargaining Transparency Act to require a public employer, as defined in the legislation, to provide notice prior to signing a proposed collective bargaining agreement. The notice would have to include a statement of the terms of the proposed agreement and an estimate of costs to the public employer associated with the agreement. The notice would have to be posted on the public employer's website at least two weeks prior to the signing of the proposed agreement and continuing until at least 30 days after its signing. A collective bargaining agreement executed without providing the required notice would be void and unenforceable in its entirety. The legislation would also define proposed collective bargaining agreements and related documents as public records subject to the Right-to-Know Law. **Passed: 29-19.**

Senate Bill 699 (Yudichak) would authorize the Commonwealth to acquire land located in Plymouth Township, Luzerne County through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Project 70 restrictions would be imposed on the land for park, recreation and conservation purposes. **Passed: 47-0.**

Senate Resolution 27 (Kitchen) directs the Advisory Committee on Public Health Law of the Joint State Government Commission to study the issue of youth vaccinations and immunizations to determine whether any amendments should be made to the Commonwealth's public health law. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 114 (Folmer) designates May 6, 2015 as "Wishbone Day" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 115 (Alloway) designates May 15, 2015 through June 15, 2015 as "Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 116 (Schwank) designates the month of May 2015 as "Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 117](#) (Dinniman) recognizes the week of May 3 through 9, 2015 as “National Teacher Appreciation Week” and May 5, 2015 as “National Teacher Appreciation Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 118](#) (Scarnati) designates the week of May 6 through 12, 2015 as “Nurses Week” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

(2015-074)