

# WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

Monday, June 26, 2017

[Senate Bill 630](#) (Reschenthaler) would create the Travel Insurance Modernization Act to establish a licensing and registration process for limited lines travel insurance producers and retailers. Under the bill, a limited lines travel insurance producer would be a person licensed to sell, solicit or negotiate a contract of travel insurance. A travel retailer would be defined as a business entity that makes, arranges or offers travel services, and offers and disseminates travel insurance as a service to its own customers on behalf of, and under the direction of, the limited lines travel insurance producer, or under its own license. An organization selling, soliciting or negotiating coverage under a policy of travel insurance would be required to hold a limited lines travel insurance license. The fee for both the initial license and renewal would be \$400, and could be adjusted once annually. At the time of licensure, the limited lines travel insurance producer would have to establish and maintain a register of each travel retailer in the Commonwealth offering this type of insurance on the producer's behalf with the information listed in the bill. The register would be submitted to the Insurance Department upon request. The producer would have to update the register annually. The insurer issuing travel insurance would have to ensure the proper training of the employees and authorized representatives of a travel retailer.

Travel retailers would be required to provide every prospective customer with a brochure or other written material with certain information as specified in the legislation. A travel retailer's employee who is not licensed as a designated licensee could not evaluate or interpret technical terms, benefits and conditions of travel insurance coverage; evaluate or provide advice concerning a prospective customer's existing insurance coverage; or advertise, represent or hold himself or herself out as a licensed insurer, designated licensee or insurance expert. The travel retailer could bill for the travel insurance and collect the payment. A charge to an enrolled customer for coverage that is not included in the cost associated with the purchase of travel services would have to be separately itemized on the customer's bill. Upon registration by the limited lines travel insurance producer as required by the bill, a travel retailer could receive compensation. No travel retail employee or authorized representative could be compensated primarily on the number of customers purchasing travel insurance coverage.

The limited lines travel insurance producer and insurer would have to use reasonable means to ensure compliance by the travel retailer and would be responsible for the acts of the travel retailer, the travel retailer's employees and authorized representatives. The Insurance Commissioner could direct a limited lines travel insurance producer to implement a corrective action plan with the travel retailer following a violation of the act. The Commissioner could also direct the limited lines travel insurance producer to revoke the authorization of the travel retailer to offer and disseminate travel insurance on its behalf, and remove the retailer's name from its register. The Commissioner could, after notice and holding a hearing, suspend or revoke the license of the limited lines travel insurance producer, or the registration of the travel retailer. The Commissioner could also impose a monetary penalty on the limited lines travel insurance

producer, along with other appropriate penalties, including a cease-and-desist order regarding the engagement of travel insurance transactions with a particular travel retailer and a particular employee or authorized representative of the travel retailer. [Passed: 50-0.](#)

[Senate Resolution 155](#) (Argall) designates June 29, 2017 as “Turkic Cultural Day” in Pennsylvania and recognizes the valuable work of the Council of Turkic American Alliance and the Turkish Cultural Center of Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[House Bill 283](#) (Baker) would amend Act 46 of 2016 to correct the location of the Lance Corporal Michael G. Plank Memorial Bridge in Lawrence Township, Tioga County as the overpass on State Route 15 over State Route 49. [Passed: 50-0.](#)

### *Executive Session*

Joseph J. McGettigan, Sr. – State Real Estate Commission. [Confirmed: 50-0.](#)

### **Tuesday, June 27, 2017**

[Senate Bill 560](#) (Greenleaf) would amend the Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act under Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes and add Chapter 67A to Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), regarding recordings by law enforcement officers.

The definition of “oral communication” in Title 18 would be amended so that there would be no expectation that communications made in the presence of a law enforcement officer, sheriff or deputy sheriff on official duty who is in uniform and clearly identifiable would be private and free from recording. The law enforcement officer would have to use a device that is approved by the Pennsylvania State Police. The measure would also update existing provisions in the act to allow law enforcement officers and corrections employees to intercept, record, monitor and divulge any oral, electronic or wire communication from or to an inmate in a facility in certain situations enumerated in the legislation. Persons who are engaging in an oral or wire communication with an inmate would have to be notified that the conversation may be recorded or monitored. The Pennsylvania State Police would be required to publish guidelines for the storage of recordings made by law enforcement officers. An additional change would extend the sunset provision of the Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act from December 31, 2018 to December 31, 2023.

Chapter 67A of Title 42 would establish provisions governing recordings by law enforcement officers and outline the procedure for requesting production of a law enforcement audio or video recording. The provisions of the chapter, and not the Right-to-Know Law, would apply to any audio or video recording made by a law enforcement agency. Municipal law enforcement agencies and sheriffs making audio or video recordings would be required to have a written policy that contains the items outlined in the legislation and is available to the public. [Concurrence in House Amendments: 49-1.](#)

[Senate Resolution 154](#) (Vogel) is a concurrent resolution providing for the disapproval of the part of the Real Property Disposition Plan No. 1 of 2013 that provided for the disposition of approximately 198 acres in Shenango Township, Lawrence County. **[Adopted: 34-16.](#)**

[Senate Resolution 156](#) (Sabatina) designates the week of June 26 through 30, 2017 as “Middle Neighborhoods Week” in Pennsylvania. **[Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)**

[House Bill 1219](#) (Reed) would designate the bridge located on State Route 1012, known as the Diamondville Bridge, Cherryhill Township, Indiana County as the Sgt. Robert Eugene Goodlin Memorial Bridge. **[Passed: 50-0.](#)**

[House Bill 1269](#) (Quigley) would amend Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to extend, from 15 years to 20 years, the timeframe for a municipal sewer authority serving five or more municipalities to complete infrastructure and facility projects funded by a sewer tapping fee. **[Passed: 50-0.](#)**

### **Wednesday, June 28, 2017**

[Senate Bill 383](#) (White) would amend the Public School Code of 1949 to add a section allowing school boards to establish a policy permitting school personnel access to firearms in the buildings or on the grounds of a school. A school board that establishes a policy under the section would be required to do all of the following:

- Establish a firearm safety plan that would have to be filed with the law enforcement agency that provides law enforcement services to the school. The firearm safety plan would have to include the identification of the school personnel permitted access to firearms pursuant to the section, coordination between the law enforcement agency and school personnel, and procedures for the law enforcement agency to review the discharge of firearms in the buildings or on the grounds of the school that are owned by the school personnel permitted access to firearms under the section. The firearms safety plan would not be deemed to be a public record under the Right-to-Know Law;
- Provide notification of the establishment of the policy to the parents and guardians of all students enrolled in each school of the district that has school personnel that are permitted access to firearms; and
- Provide notification to the nearest hospital of the number of schools in the district where school personnel have access to firearms in the buildings and on the property of the schools.

School personnel permitted access to firearms in the buildings or on the grounds of a school would be required to have a license to carry a concealed firearm and to maintain a current and valid certification in the use and handling of a firearm as outlined in the legislation. The individuals would also have to complete a psychological evaluation and receive a professional opinion from the evaluating psychologist that the individual is psychologically capable of exercising appropriate judgment and restraint as an individual authorized to have access to

firearms in the buildings or on the grounds of a school. Information about specific school personnel permitted access to firearms would not be subject to the Right-to-Know Law and could not be disclosed during a meeting open to the public. [Passed: 28-22.](#)

[Senate Bill 458](#) (Argall) would amend Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to expand the definitions of “common carrier by motor vehicle” and “contract carrier by motor vehicle” to include any person or corporation that provides or furnishes transportation of household property between residential dwellings within the Commonwealth by motor vehicle for compensation, owns or operates the motor vehicle, and provides or furnishes a driver of the motor vehicle. The failure of a mover to comply with the provisions of the title would be punishable by an administrative fine of \$5,000 for a first offense and \$10,000 for subsequent offenses. The mover could also be subject to vehicle registration suspension and forfeiture of the motor vehicle. All costs and fines collected would be deposited into the General Fund and deemed an augmentation to any appropriation to the Public Utility Commission for contract carrier enforcement. [Passed: 50-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 529](#) (Wagner) would Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide a “clean slate” or the sealing of criminal records for convictions of misdemeanors and for charges not leading to convictions. The legislation provides that only criminal justice agencies will have access to misdemeanor criminal history information after ten years have passed since the most recent misdemeanor or felony conviction and all court-ordered financial obligations have been met. Certain offenses would not be included in the clean slate remedy including:

- Offenses under Title 18, Part II, Article B, involving danger to the person;
- Offenses in Title 18, Part II, Article D involving offenses against the family;
- Offenses in Title 18, Chapter 61, relating to firearms and other dangerous articles;
- Sexual offenses requiring registration under Title 42, Chapter 97;
- Indecent exposure;
- Failure to comply with registration requirements;
- Offenses related to weapons or implements of escape;
- Cruelty to animals; and
- Corruption of minors.

The clean slate remedy would also not apply to misdemeanor convictions when there is a felony conviction in the same case. Criminal history record information of charges with a final disposition other than a conviction, would have access limited to 60 days after entry of the disposition and payment of any court-ordered obligations. Limited access to misdemeanor convictions and charges without a conviction would have to be applied by criminal justice agencies within 30 days of eligibility, without the requirement of a court order. If limited access has not been provided, nothing in the bill would prohibit the filing of a petition for limited access of eligible criminal proceedings. The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) would be charged with transmitting to the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) central repository any case eligible for limited access on a monthly basis. The PSP could object to a case as being not eligible for limited access in certain situations outlined in the bill. If an individual’s case receives limited access in error or an individual is subsequently convicted of a misdemeanor or

felony, the district attorney of the county in which the conviction took place would have standing to challenge the limited access granted by the court.

No individual would be required to disclose information about their criminal history records which have been expunged or provided limited access except when requested or required by a criminal justice agency, the Supreme Court or unless federal law requires consideration of an applicant's criminal history for purposes of employment. Criminal records subject to limited access would remain available pursuant to a court order in proceedings related to child custody or protection from abuse. An expunged offense or a limited access offense could not be considered a conviction that would prohibit employment in Pennsylvania. The bill would provide employer immunity from liability for hiring an individual whose criminal history record has been expunged or provided limited access. The AOPC and the PSP would be responsible for processing the backlog of existing cases which meet the provisions of the bill within one year of the effective date. **Passed: 50-0.**

**Senate Bill 662** (Bartolotta) would amend Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to create the offense of drug delivery resulting in serious bodily injury. A person would commit a third degree felony if the person intentionally administers, dispenses, delivers, gives, prescribes, sells or distributes any controlled substance or counterfeit controlled substance in violation of Section 13(a) or 14 of the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, and another person suffers serious bodily injury as a result of using the substance. The measure would also amend Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) to require the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing to provide for a sentence enhancement within its guidelines for an offense under the offense of drug delivery resulting in serious bodily injury provisions. **Passed: 50-0.**

**Senate Bill 680** (Browne) would appropriate \$32,619,000 from the State Employees' Retirement Fund to the State Employees' Retirement Board for its operational and administrative expenses for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. **Passed: 50-0.**

**Senate Bill 681** (Browne) would appropriate \$52,453,000 from the Public School Employees' Retirement Fund to the Public School Employees' Retirement Board for its operational and administrative expenses for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. **Passed: 50-0.**

**Senate Bill 682** (Browne) would appropriate \$48,039,000 from the Professional Licensure Augmentation Account within the General Fund to the Department of State for the operation of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, including the State Board of Auctioneer Examiners, during the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. Other appropriations listed in the bill for operational costs during the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year include: \$8,934,000 to the State Board of Medicine; \$1,818,000 to the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine; \$277,000 to the State Board of Podiatry; and \$639,000 to the State Athletic Commission. **Passed: 50-0.**

**Senate Bill 683** (Browne) would appropriate \$78,356,000 from the Workmen's Compensation Administration Fund to the Department of Labor and Industry for the administration of the Workers' Compensation Act and the Pennsylvania Occupational Disease Act for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. The bill would also appropriate \$275,000 from a restricted revenue account within

the Workmen's Compensation Administration Fund to the Office of Small Business Advocate for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. **Passed: 50-0.**

**Senate Bill 684** (Browne) would appropriate \$73,499,000 to the Public Utility Commission (PUC) for the operation of the commission for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. The bill would also appropriate \$3,840,000 in federal funds to the PUC to enforce the regulations of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act and \$1,697,000 in federal funds for motor carrier safety. **Passed: 50-0.**

**Senate Bill 685** (Browne) would appropriate \$5,686,000 from a restricted revenue account in the General Fund to the Office of Consumer Advocate in the Office of Attorney General for its operational expenses for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. **Passed: 50-0.**

**Senate Bill 686** (Browne) would appropriate \$1,715,000 from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Small Business Advocate in the Department of Community and Economic Development for its operational expenses for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. **Passed: 50-0.**

**Senate Bill 687** (Browne) would establish the Gaming Control Appropriation Act of 2017. The bill would appropriate monies from the State Gaming Fund for salaries, wages, and necessary expenses related to gaming, as follows:

- Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, \$41,665,000;
- Pennsylvania State Police, \$28,575,000;
- Department of Revenue, \$6,512,000; and
- Attorney General, \$1,300,000. **Passed: 50-0.**

**Senate Bill 688** (Browne) would appropriate \$3,619,000 from the Philadelphia Taxicab and Limousine Regulatory Fund and \$2 million from the Philadelphia Taxicab Medallion Fund to the Philadelphia Parking Authority for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. **Passed: 50-0.**

**Senate Bill 691** (Hutchinson) would amend Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated to clarify that a person's active military duty would not disqualify the individual from fulfilling a residency requirement imposed by a municipal code or charter as a qualification of elected office or to fill a vacancy of elected office. For these purposes, a person who is a resident of a municipality for at least one year immediately prior to his or her absence due to active military duty would be deemed to be an ongoing resident of the municipality unless and until the person demonstrates an intent to establish a new domicile outside of the municipality. **Passed: 50-0.**

**House Bill 239** (Toepel) would establish the Rare Disease Advisory Council. A "rare disease" would be defined as a disease or condition that affects fewer than 200,000 individuals living in the United States. The council would consist of the Secretary of Health; the heads of state agencies concerned with the provision of care to persons with rare diseases including, at a

minimum, the Secretary of Human Services and the Secretary of Education; the Insurance Commissioner and numerous public members as delineated in the bill.

The advisory council could add additional at-large appointments at any time. The Secretary of Health would appoint the public members and a chairperson within 60 days of the effective date of the act. Public members would serve without compensation but could be reimbursed for travel and other expenses. Vacancies would be filled in the same manner as original appointments. The Department of Health could provide staff services to the council, including a secretary. The council could request assistance from any state or local government agency to fulfill its purpose.

The purpose of the council would be to:

- Coordinate statewide efforts for the study of the incidence and prevalence of rare diseases in Pennsylvania and the status of the rare disease community;
- Act as the advisory body on rare diseases to the General Assembly and to all relevant state and private agencies that provide services to, or are charged with the care of, individuals with rare diseases; and
- Coordinate the performance of the advisory council's duties with those of other rare disease advisory bodies and community-based organizations and other public and private organizations within Pennsylvania to ensure greater cooperation between Pennsylvania entities and federal agencies regarding the research, diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases.

The duties of the council would be to:

- Research and determine the most appropriate method to collect rare disease data, and information concerning individuals with rare diseases and to conduct comprehensive surveys of rare diseases diagnosed in Pennsylvania;
- Research and identify priorities relating to the quality and cost effectiveness of and access to treatment and other services provided to individuals with rare diseases in Pennsylvania and develop policy recommendations;
- Identify best practices for rare disease management, monitoring and surveillance, education, detection, diagnosis, information and care;
- Develop effective strategies to raise public awareness of rare diseases within Pennsylvania; and
- Coordinate the development of a task force with advisory committee members and other appropriate individuals to facilitate the development and publication of a report to the Health and Human Services Committees of the General Assembly.

Prior to appointing members of the advisory committee, the Department of Health would be charged with researching funding, including grants, to finance the council and report the findings to the General Assembly. Within the first year, the council would have to provide the Health and Human Services Committees of the General Assembly with a preliminary report on the work of the advisory council. Within the second year, the council would have to provide the Committees a comprehensive report, which would also be made available to the public. This

report would have to include information on the incidence and prevalence of rare diseases within the state and the needs of the rare disease community in Pennsylvania and the actions necessary and feasible to address those needs. The advisory council would report biennially to the Department and the Committees on its activities as well as findings and recommendations on issues related to rare diseases. The act would expire on June 30, 2025. [Passed: 50-0.](#)

#### **Thursday, June 29, 2017**

[Senate Bill 461](#) (Killion) would amend Title 44 (Law and Justice) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to modify the provisions of Chapter 23 which deal with DNA data and testing. The legislation would re-establish a Statewide DNA Data Base with the State Police to store forensic DNA profiles and records developed by or submitted to the State Police and to contribute forensic DNA profiles and records to CODIS and the national DNA identification index system. DNA would have to be collected from any individual who is convicted or adjudicated delinquent of a felony sex offense or other offenses enumerated in the bill. Acceptance into an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD) program as a result of an eligible conviction would have to be conditioned on the submission of a DNA sample. Acceptance of a person into the Commonwealth for supervision from another jurisdiction under the Interstate Compact for Supervision of Adult Offenders or other similar agreement would be conditioned on the offender providing a DNA sample if the conviction or adjudication was for a crime equivalent to that which would require DNA collection in Pennsylvania.

The measure would also require that the quality assurance rules, regulations and guidelines used by the Pennsylvania State Police address the verification of accreditation of DNA laboratories and compliance with FBI quality assurance standards, including continuing education requirements for the personnel of forensic DNA testing laboratories. An additional provision would clarify that no DNA sample or record acquired under the chapter could be used for human behavioral genetic research or for non-law enforcement or non-humanitarian identification purposes. The bill would establish procedures for an individual whose DNA sample, record or profile has been included in the State DNA Data Bank or State DNA Data Base to file a removal request on the grounds that the sample, record or profile was included mistakenly.

The State Police would be required to report annually to the Governor and the Chairmen and Minority Chairmen of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees on the collection and testing of DNA samples. Among other components, the report would have to include the fiscal impact on the State Police of collecting DNA samples and recommendations, if any, for the inclusion of additional offenses for which DNA samples should be collected.

[Passed: 50-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 690](#) (Eichelberger) would amend the Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law in Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide a mechanism for the initial apportionment of any home rule charter or optional plan municipality without a mayor that will be dividing into wards or changing the number of members of the governing body. Under these provisions, the initial apportionment would be made by the

members of the governing body of the municipality consistent with Section 903 of the Municipal Reapportionment Law. **Passed: 50-0.**

**Senate Bill 736** (Martin) would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to allow the parking authority in a city of the second class A or third class to enforce and administer ordinances and resolutions enacted in their respective cities, as well as certain stopping, standing and parking provisions. The authorization would be effective January 1, 2018. Beginning March 1, 2018, the parking authorities could enter into an agreement with their respective city for the transfer of a portion of the fines, penalties, and costs collected to the city. The parking authority board would have the power to determine what portion is considered reasonable. **Passed: 50-0.**

**Senate Resolution 158** (Killion) honors the life and achievements of Andrew Wyeth, one of America's best-known 20<sup>th</sup> century artists. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 159** (Bartolotta) designates the week of July 3 through 9, 2017 as "Whiskey Rebellion Heritage Week" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 160** (Vulakovich) commemorates the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 161** (DiSanto) commends the Public Utility Contractors Association, doing business as the National Utility Contractors Association of Pennsylvania, and recognizes its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a trade association. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 163** (Street) recognizes the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the uprising of the miners who became known as the "Molly Maguires." **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**House Bill 423** (Gabler) would amend the Second Class Township Code to establish a procedure for filling vacancies created as a result of an elected official resigning. Under the legislation, the board of supervisors would have a maximum of 45 days to accept the resignation of any elected official by a majority vote of the board at a public meeting. If the resignation is not withdrawn, it is deemed accepted at the end of the 45 day period. Once a vacancy exists, the board of supervisors would follow the established vacancy procedures to appoint a replacement. If the board of supervisors fails to fill the vacancy within 30 days, the "vacancy board" would do so within 15 additional days. The vacancy board would consist of the board of supervisors and one registered elector of the township appointed by the board of supervisors at the first meeting of each calendar year. The appointed elector would act as chairman of the vacancy board. If the vacancy board fails to fill the position, the chairperson or remaining members, if the chairperson is vacant, would have to petition the court of common pleas to fill the vacancy. When two or more vacancies occur on a board of three supervisors, or three or more vacancies occur on a board of five supervisors, 15 registered electors of the township could petition the court of common pleas to fill the vacancies. An appointee would hold office until the first Monday in January after the first municipal election occurring at least 60 days after the vacancy occurred, at which election an eligible person would be elected for the unexpired term. **Passed: 50-0.**

[House Bill 424](#) (Benninghoff) would amend the Vital Statistics Law of 1953 to allow physician assistants to supply and sign medical certifications of death or fetal death. **[Passed: 50-0.](#)**

### *Executive Session*

Steve T. Fretz – State Board of Vehicle Manufacturers, Dealers and Salespersons.

**[Confirmed: 50-0.](#)**

### **Friday, June 30, 2017**

[Senate Bill 325](#) (Hughes) would appropriate \$30,135,000 to the University of Pennsylvania for veterinary activities and \$281,000 for the Center for Infectious Diseases for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. **[Passed: 50-0.](#)**

[Senate Bill 326](#) (Hughes) would appropriate \$230,436,000 to the Pennsylvania State University for general support for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year and \$22,074,000 for the Pennsylvania College of Technology. The measure would also authorize the appropriation of funds from the Agricultural College Land Scrip Fund for agricultural research and extension services. **[Passed: 50-0.](#)**

[Senate Bill 327](#) (Hughes) would appropriate \$144,210,000 to the University of Pittsburgh for general support for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year and \$2,763,000 for rural education outreach. No funds appropriated by the act could be used for the costs of personnel and operations of the environmental law clinic. **[Passed: 50-0.](#)**

[Senate Bill 328](#) (Hughes) would appropriate \$150,586,000 to Temple University for general support for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. **[Passed: 50-0.](#)**

[Senate Bill 329](#) (Hughes) would appropriate \$14,436,000 to Lincoln University for general support for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. **[Passed: 50-0.](#)**

[Senate Resolution 164](#) (Langerholc) recognizes June 30, 2017 as “Arthrogryposis Awareness Day” in Pennsylvania. **[Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)**

[House Bill 218](#) (Saylor) would create the General Appropriation Act of 2017 to provide for the expenses of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. The \$31.99 billion proposed spending plan represents nearly \$650 million less than the Governor’s budget request. Among other highlights, the spending plan would:

- Earmark an additional \$100 million in state funds for basic education;
- Provide an increase of \$25 million for special education, an additional \$25 million for Pre-K Counts and \$11.7 million for early intervention;
- Restore the \$50 million that was cut from school district transportation program;

- Allocate \$7 million to combat heroin and opioid addiction, including funds for naloxone and additional drug courts;
- Restore funding for the Renal Dialysis program to nearly \$7 million;
- Earmark enough funding for three new state police cadet classes; and
- Restore funding for key agricultural programs, including an additional \$500,000 for the Department of Agriculture. [Passed: 43-7.](#)

(2017-100)