

WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

Monday, March 26, 2018

[Senate Bill 114](#) (Eichelberger) would amend Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide sewer authorities with the ability to seek a court order for termination of sewer service against a nonresidential property owner that has failed to pay a sewer bill for at least six months. In order to obtain the order, the authority would have to first file a lien under the Municipal Claim and Tax Lien Law. Upon issuance of the court order, the authority could terminate service after sending a notice to the customer via certified mail one week prior to the shutoff date; post on the premises that sewer shutoff will occur in 24 hours; and provide written notice to the local or county health department, if one exists, and the regional office of the Department of Environmental Protection one week prior to shutoff. [Passed: 49-0.](#)

[Senate Resolution 294](#) (Schwank) designates the month of March 2018 as “Professional Social Work Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 295](#) (Schwank) designates the month of March 2018 as “Fibromuscular Dysplasia Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 296](#) (Rafferty) designates the month of April 2018 as “Districted Driving Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 297](#) (Rafferty) designates the week of April 9 through 13, 2018 as “Work Zone Awareness Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 298](#) (Dinniman) designates the week of April 8 through 15, 2018 as “Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 299](#) (Tartaglione) designates the month of April 2018 as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[House Bill 1486](#) (Zimmerman) would amend the Storm Water Management Act to provide an exemption for “high tunnels” as defined in the legislation. High tunnels are agricultural structures used for plant protection, livestock housing and storage. A municipality that has adopted a local ordinance regulating the structures pursuant to a watershed storm water plan prior to the effective date would be required to amend the ordinance. The new exemption provision could not be interpreted to exempt high tunnels from other requirements of federal, state or municipal laws. [Passed: 49-0.](#)

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

[Senate Bill 263](#) (Baker) would amend the Pennsylvania Election Code to eliminate the requirement for disabled voters with permanent absentee voter status to submit a written

statement every four years asserting that they remain disabled and continue to qualify for permanent absentee voter status. [Passed: 48-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 748](#) (Argall) would create the Public Safety Facilities Act to establish a clear process for consideration of proposed closures of state correctional institutions, as well as other structures that house state law enforcement staff, such as state police barracks. The law would establish a list of stakeholders who must be notified at least one year before a proposed closure is intended to occur. The overseeing state agency would be required to

- Gather information from stakeholders concerning the ramifications of closing the facility;
- Hold at least one public hearing no later than 120 days prior to any closure; and
- Provide a written report detailing their findings to the Governor as well as the Majority and Minority Leaders of the General Assembly.

Further, the overseeing agency would be required to coordinate with Commonwealth departments, political subdivisions and affected labor organizations to develop strategies to minimize the impact of the closure on the:

- Delivery of law enforcement;
- Care, custody and control of inmates;
- Work force of the public safety facility; and
- Regional and local economies. [Passed: 47-1.](#)

[Senate Bill 762](#) (Ward) would amend Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to require the Auditor General to conduct an audit of the Statewide Uniform Registry of Electors (SURE) system as outlined in the legislation. The Department of State would be required to cooperate with the audit, to provide timely responses to requests for information or comment and to reimburse the Auditor General for the costs of the audit. The report of the audit would have to be submitted to the Governor and the chairs of the Senate and House State Government Committees not later than December 31, 2018. [Passed: 48-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 776](#) (Tomlinson) would amend the Public School Code of 1949 to extend the Dyslexia and Early Literacy Intervention Pilot Program from three years to five years. An additional change would increase the number of school districts eligible to participate in the program from at least three to at least eight to reflect the eight school districts that are currently participating in the program. [Passed: 48-0.](#)

[Senate Resolution 300](#) (Schwank) designates March 28, 2018 as “Female Veterans Recognition Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 301](#) (Wagner) designates the week of April 9 through 13, 2018 as “Local Government Week” and April 11, 2018 as “Local Government Day” in Pennsylvania.

[Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 302](#) (Fontana) recognizes the week of April 8 through 14, 2018 as “National Library Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 303](#) (Tomlinson) recognizes the month of March 2018 as “National Athletic Training Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 304](#) (Rafferty) designates the month of March 2018 as “Irish American Heritage Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 305](#) (Sabatina) recognizes the month of April 2018 as “Autism Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 306](#) (Vulakovich) commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War on March 29, 2018. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 307](#) (Vulakovich) designates April 5, 2018 as “Gold Star Wives Day” in Pennsylvania and recognizes the sacrifices made by spouses and families of fallen members of the armed forces of the United States. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 308](#) (Boscola) recognizes the month of March 2018 as “Eye Donor Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 309](#) (Hughes) recognizes the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 310](#) (Mensch) designates the week of April 8 through 14, 2018 as “Crime Victims’ Rights Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 311](#) (Scavello) designates April 8, 2018 as “Cushing’s Syndrome Awareness Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[House Bill 1854](#) (F. Keller) would designate the section of U.S. Route 522 in Snyder County front the west end of Beavertown Borough to Elm Street in Beaver Springs as the Staff Sgt. Stanley R. Saylor Memorial Highway. [Passed: 48-0.](#)

Executive Session

Nominations to Various Boards and Commissions. [Confirmed: 48-0.](#)