

WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

Monday, April 23, 2018

[Senate Resolution 328](#) (Sabatina) designates the week of April 23 through 27, 2018 as “Every Kid Healthy Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 329](#) (Yaw) recognizes April 28, 2018 as “National Prescription Drug Take Back Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 330](#) (Wagner) commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Dental Association. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 331](#) (Schwank) designates the month of May 2018 as “Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 332](#) (Vogel) designates May 1, 2018 as “Pennsylvania Health Care Information Technology Awareness Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 333](#) (Vulakovich) designates May 1, 2018 as “Loyalty Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 334](#) (Vulakovich) designates May 1, 2018 as “Silver Star Families of America Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 335](#) (Boscola) designates April 23, 2018 as “Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva Awareness Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

[Senate Bill 627](#) (Killion) would amend the Tax Reform Code of 1971 to clarify the apportionment of business income for corporate net income tax purposes for qualified air freight forwarding companies transacting business in more than one state. Senate Bill 627 would apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2016. [Passed: 49-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 1041](#) (Bartolotta) would amend Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to direct the Department of Military Affairs to design an official Commonwealth logotype to be used by veteran-owned businesses. The logotype would have to include the Commonwealth coat of arms and the words “Pennsylvania Veteran-owned Business.” The Department, in consultation with the Department of General Services (DGS), would be required to verify the military service status of business owners seeking a veteran-owned business logotype. The Department of Military Affairs would be required to post a notice on its website that the Commonwealth logotype is available to businesses and include information on how to apply for it. A person would commit a misdemeanor of the third degree if the person fraudulently holds himself out to be a veteran for the purpose of obtaining a logotype. [Passed: 49-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 1056](#) (Brooks) would decouple Pennsylvania's corporate net income tax from federal bonus depreciation provisions included in the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. The legislation provides that the amount of the depreciation deduction claimed and allowable in calculating a taxpayer's federal taxable income under Internal Revenue Code §168(k), commonly known as bonus depreciation, which is included in the calculation of Pennsylvania's taxable income, would be disallowed. An additional deduction for depreciation equal to the depreciation determined in accordance with Internal Revenue Code §§167 and 168 would be allowed. The change would apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

Passed: 42-7.

[Senate Resolution 336](#) (Martin) designates the month of May 2018 as "Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 337](#) (Bartolotta) designates the month of May 2018 as "Junior Achievement Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 338](#) (Killion) recognizes the month of May 2018 as "Lupus Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 339](#) (McGarrigle) recognizes the month of May 2018 as "Blue Star Mothers of America Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 340](#) (Schwank) recognizes May 14, 2018, or 29th of Iyar, 5778, as the 70th anniversary of the birth of the State of Israel. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 341](#) (Vulakovich) recognizes May 11, 2018 as "Military Spouse Day" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 342](#) (Scavello) recognizes the week of May 6 through 12, 2018 as "National Travel and Tourism Week" and May 7, 2018 as "Tourism Day" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 343](#) (Rafferty) recognizes the week of May 13 through 19, 2018 as "National Police Week" and designates May 7, 2018 as "Police Officers' Memorial Day" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[House Bill 1926](#) (Stephens) would designate the section of State Route 2022, also known as Fort Washington Avenue in Upper Dublin Township, Montgomery County, from Highland Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue as the SPC5 George W. Charters, Jr., Memorial Highway. **Passed: 49-0.**

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

[Senate Bill 384](#) (Farnese) would amend the Assessors Certification Act to include Philadelphia in the act. An assessor who is employed by a county of the first class on the effective date of the act would have three years to become certified. **Passed: 49-0.**

[Senate Bill 435](#) (Boscola) would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to add a subsection requiring a driver of a motor vehicle or motor carrier being operated on a street or highway of the Commonwealth to make reasonable efforts to remove accumulated ice and snow from the vehicle within 24 hours after the cessation of the falling snow or ice. A driver who violates the subsection could be stopped by a law enforcement officer if the officer believes the accumulated ice or snow could pose a threat to persons or property. A driver who violates the provisions would be subject to a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$75 for each offense regardless of whether any snow or ice is dislodged from the vehicle. The requirement would not apply if the driver of a motor carrier vehicle is en route to a facility to remove accumulated ice or snow at the time of the stop, or compliance would violate any other law or regulation regarding workplace safety or would be a threat to the health and safety of the driver. The legislation would also increase the existing fine for an incident that results in snow or ice falling from a moving vehicle or motor carrier vehicle and striking another vehicle or pedestrian causing death or serious bodily injury from no more than \$1,000 to no more than \$1,500 for each offense. **Passed: 49-0.**

[Senate Bill 1070](#) (Greenleaf) would amend the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law to establish the County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee within the Commission. Among other duties, the committee would review and comment on grant applications for county intermediate punishment programs. The committee would also develop a funding plan for county adult probation and parole departments. Within one year of the effective date of the legislation, the committee would absorb the County Probation Officers' Firearm Education and Training Commission, appoint a subcommittee with expertise similar to the County Probation Officers' Firearm Education and Training Commission, and assume responsibility and oversight for firearm education and training of county adult and juvenile probation and parole officers. The committee would be required to report annually to the Governor and General Assembly on the distribution and use of funding.

The legislation would further provide for the use of the Justice Reinvestment Fund to support programs and activities to improve the delivery of criminal justice services. The legislation would revise the Justice Reinvestment funding to account for savings expected from the enactment of other legislation and to distribute funding for increased victim compensation (\$250,000 annually), to provide funding (\$500,000 annually) to the Sentencing Commission for risk assessment and Justice Reinvestment Initiative sentencing features, and to provide resources to improve county adult probation and parole. The proposal would also make appropriations to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for the purpose of formula funding to county probation and parole departments. **Passed: 49-0.**

[Senate Bill 1071](#) (Greenleaf) would amend Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to make changes related to sentencing of defendants and parole as part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative – Phase 2. Among other provisions, the legislation would:

- Change the name of the State Intermediate Punishment program to the State drug treatment program;

- Make multiple amendments to remove county probation from the responsibilities of the Board of Probation and Parole, and to rename it the Parole Board, in connection with another bill, which creates the County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee;
- Provide new authority for parole agents to detain a parolee for up to five days, and allow for use of video technology for parole process interactions. The bill would not change existing law requiring that all interactions by the Parole Board with victims take place in person;
- Revise sentencing laws and the direction that the General Assembly gives to the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing to conduct more extensive examination of criminal history scoring as a factor in their guidelines and provide more guidance for different features of sentencing, such as terms of probation and split sentences;
- Eliminate State Intermediate Punishment and County Intermediate Punishment as separate sentencing options, updating the purposes for total confinement and establishing a uniform list of probation conditions;
- Provide new authority governing short-sentence parole; and
- Change the motivational boot camp selection so that the judge can prevent placement in the program by the DOC, rather than having to affirmatively determine eligibility.
Passed: 49-0.

[Senate Bill 1072](#) (Greenleaf) would amend the Crime Victims Act to establish that victims of crime have the right to be notified of the Address Confidentiality Program (relating to domestic and sexual violence victim address confidentiality). The responsibility for notifying the victim of his or her rights would be shifted from a law enforcement agency to an individual officer. The agency would still be required to ensure the officer provides the information. The bill would make the home addresses of employees of the Office of Victim Advocate private and confidential and not subject to the Right-to-Know Law. In addition, all records pertaining to the victim in the possession of the Office of Victim Advocate would be private and confidential and not subject to the Right-to-Know law, subpoena, discovery, or introduction as evidence. An employee of the Office of Victim Advocate would not be permitted to testify or otherwise disclose confidential communications unless a victim waives the privilege. The legislation would require the victim advocate to ensure that victims are informed of the Address Confidentiality Program and advocate for the interests of victims of crimes committed by juveniles.

For victim compensation, the bill would change the statute of limitations for making a claim from two to three years, allow for a good faith extension and decrease the minimum loss from \$100 to \$50. Flexibility would be granted in the amount of emergency awards, crime scene clean-up for motor vehicles would be included and victims under age 18 would be excused from the requirement to use insurance in certain circumstances. The reporting requirement to be eligible for compensation would be clarified and the Crime Victims Compensation Fund and the

Victim Witness Services Fund would be merged into a single, non-lapsing fund known as the Crime Victim Services and Compensation Fund for payment to claimants, victim-witness services and technical assistance. The bill would require that all funds in the County Supervision Fee Restricted Receipts Account be maintained by each county consistent with the relevant provisions of the County Code. [Passed: 49-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 1091](#) (Martin) would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to require the Department of Transportation to provide individuals renewing their driver's license and/or vehicle registration electronically through the Department's website with the ability to contribute \$5 to the Pediatric Cancer Research Fund established by the bill. Contributions would be used exclusively for pediatric cancer research approved by the Pennsylvania Cancer Control, Prevention and Research Advisory Board. The Pediatric Cancer Research Fund would reimburse the Motor License Fund for the actual costs incurred in the collection of the fee. The Department of Health would be required to conduct a public information campaign on the availability of the opportunity to make the contributions. The Department of Health would also be required to report annually to the respective legislative committees that have jurisdiction over health matters on the amount received from the contributions and how the funds were used. [Passed: 49-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 1136](#) (Brooks) would amend the Public School Code of 1949 to allow a school located in a municipality with no municipal police department to enter into a cooperative police service agreement with a municipality providing part-time police coverage that is located in an adjacent municipality. Currently, the law only provides for agreements with municipalities with full-time police coverage. [Passed: 49-0.](#)

[Senate Resolution 258](#) (Williams) urges the Congress of the United States to amend the Controlled Substances Act by rescheduling marijuana in order to protect the right under the second amendment of the Constitution of the United States of participants in a state-sanctioned medical marijuana program to legally own a firearm. [Adopted: 49-0.](#)

[Senate Resolution 344](#) (Gordner) recognizes May 3, 2018 as "National Day of Prayer" in Pennsylvania and encourages the celebration of religious freedom. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 345](#) (Scavello) designates May 12, 2018 as "National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Day" in Pennsylvania and commends the National Association of Letter Carriers for its humanitarian efforts to eliminate hunger. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 346](#) (Dinniman) designates May 22, 2018 as "Cellicon Valley Day" in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 347](#) (Bartolotta) recognizes the month of May 2018 as "Postpartum Depression Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 348](#) (Greenleaf) designates the month of May 2018 as "Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 349](#) (Greenleaf) designates the month of May 2018 as “Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 350](#) (Boscola) designates May 15, 2018 as “Trauma Registrars Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 351](#) (Baker) recognizes the week of May 6 through 12, 2018 as “National Hospital Week” in Pennsylvania and urges members of the Senate to visit hospitals in their communities to learn about the innovative, quality care and services that are improving the health and quality of life for residents of the Commonwealth. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 352](#) (Vulakovich) designates May 9 through 13, 2018 as “The Wall That Heals Days” at the Pennsylvania State Capitol. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 353](#) (Browne) recognizes the month of May 2018 as “Melanoma and Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 354](#) (Rafferty) designates the month of May 2018 as “Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 355](#) (Yudichak) designates the week of May 6 through 12, 2018 as “Drinking Water Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[House Bill 478](#) (Pickett) would create the Outpatient Psychiatric Oversight Act. The bill would require an outpatient psychiatric clinic to have a psychiatrist on site for two hours of psychiatric time per week for each full-time equivalent treatment staff member. Half of the required on-site psychiatric time could be provided by an advanced practice professional, as defined in the bill, or a psychiatrist off-site by the use of interactive audio and video or a combination of both. The Department of Human Services would be required to promulgate regulations to carry out the provisions of the act. [Passed: 49-0.](#)

[House Bill 1869](#) (Mackenzie) would establish the Maternal Mortality Review Committee within the Department of Health. The committee would consist of 16 members as outlined in the bill. The Secretary of Health would be responsible for appointing the members of the committee and a chairperson. In making the appointments, the secretary would have to include: 1) members from different geographic regions of the Commonwealth, including rural and urban areas; 2) members who are working in and representing communities that are most affected by maternal deaths and by a lack of access to relevant perinatal and intrapartum care services; and 3) members who represent several academic disciplines and professional specializations essential to reviewing cases of maternal deaths.

The committee would be required to meet at least once a year with the initial meeting being held within 90 days of the effective date of the act. The purpose of the committee would be to conduct a multidisciplinary review of maternal deaths and develop recommendations for the prevention of future maternal deaths. The committee would report findings and

recommendations regarding the prevention of maternal deaths at least every three years to the Secretary, the Health and Human Services Committee of the Senate, the Health Committee of the House of Representatives, health care providers, health care facilities and the general public. Health care facilities and providers would be required to provide medical records of the deceased to the committee for purposes of review. The committee would have to maintain the confidentiality of maternal death records. **Passed: 49-0.**

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