

# WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

## Tuesday, April 18, 2017

[Senate Bill 227](#) (Eichelberger) would amend the Public School Code to alter the deadline for school boards to make renewal decisions regarding superintendent and assistant superintendent contracts from 150 to 90 days prior to expiration of the contract. The measure would also limit the automatic renewal of these contracts to one year if the renewal notice deadline is missed.

[Passed: 50-0.](#)

[Senate Resolution 34](#) (Argall) directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study and issue a report relating to the long-term sustainability and viability of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. [Adopted: 50-0.](#)

[Senate Resolution 77](#) (Tartaglione) designates the month of April 2017 as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 78](#) (Tomlinson) designates the month of April 2017 as “Pennsylvania 8-1-1 Safe Digging Month.” [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 79](#) (McIlhinney) recognizes the week of April 16 through 22, 2017 as “National Healthcare Decisions Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

## Wednesday, April 19, 2017

[Senate Bill 250](#) (Ward) would amend the Unemployment Compensation Law to provide for the transfer of up to \$15 million from employee contributions in the Unemployment Compensation Contribution Fund to the Service and Infrastructure Improvement Fund (SIIF) for calendar year 2017. The funds would be allocated as follows:

- \$10.8 million for personnel related to claims processing and service to claimants;
- \$2.3 million for personnel related to tax services;
- \$1.4 million for personnel related to appeals; and
- \$500,000 for any of the above or personnel related to program integrity or the detection and prevention of overpayments to claimants.

The funding would have to be expended in a manner that will result in consistent operational levels for at least nine months. The Department of Labor and Industry would be required to begin a separate accounting for SIIF monies and provide monthly reports (during the nine month period) on spending and Departmental operations to the chairs of the House and Senate Labor and Industry Committees.

The bill would also extend the deadline by which SIIF funds would have to be expended or obligated before otherwise being transferred to the Unemployment Compensation Fund. Any supplemental funding requests by the Department for technological upgrades to the delivery system for unemployment compensation benefits would have to include the information delineated in the legislation.

No later than June 15, 2017, the Department of Labor and Industry would be required to report to the House and Senate Labor and Industry Committees on its plans to eliminate the Department's reliance on funds transferred into the Service and Infrastructure Improvement Fund for recurring operational costs. The General Assembly would be required to consider the information in the report when reviewing a supplemental funding request by the Department for calendar years beginning after 2017. An additional change would require the Department of Labor and Industry, before closing an unemployment compensation service center, to submit a report to the House and Senate Labor and Industry Committees with performance data and operating costs of the unemployment compensation service center as compared to other unemployment compensation service centers in the Commonwealth. **Concurrence in House Amendments: 41-8.**

**Senate Bill 365** (Gordner) would amend the Second Class Township Code to increase from \$1,000 to \$2,000 the fair market value threshold for personal property that can be sold by a second class township without a bid process or via public auction. **Passed: 50-0.**

**Senate Resolution 80** (Costa) designates the week of April 23 through 29, 2017 as "Pennsylvania Family Center Network Week" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 81** (McIlhinney) recognizes the month of April 2017 as "Limb Loss Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 82** (Hughes) recognizes the month of April 2017 as "Jazz Appreciation Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

### *Executive Session*

Nominations to Various Boards and Commissions. **Confirmed: 50-0.**