

WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

Monday, May 8, 2017

[Senate Bill 354](#) (Tomlinson) would amend Act 48 of 1993 to require an individual who holds a license, certificate or registration issued by the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs to report to the appropriate licensing board or commission a disciplinary action taken against them by a licensing agency in another jurisdiction or any arrest, indictment or conviction. A licensing board or commission would be required to take disciplinary action against a licensee, certificate holder or registrant who does not report the required information. The board or commission could temporarily suspend a license, certificate or registration under circumstances determined to be an immediate clear and present danger to the public health and safety.

The licensing board or commission would be required to provide notice to the individual and commence formal action to suspend, revoke or restrict the license, certificate or registration as provided by law. Within 30 days, the licensing board or commission would have to hold a preliminary hearing to determine that there is a prima facie case supporting the suspension. The licensee, certificate holder or registrant could be present at the preliminary hearing and be represented by counsel, cross-examine witnesses, inspect physical evidence, call witnesses, offer evidence and testimony and make a record of the proceedings. If it is determined that there is not a prima facie case, the suspended license, certificate or registration would have to be immediately restored.

The temporary suspension would remain in effect until vacated by the board or commission, but in no event longer than 180 days. A license, certificate or registration would have to be automatically suspended when the individual is committed to an institution because of mental incompetency or convicted of a felony under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act or convicted of an offense under the laws of another jurisdiction which if committed in the Commonwealth would be a felony under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act. The automatic suspension could not be stayed pending appeal of a conviction. Restoration of a license, certificate or registration would be made as provided by law. **Passed: 47-0.**

[Senate Resolution 105](#) (Greenleaf) designates the month of May 2017 as “Lyme and Tick-borne Disease Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 106](#) (Bartolotta) recognizes the month of May 2017 as “Community Action Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 107](#) (Baker) recognizes the week of May 7 through 13, 2017 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 108](#) (Scarnati) designates the week of May 6 through 12, 2017 as “Nurses Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[House Bill 224](#) (Simmons) would amend the Public School Code of 1949 to apply civil immunity protection to school bus drivers and crossing guards who administer epinephrine auto-injectors to students as long as the individual has completed a training program developed by the Department of Health and administers the auto-injector in a manner consistent with the policies of the school entity and/or independent contractor that employs them. The Department of Health would be required to develop a training program within 90 days of the effective date of the legislation. [Passed: 47-0.](#)

Executive Session

Nominations to Various Boards and Commissions. [Confirmed: 47-0.](#)

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

[Senate Bill 143](#) (Yaw) would amend the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act to modify the composition of the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Board. The measure would replace the Middle Atlantic Truck Stop Operators, which no longer exists, with the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association as one of the six groups that provide nominees to the Governor for the Board. An additional change would reallocate four of the Governor’s eight appointees on the Board to the four legislative leaders. [Passed: 50-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 201](#) (Folmer) would amend the Tax Reform Code of 1971 to allow for “like-kind” exchange tax deferrals. A “like-kind” exchange occurs when a business uses proceeds from the sale of one property to purchase another property of a similar kind. “Like-kind” exchange tax deferrals are already permitted by federal law and similar deferrals are permitted in every state except Pennsylvania. The change would apply to tax years beginning after December 31, 2018. [Passed: 46-4.](#)

[Senate Resolution 109](#) (Vogel) designates May 9, 2017 as “Pennsylvania Health Care Information Technology Awareness Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 110](#) (Yaw) recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and commends the foundation for five decades of outstanding public service to the Chesapeake Bay and the surrounding region. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 111](#) (Tartaglione) designates the month of May 2017 as “Older Americans Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 112](#) (Scavello) recognizes the week of May 7 through 13, 2017 as “National Travel and Tourism Week” and May 9, 2017 as “Travel Rally Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 113](#) (Vulakovich) recognizes May 12, 2017 as “Military Spouse Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

[Senate Bill 222](#) (Greenleaf) would amend Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to add eight judges to the court of common pleas in the following judicial districts: two in the Seventh (Bucks) and one each in the Ninth (Cumberland), Twenty-second (Wayne), Twenty-seventh (Washington), Thirty-second (Delaware), Thirty-eighth (Montgomery), and Forty-third (Monroe). These judges would be elected in the municipal election of 2019 and would take office in January 2020, except for the new judgeship in the Twenty-second district, which would be established on January 2, 2022 and initially filled at the 2021 municipal election. [Passed: 48-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 289](#) (White) would designate:

- the bridge located on Old State Route 22 that connects Blairsville Borough, Indiana County and Derry Township, Westmoreland County, over the Conemaugh River as the Blairsville Area Veterans Memorial Bridge; and
- the bridge located on that portion of State Route 4027, also known as Business U.S. Route 220, over the Norfolk Southern Mainline Railroad tracks in Grazierville, Snyder County as the John Frederick Bridges Memorial Bridge. [Passed: 48-0.](#)

[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 to specify that oral communication under the act would not include an electronic communication or a communication made in front of a law enforcement officer, sheriff or deputy sheriff who is clearly identified as such, and who is using a device to intercept the oral communication in the course of law enforcement duties. Law enforcement officers and corrections employees would be permitted 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. Chapter 67A of Title 42 would establish provisions governing recordings by law enforcement officers and the procedure for requesting production of a law enforcement audio or video recording. [Passed: 48-0.](#)

[Senate Resolution 114](#) (Vulakovich) recognizes the 75th anniversary of the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Patrol Program. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 115](#) (Greenleaf) designates the month of May 2017 as “Crohn’s Disease and Ulcerative Colitis Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 116](#) (Stefano) recognizes the 100th anniversary of the Lions Club International and designates the month of October 2017 as “Lions Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 117](#) (Hutchinson) designates May 14, 2017 as “Apraxia Awareness Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 118](#) (Scavello) recognizes May 13, 2017 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.](#)

[Senate Resolution 119](#) (Browne) recognizes the month of May 2017 as “Melanoma and Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

Executive Session

Estelle B. Richman – Philadelphia School Reform Commission. [Confirmed: 48-0.](#)

(2017-076)