

WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – EDWIN B. ERICKSON, CHAIRMAN

Monday, February 1, 2010

[Senate Bill 828](#) (Vogel) would amend the Public Eating and Drinking Place Law to exempt certain food sold by nonprofit organizations. Specifically, the legislation would exempt food that is not potentially hazardous food; is prepared in a private home; and, is used or offered for human consumption by the organizations listed in the bill, including religious and agricultural organizations. An organization that uses or offers the food for human consumption would be required to inform consumers that the food is prepared in private homes that are not licensed or inspected by the Department of Agriculture. The bill would add a definition of “potentially hazardous food” to the act. [Passed: 49-0.](#)

[Senate Resolution 239](#) (Kitchen) designates the month of February 2010 as “Black History Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 240](#) (Tartaglione) designates February 5, 2010 as “National Wear Red Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 241](#) (Dinniman) expresses sadness on the passing of Miep Gies and honors her memory. Miep Gies, the last surviving protector of Anne Frank, passed away on January 11, 2010 at the age of 100. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 242](#) (Hughes) supports “National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day” on February 7, 2010 in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

[Senate Bill 298](#) (Yaw) would amend the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act of 1974 to make a number of changes. Among other modifications, the measure would allow land devoted to the development and operation of an alternative energy system, if a majority of the energy generated annually is utilized on the tract, to maintain its preferential assessment. An alternative energy system would be defined as a facility or energy system that utilizes a Tier I energy source to generate alternative energy. Eligible energy sources would include those defined as Tier I sources in the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act.

In addition, the legislation would further provide for the payment of rollback taxes on certain lands split off for oil and gas exploration and removal, wind power generation systems and small noncoal surface mining. Rollback taxes would only apply to those portions of a property no longer available for agriculture, agriculture reserve, or forest reserve purposes. The bill would also add a section to the act to permit a landowner to remove land from preferential assessment if the landowner notifies the county assessor in writing by June 1 of the year immediately preceding the tax year for which the removal is requested, the entire tract or tracts

enrolled on a single application are removed from the preferential assessment and the land owner pays rollback taxes on the entire tract or tracts. Land removed under this section would not be eligible for re-enrollment in preferential assessment by the same landowner. Nothing in this section could be construed to prohibit a landowner whose land was terminated from preferential assessment under other sections of the act from en-enrolling the land in preferential assessment. **Passed: 50-0.**

Senate Resolution 245 (M. White) commemorates February 3, 2010 as “National Girls and Women in Sports Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Executive Session

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

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Senate Bill 1169 (Waugh) would amend the Judicial Code to require a court to order a defendant to pay court costs. The bill further provides that no court order would be necessary for the defendant to incur liability for costs under the section and that the absence of a court order would not affect the applicability of the provisions. **Passed: 50-0.**

Senate Resolution 246 (Piccola) recognizes February 6, 2010 as “Ronald Reagan Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 247 (Piccola) commemorates the month of February 2010 as “Career and Technical Education Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

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