

# WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – EDWIN B. ERICKSON, CHAIRMAN

## Monday, February 28, 2011

[Senate Bill 387](#) (Alloway) would amend the Game Code to allow all Commonwealth hunting license-issuing agents to sell reduced-fee hunting licenses to members of the U.S. Armed Forces and Pennsylvania National Guard. Under current law, qualified members of the military can only receive the \$1 hunting licenses through a county treasurer or the Pennsylvania Game Commission. **Passed: 45-0.**

[Senate Resolution 45](#) (Pileggi) amends the Senate Rules to create the 10-member Senate Intergovernmental Operations Committee. **Adopted: 45-0.**

## Tuesday, March 1, 2011

[Senate Bill 110](#) (Smucker) would amend Title 74 (Transportation) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to require the Department of Transportation to establish and maintain a log of executive and passenger flights using state aircraft. The log would have to contain the information listed in the bill and be publicly accessible on the Department's website. The information would have to be updated monthly and posted in a way that allows the public to search the log by the categories enumerated in the bill. The measure would also give the Department the power to oversee flight operations of all aircraft purchased or leased and maintained by the Department for use by Commonwealth agencies and the General Assembly. **Passed: 46-0.**

[Senate Bill 163](#) (Baker) would designate the bridge located on State Route 0006 over the Lackawaxen River, Honesdale Borough, Wayne County as the Brigadier General Richard J. Tallman Memorial Bridge. **Passed: 46-0.**

[Senate Resolution 46](#) (Baker) designates March 1, 2011 as "St. David's Day" in Pennsylvania and honors the many Pennsylvanians of Welsh heritage. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 47](#) (Orie) recognizes March 2011 as "Women's History Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 48](#) (Stack) designates March 2011 as "Irish American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

## Wednesday, March 2, 2011

[Senate Bill 199](#) (Argall) would designate Interstate 78 in Berks County from mile marker 23 to mile marker 35 as the CMSgt. Richard L. Etchberger Memorial Highway. **Passed: 45-0.**

[Senate Bill 265](#) (M. White) would amend the Coal and Gas Resource Coordination Act to create safe spacing between gas well clusters and workable coal seams. Under the provisions of the bill, no permit for a gas well covered by the act would be issued unless the well cluster is located at least 2,000 feet from the nearest well cluster, unless the permit applicant and the owner of the workable coal seam consent in writing. In the event the permit applicant and the owner of a workable coal seam cannot agree on the spacing of well clusters, either party could invoke the dispute resolution procedures included in the act. The bill would also require that all permit applications made under the Oil and Gas Act for a well which will penetrate an operating coal mine be accompanied by the written consent of the operator of the mine to the proposed well location.

In addition, within 60 days of the effective date of the act, the Department of Environmental Protection would be required to commission an independent study for a comprehensive evaluation and update of the Joint Coal and Gas Committee Gas Well Pillar Study commissioned in 1956 by the Department of Mines and Mineral Industries. The independent expert conducting the review would have to solicit input from representatives of the Department, the coal industry and the gas industry as part of its assessment. The assessment would have to be submitted to the Department within 240 days of the effective date of the act and published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. The measure would also replace or expand the definitions of “active coal mine,” “operating coal mine,” and “workable coal seam” for purposes of the act. **Passed: 45-0.**

[Senate Bill 353](#) (Fontana) would amend Title 68 (Real and Personal Property) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by adding Chapter 81, known as the Private Transfer Fee Obligation Act. The chapter would prohibit future private transfer fee obligations recorded or entered into after the effective date of the act as void and unenforceable. In addition, the bill would require any current contract subject to a private transfer fee obligation to include a provision disclosing the existence of the obligation, and a statement that private transfer fee obligations are subject to certain restrictions. The measure would provide for the recovery of damages by a buyer who discovers the existence of an undisclosed private transfer fee obligation after purchasing real estate with an obligation attached. Further, a notice would have to be recorded in the recorder of deeds for each county in which a private transfer fee was imposed prior to the effective date of the chapter. The measure would define “private transfer fee obligation” as an obligation arising under a declaration or covenant recorded against the title to real property, or under any other contractual agreement or promise, whether recorded, that requires or purports to require the payment of a private transfer fee upon subsequent transfer of an interest in the real property. **Passed: 45-0.**

[Senate Resolution 25](#) (Earll) designates the month of March 2011 as “Problem Gambling Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania and observes the week of March 6 through 12, 2011 as “National Problem Gambling Awareness Week.” **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 49](#) (Vogel) recognizes March 24, 2011 as “National Teach Ag Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 50](#) (Vogel) designates March 29, 2011 as “Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Day” and congratulates Pennsylvania Farm Bureau members for their contribution to the Commonwealth and its agricultural industry. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 51](#) (Tomlinson) designates the week of February 27 through March 5, 2011 as “Weights and Measures Week” in Pennsylvania and commends the outstanding service of inspectors of county and city weights and measures offices and the Weights and Measures Division of the Department of Agriculture in the protection of our citizens by ensuring accuracy, equity and confidence in commercial and retail measurements. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 52](#) (Baker) designates March 2011 as “American Red Cross Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 53](#) (Greenleaf) designates the month of March 2011 as “Brain Injury Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

(2011-021)