

# WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

## Tuesday, January 19, 2016

[Senate Bill 936](#) (Browne) would amend Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to replace existing language which allows an employer that complies with an order of attachment of income for child support to deduct two percent of the amount paid under the order as reimbursement for administrative expenses. The new provision would allow the employer to collect a one-time fee of \$50 for reimbursement of the expense in complying with the order. [Passed: 49-0.](#)

[Senate Resolution 156](#) (Boscola) is a concurrent resolution establishing the Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 264](#) (Kitchen) designates the week of January 18 through 24, 2016 as "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Week" in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 265](#) (Leach) recognizes January 11, 2016 as "National Human Trafficking Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

## Wednesday, January 20, 2016

[Senate Bill 880](#) (Smucker) would amend the Public School Code of 1949 to delay the implementation of the Keystone Exam as a graduation requirement or a benchmark for the need for participation in a project-based assessment until the 2018-2019 school year. As amended in the House, the bill would also require the Department of Education to investigate and develop alternatives in addition to the use of the Keystone Exams as a requirement for graduation and report its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, within six months to the chairmen and minority chairmen of the Senate and House Education Committees. The report would have to contain a detailed plan and timeline within which the Department of Education would implement the provisions outlined in the legislation. [Concurrence in House](#)  
[Amendments: 49-0.](#)

[Senate Resolution 254](#) (Vulakovich) urges the Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 2894, the "Caregivers Access and Responsible Expansion for All Veterans Act" or the "CARE for All Veterans Act." [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 266](#) (Vance) designates the week of January 24 through 30, 2016 as "Nurse Anesthetists Week" in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[House Bill 158](#) (Peifer) would amend the Public School Code of 1949 to give the Secretary of Education the ability to issue a weather-related, safety-related or health-related emergency declaration on a school entity, charter school entity, county or statewide basis. A school entity or charter school entity could satisfy the 180 instructional day per school year requirement by one

or more of the options outlined in the legislation. No school entity or charter school entity could receive less subsidy payments or reimbursements than it would otherwise be entitled to receive by the decision to use one of these options.

The measure would also allow criminal history reports of prospective school employees to be no more than five years old. Individuals subject to the provisions would have to obtain the reports on a renewed basis every 60 months. Anyone subject to the provisions who has previously not been required to obtain the reports due to service prior to April 1, 2007 would have to obtain the reports no later than December 31, 2015. Administrators would be required to review the reports and determine if they disclose information that may require further action. The provisions governing the background checks would be retroactive to December 31, 2015.

**Passed: 49-0.**

(2016-009)