

WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

[Senate Bill 4](#) (Aument) would amend Article VIII, Section 2(b) of the Pennsylvania Constitution to stipulate that the General Assembly could, by law, establish uniform standards and qualifications to be used as the criteria to determine qualification as an institution of purely public charity. As a proposed constitutional amendment, legislation must pass two consecutive legislative sessions and be approved by the electorate. Prior passage of the proposed amendment occurred during the 2013-2014 session as Pamphlet Laws Resolution No. 2. [Passed: 30-19.](#)

[Senate Resolution 24](#) (Smith) designates February 22, 2015 as “Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma Awareness Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 25](#) (Tartaglione) recognizes February 6, 2015 as “National Wear Red Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 26](#) (Baker) designates the week of February 22 through 28, 2015 as “Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Awareness Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

[Senate Bill 279](#) (Hutchinson) would establish the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Development Advisory Council. The council would have 17 members, as outlined in the bill, and would meet not less than semiannually at the call of the chairperson. The Department of Community and Economic Development would be required to provide administrative support, office space and any other technical assistance required by the council to carry out its duties. The council would:

- Examine and make recommendations regarding existing conventional oil and gas regulations;
- Explore the development of a regulatory scheme that provides for environmental oversight and enforcement for the conventional oil and gas industry;
- Promote the long-term viability of the conventional oil and gas industry;
- Assist the Secretary of Environmental Protection with and provide written comments on new Departmental policy that would impact the conventional oil and gas industry, including economic policies;
- Review and comment on the formulation and drafting of all technical oil and gas regulations;

- Recommend appropriate measures relating to the promotion and development of the conventional oil and gas industry;
- Develop a plan to increase Pennsylvania grade crude oil production in an environmentally responsible way to more adequately supply the refineries which depend on Pennsylvania grade crude oil;
- Develop a joint working group with the Department to explore and develop an environmentally responsible and economically viable production water management option; and
- Perform other duties as necessary or appropriate to effect the intent and purposes of the act.

The council would be required to issue an annual report of its activities and recommendations. The Department of Environmental Protection would be directed to:

- Consult with the council on all policies and oil and gas regulations;
- Include any written comments of the council regarding oil and gas regulations as part of its submission to the Environmental Quality Board; and
- Provide technical assistance required by the council to carry out its duties.

Passed: 48-0.

[Senate Bill 397](#) (Alloway) would amend Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to further regulate bail bondsmen. The proposed legislation would:

- Establish that no person could engage in the business of a bail bondsman unless the person has been licensed by the Department of Insurance as an insurance producer and possesses a casualty line of business;
- Provide that, in order for a bail bondsman to conduct business in a county, he or she must file stipulated documents with the office of the county clerk;
- Require a bail bondsman to have an office that is geographically located in the Commonwealth and is eligible to receive original process and other legal documents;
- Provide for the suspension or nonrenewal of a license for failure to pay forfeitures;
- Authorize the Department of Insurance to promulgate regulations to implement portions of the act;

- Outline the process for revocation and forfeiture of bail, stipulate how payment will be made, and provide the process for recovery of forfeited funds;
- Permit a bail bondsman or insurer to bring a private cause of action against a competitor that has engaged in an activity that is in violation of any provisions of the act; and
- Permit law enforcement officers to assist a bail bondsman in the recovery of a fugitive if the services are not rendered while the person is performing official duties and the person is compensated separately. A person who engages in fugitive recovery during official duties, in uniform or under badge of office would commit a second degree misdemeanor.
Passed: 48-0.

(2015-041)