

# WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

## Monday, March 21, 2016

[Senate Bill 1142](#) (Yaw) would amend the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act to modify the composition of the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Board. Currently, the Governor appoints six members to the Board from lists submitted by the groups listed in the act. The legislation would change this provision to have the Governor appoint two members and the four legislative leaders to appoint one member each from the lists. The Governor would continue to appoint one local government member who has knowledge and expertise in underground storage tanks and one public member who is not an owner or operator of storage tanks nor affiliated in any way with any person regulated under the act. In addition, the Insurance Commissioner and the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection would remain as ex officio members. **Passed: 49-0.**

[Senate Resolution 305](#) (Schwank) designates March 30, 2016 as “Female Veterans Recognition Day” in Pennsylvania and encourages all Pennsylvanians to join in recognizing, appreciating and saluting the service and sacrifices of the more than 71,000 female veterans who live in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 306](#) (Schwank) recognizes the month of March 2016 as “Professional Social Work Month” in Pennsylvania and calls upon the citizens of the Commonwealth to join with the Pennsylvania chapter of the National Association of Social Workers in celebration and support of social workers and the social work profession. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 307](#) (Browne) designates the month of March 2016 as “International DeMolay Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 308](#) (Sabatina) recognizes the month of April 2016 as “Autism Awareness Month” and April 2, 2016 as “World Autism Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

## Tuesday, March 22, 2016

[Senate Bill 983](#) (McGarrigle) would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to allow a parent, including an adoptive parent or foster parent, of a child or adult child to receive a disability license plate provided the person has custody, care or control of the child or adult child and the child or adult child otherwise satisfies the requirements for such a plate. **Passed: 48-0.**

[Senate Bill 1108](#) (Scavello) would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide for the definition of an “autocycle,” to clarify the class of operating license required, and to further define requirements for certain operation and safety measures. An autocycle would be defined as a three-wheeled motorcycle that has a steering wheel and seating that does not require the operator to straddle or sit astride in the vehicle. Operators would be

required to hold a Class C operator license. Further, a person operating an autocycle would be prohibited from allowing a child under eight years of age to be a passenger in the vehicle if the child would be required to be secured in a passenger car under Section 4581 of the Vehicle Code (relating to restraint systems). Additionally, an applicant for a driver's license could not use an autocycle for their driver's test. **Passed: 48-0.**

**Senate Resolution 261** (Folmer) urges the Congress of the United States to support a Passenger Facility Charges (PFC) increase for commercial airports controlled by public agencies. **Adopted: 45-3.**

**Senate Resolution 309** (Haywood) designates March 22, 2016 as "Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Day" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 310** (Gordner) recognizes the month of April 2016 as "Financial Literacy Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 311** (White) designates the month of April 2016 as "Community Banking Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 312** (Teplitz) designates the month of April 2016 as "Distracted Driving Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 313** (Eichelberger) designates the week of April 11 through 15, 2016 as "Local Government Week" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 314** (Scavello) congratulates the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission on 150 years of service to the Commonwealth. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 315** (Boscola) recognizes the month of March 2016 as "Eye Donor Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

### **Wednesday, March 23, 2016**

**Senate Bill 1122** (Scavello) would amend the Public School Code to permit a community college in a third class county with a population between 290,000 and 310,000 as of the 2010 census to appoint up to two trustees from a county where a campus is located for which no local sponsor exists. **Passed: 48-0.**

**Senate Bill 1123** (Vogel) would amend Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide an exception to the standard adopted relative to the expiration of the one pound vapor pressure waiver for gasoline. The change would permit a vapor pressure tolerance not exceeding one pound per square inch for ethanol blends of up to 10 percent from September 16, through May 31. **Passed: 48-0.**

**Senate Resolution 316** (Vulakovich) recognizes March 30, 2016 as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 317](#) (McGarrigle) designates the month of March 2016 as “Greek-American Heritage Month” in Pennsylvania and recognizes the constructive role Greek Americans continue to play in the economic and cultural development of our nation and the Commonwealth. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 318](#) (Rafferty) recognizes March 23, 2016 as “Architects’ Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[House Bill 1326](#) (Godshall) would amend Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by adding Section 1329 to establish a voluntary process for determining the fair market value of acquired water or wastewater systems for ratemaking purposes. The bill would require the buyer to make an application to the Public Utility Commission (PUC) seeking approval of the acquisition with the information outlined in the legislation.

The fair market value would be determined through two independent appraisals, which would have to be conducted by PUC-approved utility valuation experts and comply with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice. The bill would prohibit the experts from deriving any material financial benefit from the sale of the utility other than fees for services rendered. The fees paid to the experts could not exceed five percent of the fair market value of the selling utility or a fee approved by the PUC. The appraisal would have to include an assessment of the tangible assets of the selling system as determined by a licensed engineer. The seller’s ratemaking rate base would be incorporated into the rates of the buyer in a base rate case before the PUC, and would be the lesser of the purchase price or the fair market value as determined through the appraisals. The rates of the seller, at the time of acquisition, would remain in place until new rates are established by the PUC through a base rate case.

The PUC would have six months to approve or deny an application. If approved, the PUC’s order would have to include the seller’s ratemaking rate base and any additional conditions for the approval. The seller’s cost of service would be incorporated into the revenue requirement of the acquiring public utility during its next base rate case proceeding. Any improvements made after the acquisition that are not recovered through a distribution system improvement charge would be eligible for inclusion in the allowance of funds used during construction for a four-year period or until the asset is included in the next base rate case. Depreciation on post-acquisition improvements that are not included in a distribution system improvement charge would be deferred for book and ratemaking purposes. **Passed: 48-0.**

[House Bill 1638](#) (Tobash) would amend the Motor Vehicle Physical Damage Appraiser Act to allow appraisers to use photographs, video and telephonic means when preparing an auto repair estimate. An appraiser could not require the submission of photographs or videos in order to obtain an appraisal and would be required to disclose this information to the owner of the vehicle. Supplemental repair estimates that become necessary after the repair work has been initiated due to the discovery of additional damage to the motor vehicle could be made by personal inspection or by photographs, videos or telephonic means, except in the case of disputed repairs when a personal inspection would be required. **Passed: 47-1.**