

WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

Monday, March 27, 2017

[Senate Bill 30](#) (Eichelberger) would amend Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to allow the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to establish the fees outlined in the legislation beginning on July 1, 2017. In order to establish fees, the Commission would have to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking in accordance with the Commonwealth Documents Law, give at least 30 days for the submission of written comments, and hold at least one public hearing on the proposed change. The Commission would be required to review and consider any public comments. After adoption of a final-form regulation, the Commission would be required to submit the regulation, copies of all public comments, and the transcript of the public hearing to the Senate and House Game and Fisheries Committees.

Either committee could report a concurrent resolution recommending disapproval of the fee change within 30 days of its submission. If neither committee reports a concurrent resolution recommending disapproval, the fee change would be deemed approved. If a concurrent resolution is reported from committee, the General Assembly would have 30 days to adopt it, or the fee change would be deemed approved. If the concurrent resolution is adopted by the General Assembly, it would be presented to the Governor. If the Governor does not veto the resolution within 10 days, the regulation would be deemed disapproved. If the Governor does veto the resolution, the General Assembly would have 30 days to override the veto. If the General Assembly does not override the veto, the regulation would be deemed approved. If approved, the Commission would submit the regulation to the Office of Attorney General for approval as to legality, publish an order adopting the final-form regulation and deposit the text of the order with the Legislative Reference Bureau in accordance with the Commonwealth Documents Law. The authorization for the Commission to establish fees would expire on July 15, 2020. The Commission would be required to provide notice of any change of a fee, publish the change in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and post it on its website. [Passed: 47-2.](#)

[Senate Bill 192](#) (Stefano) would amend Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to allow the Pennsylvania Game Commission to establish fees for hunting and furtaking licenses. Before the Game Commission could increase any fees, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee would be required to conduct a financial analysis of all sources of revenue received by the Commission and all expenditures made by the Commission. The report would have to be completed within 90 days of the effective date and submitted to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report would be public information. In order to establish fees, the Commission would have to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking in accordance with the Commonwealth Documents Law, give at least 30 days for the submission of written comments, and hold at least one public hearing on the proposed changes. The Commission would be required to review and consider any public comments. After adoption of a final-form regulation, the Commission would be required to submit the regulation, copies of all public comments and the transcript of the public hearing to the Senate and House Game and Fisheries Committees.

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Senate Resolution 36 (Folmer) urges the Congress of the United States to reauthorize the Rohrabacher-Farr amendment to prevent the United States Department of Justice from spending funds to interfere with the implementation of state medical marijuana laws. **Adopted: 47-2.**

Senate Resolution 58 (Rafferty) designates the month of April 2017 as “Distracted Driving Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 59 (Tomlinson) recognizes the month of March 2017 as “National Athletic Training Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 60 (Vulakovich) designates April 5, 2017 as “Gold Star Wives Day” in Pennsylvania and honors and recognizes the sacrifices made by the spouses and families of fallen members of the armed forces of the United States. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Executive Session

Nominations to Various Boards and Commissions. **Confirmed: 49-0.**

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Senate Bill 133 (Ward) would create the REAL ID Compliance Act to direct the Department of Transportation to submit a written request to the United States Department of Homeland Security seeking an extension of time for the Commonwealth to comply with the REAL ID Act. The amount of time requested would be at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation. When complying with the REAL ID Act, the Department would be required to provide individuals applying for a driver’s license or identification card the option to obtain a standard-issue license or card. The Department would have to ensure that a driver’s license or identification card is clearly marked as either a standard issue license or card or a REAL ID compliant license or card. Within 90 days of the effective date of the act, the Secretary of Transportation would be required to report to certain designated committee chairs on the costs associated with the implementation

and maintenance of all remaining requirements for compliance with the federal act and the maintenance of a two-tiered system of standard-issue and REAL ID compliant licenses. The legislation would also repeal the REAL ID Nonparticipation Act of 2012. **Passed: 46-2.**

Senate Resolution 44 (Wagner) condemns acts of hate and vandalism against the Jewish community. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 61 (Stefano) designates the month of March 2017 as “Spread the Word to End the Word Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted: 49-0.**

Senate Resolution 63 (Wagner) designates the week of April 10 through 14, 2017 as “Local Government Week” and April 12, 2017 as “Local Government Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 64 (Schwank) designates March 29, 2017 as “Female Veterans Recognition Day” in Pennsylvania and encourages all Pennsylvanians to join in recognizing, appreciating and saluting the service and sacrifices of more than 71,000 female veterans who live in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 65 (Boscola) recognizes the month of March 2017 as “Eye Donor Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 66 (Gordner) recognizes the month of April 2017 as “Financial Literacy Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 67 (Farnese) designates the month of April 2017 as “Pennsylvania Donate Life Month.” **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 68 (Eichelberger) recognizes the month of April 2017 as “School Library Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Senate Bill 171 (Rafferty) would amend the Administrative Code of 1929 to require that a majority of the Senate confirm the gubernatorial appointment of the chief executive officer of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. **Passed: 37-10.**

Senate Bill 250 (Ward) would amend the Unemployment Compensation Law to provide for the transfer of up to \$15 million from employee contributions in the Unemployment Compensation Contribution Fund to the Service and Infrastructure Improvement Fund (SIIF) for calendar year 2017. The additional funds would have to be used to improve the quality, efficiency and timeliness of services provided by the unemployment compensation service center system to individuals filing claims under the law and to pay the costs of collecting SIIF contributions. The bill would also extend the deadline by which SIIF funds would have to be expended or obligated before otherwise being transferred to the Unemployment Compensation Fund. For calendar years beginning after 2017, any supplemental funding requests by the Department for

technological upgrades to the delivery system for unemployment compensation benefits would have to include the information delineated in the legislation.

No later than June 15, 2017, the Department of Labor and Industry would be required to report to the House and Senate Labor and Industry Committees on its plans to eliminate the Department's reliance on funds transferred into the Service and Infrastructure Improvement Fund for recurring operational costs. The General Assembly would be required to consider the information in the report when reviewing a supplemental funding request by the Department. An additional change would require the Department of Labor and Industry, before closing an unemployment compensation call center, to submit a report to the House and Senate Labor and Industry Committees with performance data and operating costs of the unemployment compensation call center as compared to other unemployment compensation call centers in the Commonwealth. **Passed: 39-8.**

Senate Resolution 69 (Rafferty) honors the life and mourns the loss of Dallas Green, whose life greatly benefited all those who lived, played and worked with him. **Adopted: 47-0.**

Senate Resolution 70 (Vulakovich) recognizes March 30, 2017 as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 71 (Williams) recognizes April 4, 2017 as "Equal Pay Day" in Pennsylvania in recognition of the need to eliminate the gender gap in earnings by women and to promote policies to ensure equal pay for all. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 72 (Sabatina) recognizes the month of April 2017 as "Autism Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 73 (Scavello) designates April 8, 2017 as "Cushing's Syndrome Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

(2017-050)