

WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

Monday, April 13, 2015

[Senate Bill 61](#) (Greenleaf) would amend Section 3105 of Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to add provisions related to “bike medics.” Under the changes, bike medics would be granted the same privileges granted to drivers of emergency vehicles when those individuals are responding to an emergency call, in pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law, or responding to a fire alarm. These privileges include proceeding past a red light or stop sign and exceeding the speed limit. The section already provides the privileges to police officers operating bicycles while in the operation of official duties. The bicycles and the medics would have to meet the requirements outlined in the legislation for the privileges to apply. [Passed: 49-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 405](#) (Baker) would designate Exit 30 from Interstate 84 onto State Route 402 in Pike County as the Corporal Bryon K. Dickson, II Exit. Corporal Dickson gave his life in the line of duty when he was one of the two members of the Pennsylvania State Police shot in an ambush outside of the Blooming Grove Station on September 12, 2014. [Passed: 49-0.](#)

[Senate Resolution 60](#) (Fontana) recognizes the week of April 12 through 18, 2015 as “National Library Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 61](#) (McIlhinney) recognizes the month of April 2015 as “Limb Loss Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 62](#) (Hutchinson) designates the week of April 13 through 17, 2015 as “Local Government Week” and April 15, 2015 as “Local Government Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 63](#) (Brooks) designates the month of April 2015 as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 64](#) (Pileggi) recognizes April 14, 2015 as the observance of Vaisakhi in Pennsylvania. Vaisakhi is a Sikh holiday celebrating the spring harvest and commemorating the 1699 founding of Khalsa Panth, a new order of Sikhism. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 65](#) (Pileggi) designates the month of March 2015 as “Fibromuscular Dysplasia Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 66](#) (Tartaglione) designates the month of April 2015 as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 67](#) (Haywood) designates April 13, 2015 as “Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

[Senate Bill 286](#) (Rafferty) would amend Act 200 of 1931 which provides for joint action by Pennsylvania and New Jersey in the development of ports on the lower Delaware River and the establishment of the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA). The proposed legislation would:

- Require the Pennsylvania commissioners of the DRPA, who are not ex-officio members, to be confirmed by a majority of the Pennsylvania Senate;
- Clarify that DRPA's authority to borrow money is for the purpose of financing any project authorized by or pursuant to the compact or agreement and that DRPA could acquire, purchase, construct, lease, operate, maintain and undertake any project directly relating to the operation of the DRPA;
- Provide that a majority of the commission members for Pennsylvania and a majority of the commission members for New Jersey could meet in executive session to address confidential matters but that neither the commissioners for Pennsylvania nor New Jersey may meet in caucus separately from the members of the other state;
- Provide that DRPA could not negotiate, extend, amend or alter the terms of a contract, or enter into a contract, unless the action is voted on and approved in a public session, and that 30 days public notice is given prior to any such vote;
- Require DRPA to use best practices in procurement and the acceptance of bid proposals online;
- Require the commission to submit biennially to an audit of its budget conducted by an independent auditor, a performance review audit and a commission review of the compensation of commission employees and officers. The budget audit, performance review audit and the compensation review report would have to be provided to the Governor and Legislature of the respective states. Failure to submit the information would result in forfeiture of management employee salaries until such time as the audits and review are complete;
- Require the commission, prior to a board meeting, to circulate a list of entities subject to board action and for the board members to identify in writing any conflicts in advance of the meeting;
- Establish a list of actions by a commissioner, director, officer, or employee which would be prohibited or considered a conflict of interest;
- Prohibit officers and employees at the director level and higher from accepting or engaging in employment by an entity that does business with DRPA for a two-year period following termination of employment with DRPA;

- Require each commissioner to file financial statements in compliance with the law of his or her respective state;
- Prohibit salaries from being higher than the lesser salary of either the Governor of Pennsylvania or the Governor of New Jersey;
- Prohibit a DRPA board member, officer and employees from receiving vehicle allowances, toll exemptions, lump sum expense allowances, or personal lines of credit from DRPA;
- Require any current or prospective vendor, including any director, officer, principal or partner thereof, to annually disclose a list of current political campaign contributions, and any contributions made within four years prior to the vendor's involvement with the commission;
- Require the commission to be subject to the Pennsylvania Right-To-Know Law or to the Open Public Records Act;
- Require the commission to adopt an open meetings and records policy;
- Require the commission to prepare a comprehensive master plan for the development of the Port District as outlined in the legislation; and
- Establish the Port Authority Transit Corporation Commuter's Council to study, investigate, monitor and make recommendations pertaining to the maintenance and operation of the Port Authority Transit Corporation's facilities for the transportation of passengers. **Passed: 49-0.**

[Senate Bill 287](#) (Rafferty) would amend Act 200 of 1931, which provides for joint action by Pennsylvania and New Jersey in the development of ports on the lower Delaware River and for the establishment of the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA). The legislation would grant the Governor of Pennsylvania veto power over the actions of the Pennsylvania commissioners on the DRPA. Legislation has already been enacted in New Jersey to provide its Governor with veto power over its commissioners. **Passed: 49-0.**

[Senate Bill 333](#) (Eichelberger) would amend Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to add Section 305 to clarify that a municipality could not:

- Enact or administer a mandate requiring an employer to provide an employee or class of employees with vacation or other forms of leave from employment, paid or unpaid, that is not required by federal or state law; or
- Require an employer to compensate an employee for any vacation or other forms of leave for which federal or state law does not require the employee to be compensated.

The section could not be construed to invalidate a mandate enacted by a municipality prior to January 1, 2015. A mandate enacted by a municipality that is inconsistent with the section and enacted after January 1, 2015 would be void. The section would not apply to a mandate enacted by a municipality affecting vacation or other forms of leave for an employee or class of employees of the municipality itself. The addition of the Section 305 would apply retroactively to January 1, 2015. [Passed: 37-12.](#)

[Senate Resolution 68](#) (Costa) designates the week of April 19 through 25, 2015 as “Pennsylvania Family Center Network Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 69](#) (Tomlinson) designates the month of April 2015 as “Pennsylvania 8-1-1 Safe Digging Month.” [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 70](#) (Hutchinson) recognizes April 14, 2015 as “Forest and Paper Products Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 71](#) (Rafferty) recognizes April 14, 2015 as “Architects’ Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 72](#) (Smith) celebrates April 14, 2015 as the 67th anniversary of the United States Air Force Reserve, which was founded in 1948. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 73](#) (Scavello) designates April 8, 2015 as “Cushing’s Syndrome Awareness Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 74](#) (Farnese) designates the month of April 2015 as “Pennsylvania Donate Life Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 75](#) (Vance) honors BAYADA Home Health Care on 40 years of providing in-home care. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 76](#) (Costa) designates April 2015 as “Pennsylvania Community College Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

Executive Session

Richard A. Steigerwald – State Athletic Commission. [Confirmed: 49-0.](#)

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

[Senate Bill 43](#) (Williams) would amend Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to make it a third degree misdemeanor for a person to falsely represent himself verbally or in writing to have been awarded any decoration or medal authorized by the Congress of the United States for the armed forces of the United States, any of the service medals or badges awarded to the members of the armed forces of the United States, the ribbon, button or rosette of any badge, decoration or medal, or any imitation of the item with the intent to

commit fraud, obtain employment or be elected to public office. If a decoration or medal involved in an offense is any of the following, the person would commit a second degree misdemeanor: the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, a Navy Cross, an Air Force Cross, a Silver Star Medal or a Purple Heart. Each violation would constitute a separate offense. **Passed: 49-0.**

Senate Bill 485 (Scarnati) would amend Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to increase the grading of the offense of impersonating a doctor of medicine if the actor provides medical advice or treatment to another person, regardless of whether or not the other person suffers harm from the medical advice or treatment. An offense under this provision would be upgraded from a second degree misdemeanor to a first degree misdemeanor. **Passed: 49-0.**

Senate Resolution 77 (Teplitz) designates the week of April 13 through 19, 2015 as “Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 78 (Boscola) designates the month of April 2015 as “Parkinson’s Disease Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 79 (Dinniman) recognizes the 170th anniversary of the 1845 novel *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, written by himself. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 80 (Costa) recognizes the month of April 2015 as “Autism Awareness Month” and April 2, 2015 as “World Autism Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 81 (Rafferty) recognizes 2015 as the “Year of the Law Enforcement Officer” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

House Bill 152 (Tallman) would amend the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act to extend the application deadline to apply for death benefits from 90 days to four years and clarify that an application for benefits must be made to the Department of General Services. An additional change would include campus police officers at state-owned, state-related and state-aided colleges and universities under the act. **Passed: 49-0.**

House Bill 178 (Snyder) would name a number of roads and bridges. The legislation would designate:

- The interchange of State Route 43 in Washington County at the Mon-Fayette Expressway Interchange with State Route 88, known as Exit 28, as the Marine Cpl. Thomas R. Matty Memorial Interchange;
- The bridge located on State Route 1013, known as Knupp Road, over Hypocrite Creek, in Fairfield Township, Westmoreland County as the PFC LeRoy D. “Whitey” Schaller Bridge;

- The portion of State Route 711 commencing at the intersection of Ligonier Street and 13th Street in New Florence Borough, Westmoreland County and continuing through St. Clair Township at the Seward Borough line as the Veterans Highway;
- The bridge located on State Route 88 in Cumberland Township, Greene County over the Muddy Creek as the Army Corporal Richard W. Kowaleski, Jr., Memorial Bridge;
- The bridge carrying U.S. Route 322 over the East Branch of the Brandywine Creek in West Bradford and East Calm Townships, Chester County as the Robbie and Ryan Miller Memorial Bridge;
- The bridge located on State Route 34 that connects the banks of the Juniata River in Newport, Perry County as the Paul Reider Bridge; and
- The section of State Route 2029, known as Bath Road, that runs between U.S. Route 13 to Oxford Valley Road and the section of State Route 2049, also known as Bath Road, that runs between Oxford Valley Road to State Route 413 in Bristol Township, Bucks County as the Sergeant George Stuckey Memorial Road. **Passed: 49-0.**

(2015-065)