

WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

Monday, June 1, 2015

[Senate Bill 695](#) (Scarnati) would amend Title 65 (Public Officers) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to require lobbyist registrations, amendments to registrations, terminations, and expense reports to be filed electronically beginning January 1, 2016. An additional change would require the Department of State to post all filings on its website within seven days of receipt of the filing. This provision would take effect immediately. [Passed: 47-0.](#)

[Senate Resolution 95](#) (Vogel) urges federal and state regulatory agencies to utilize science-based data in evaluating crop protection chemistry and nutrients. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 139](#) (Vance) designates the month of September 2015 as “Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 140](#) (Scavello) designates the week of June 1 through 7, 2015 as “Motorsports Appreciation Week” in Pennsylvania and recognizes the second annual NASCAR Hauler Parade at the Capitol on June 4, 2015. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

[Senate Bill 305](#) (McGarrigle) would amend the Pharmacy Act to allow pharmacists to administer influenza immunizations by injectable or needle-free delivery methods to persons nine years of age and older. For individuals under 18 years of age, parental consent would have to be obtained prior to administration and the immunizations would have to be in accordance with the immunization schedule established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The individual’s primary care provider, if known, would have to be notified within 48 hours of administration. Pharmacists would have to maintain a level of professional liability insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$1 million per occurrence or claims made. A pharmacy intern who has completed the education and training requirements under the act could administer injectable medications, biologicals and immunizations to persons who are more than 18 years of age and influenza immunizations by injectable or needle-free delivery methods to persons nine years of age and older only under the direct, immediate and personal supervision of a pharmacist holding the authority to administer injectable medications, biologicals and immunizations. [Passed: 49-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 490](#) (Baker) would amend Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to require the Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to be subject to confirmation by a majority of the members elected to the Senate. The change would apply to directors appointed after the measure’s effective date. [Passed: 32-17.](#)

[Senate Resolution 113](#) (Kitchen) urges the Commonwealth to adopt and utilize person-first language with respect to people with disabilities. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 141](#) (Hutchinson) commends the Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program, an Outreach and Online Education program of the Pennsylvania State University, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

Executive Session

Pedro A. Cortes – Secretary of the Commonwealth. [Confirmed: 31-18.](#)

Theodore Dallas – Secretary of Human Services. [Confirmed: 49-0.](#)

Cynthia A. Dunn – Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources. [Confirmed: 49-0.](#)

Robin Wiessmann – Secretary of Banking and Securities. [Confirmed: 49-0.](#)

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

[Senate Bill 78](#) (Alloway) would amend the Dog Law to prohibit a kennel license from being issued to an immediate family member of someone convicted of cruelty to animals within the past ten years to operate a kennel at the same location as the convicted person. The license could be issued if the immediate family member can show by clear and convincing evidence that the convicted person will have no ownership interest in the kennel and play no role in the care of the dogs or the management of the kennel. If the Secretary subsequently determines that the convicted person has an ownership interest, cares for the dogs or manages the kennel, the license to operate the kennel would be permanently revoked. [Passed: 49-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 294](#) (Eichelberger) would amend Section 5511 (Cruelty to animals) of Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to add “equine animal” to the animal cruelty provisions of the section. The bill would also require a person that kills, maims, disfigures, tortures or administers poison to a guide, hearing or service dog to make, in addition to any other applicable penalty, reparations for veterinary costs for the treatment of the dog and, if necessary, the cost of obtaining and training a replacement dog. [Passed: 49-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 373](#) (Alloway) would amend Section 5511 (Cruelty to animals) of Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to make it a crime to tether a dog outdoors or to not provide a dog with adequate shelter. Section 5511 (c.1) would be added to make the tethering of a dog a summary offense for a first offense, and a third degree misdemeanor for second and subsequent offenses, unless all of the requirements listed in the legislation are met. Further, outdoor tethering would not be allowed if there is a National Weather Service severe weather warning issued, or for more than 30 minutes if is below 32 degrees or above 90 degrees. Section 5511 (c.2) would also be added to establishment requirements for shelter and bedding for a dog kept outdoors or in an unheated enclosure. Violations of this section would also be a summary offense for a first offense, and a third degree misdemeanor for second and subsequent offenses. Penalties for both offenses would include a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$750; all veterinary costs; shelter costs, not to exceed \$15 per day; and court costs.

[Passed: 45-4.](#)

[Senate Bill 594](#) (Dinniman) would amend Section 5511 (Cruelty to animals) of Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to make it a third degree misdemeanor to kill, maim, disfigure, torture or administer poison to any dog or cat when the animal is under the control of a person or persons who directly benefit from a protection from abuse order and where the person committing the harm is the subject of the protection from abuse order. Any person convicted of violating the new section would be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$2,000 and not more than \$15,000 or to be imprisoned for not more than two years, or both.

Passed: 49-0.

[Senate Resolution 142](#) (Rafferty) commemorates the 71st anniversary of D-Day on June 6, 2015.

Adopted by Voice Vote.

[Senate Resolution 143](#) (Teplitz) commemorates the 230th anniversary of Dauphin County.

Adopted by Voice Vote.

[Senate Resolution 144](#) (Hutchinson) designates June 5, 2015 as “PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 150](#) (Boscola) congratulates Lehigh University on reaching its 150th anniversary and extends warmest wishes for a future replete with ever-increasing success.

Adopted by Voice Vote.

Executive Session

Teresa Miller – Insurance Commissioner. **Confirmed: 48-0.**

John H. Quigley – Secretary of Environmental Protection. **Confirmed: 44-4.**

Pedro A Rivera, II – Secretary of Education. **Confirmed: 48-0.**

(2015-085)