

# WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – EDWIN B. ERICKSON, CHAIRMAN

**Monday, April 28, 2014**

[Senate Bill 959](#) (Vance) would amend the Professional Nursing Law to officially recognize nurse anesthetists as Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists in statute. Individuals who hold a license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth and who meet the requirements of a certified registered nurse anesthetist would be given the right to use the title “certified registered nurse anesthetist” as defined in the legislation and the abbreviation, C.R.N.A. The qualifications of a certified registered nurse anesthetist would include: 1) holding a master’s degree, doctoral degree or post-master’s certificate from an accredited educational program in nurse anesthesia approved by the board and that prepares graduates to practice as a CRNA; 2) holding current national certification as a CRNA from a board-recognized national certification organization which required passing of a national examination in nurse anesthesia; and 3) meeting all other board requirements to practice as a CRNA. The State Board of Nursing would be authorized to issue a certification to a registered nurse anesthetist from another state who has completed a course of study equivalent to that required in the Commonwealth.

To obtain certification, a CRNA would have to file an application with the board and pay the prescribed fee. CRNA certification would expire at the same time as the individual’s nursing license expires. In order to obtain biennial certificate renewal, a CRNA would have to: 1) verify that he or she holds current recertification from a board-recognized national certification organization which required passing of a national certifying examination in nurse anesthesia; 2) submit a renewal application to the board; 3) pay a renewal fee; and 4) complete at least 30 hours of continuing education approved by the board. A CRNA would be required to maintain professional liability coverage. The State Board of Nursing would promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of the act within 18 months of the effective date.  
**Passed: 50-0.**

[Senate Bill 1312](#) (Vogel) would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to increase the permissible length of a school bus from 40 feet to 45 feet. **Passed: 50-0.**

[Senate Resolution 338](#) (Alloway) urges the Pennsylvania Game Commission to include Lyme disease education in the Hunter-Trapper Education training courses that are offered to hunters each year. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 354](#) (Gordner) recognizes May 1, 2014 as the “National Day of Prayer” in Pennsylvania and encourages the celebration of religious freedom. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 355](#) (Rafferty) recognizes the week of May 11 through 17, 2014 as “National Police Week” in Pennsylvania and May 5, 2014 as “Police Officers’ Memorial Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 356](#) (Leach) recognizes the month of April 2014 as “Multiple Birth Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 357](#) (Vance) designates the week of May 12 through 18, 2014 as “State Squires Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 358](#) (Mensch) recognizes the month of May 2014 as “Preeclampsia Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 359](#) (Tartaglione) recognizes the month of May 2014 as “Older Americans Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 360](#) (Dinniman) designates April 29, 2014 as “Life Sciences Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 361](#) (Greenleaf) designates May 1, 2014 as “The Battle of the Crooked Billet Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 362](#) (Farnese) designates the month of April 2014 as “Pennsylvania Donate Life Month.” [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[House Bill 1513](#) (Dunbar) would amend the Local Tax Enabling Act to clarify the provisions governing the assessment of the Business Privilege Tax. The bill would allow a local taxing authority to levy a tax on the privilege of doing business in the jurisdiction if such privilege is: 1) exercised by an entity that conducts business in the jurisdiction of the local taxing authority for all or part of fifteen or more calendar days in a calendar year; or 2) exercised by an entity that has a base of operations, as defined in the bill, in the jurisdiction of the local taxing authority. An additional provision would stipulate that the gross receipts subject to the “base of operations” taxation would not include any gross receipts subject to taxation measured by the conducting of transactions for all or part of fifteen days in a calendar year. The provisions of the bill would apply to taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2014. [Passed: 34-16.](#)

## **Tuesday, April 29, 2014**

[Senate Bill 799](#) (Robbins) would amend the Self-Storage Facility Act to update the definition for “last known address” to include electronic mailing addresses and to add a definition for “verified mail.” Electronic mail would be added as a method whereby the owner of a facility could notify the occupant of a default, but only if the occupant is informed in the original rental agreement, or subsequent modification of the agreement, that notification by electronic mail is an authorized means of communication. The occupant would have to affirmatively consent to be contacted by electronic mail. Further, an owner would be allowed to deny access to an occupant who is in default for a period of 20 continuous days, as opposed to the current 30 days, and would be allowed to enter and remove the personal property from the leased space after a default of 30 continuous days. If the property upon which the lien is claimed is a motor vehicle or watercraft, and it has been in default for 60 consecutive days, the owner could have the property

towed and would not be liable for any damage not caused by any negligence of the owner once an adequately insured or bonded tower takes possession of the property. If a rental agreement contains a limit on the value of property that can be stored, that limit becomes the maximum liability, provided the limit provision is printed in bold type or underlined in the rental agreement. **Passed: 43-3.**

**Senate Bill 1255** (Erickson) would amend Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to allow a storm water management authority to establish a program that enables property owners to reduce their rates and charges by implementing and maintaining storm water best management practices that reduce the quantity or improve the quality of storm water that their properties generate. **Passed: 46-0.**

**Senate Bill 1287** (Yaw) would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to update the definition of “all-terrain vehicle” or “ATV” by increasing the maximum weight of an ATV from 1,000 pounds to 1,200 pounds and providing that an ATV travels on three or more “off-highway” tires rather than “inflatable” tires. **Passed: 46-0.**

**Senate Resolution 304** (Greenleaf) directs the Joint State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee to conduct a study of the Juvenile Act and related issues. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 363** (Hughes) recognizes April 22, 2014 as “Earth Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 364** (Kitchen) recognizes the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Opportunities Industrialization Centers and designates April 29, 2014 as “Opportunities Industrialization Center Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 365** (Baker) thanks the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary for their service and patriotism and designates May 1, 2014 as “Loyalty Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 366** (Yudichak) designates the week of May 4 through 10, 2014 as “Drinking Water Week” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 367** (Farnese) designates the month of May 2014 as “Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 368** (Tartaglione) designates the month of May 2014 as “Law Month” in Pennsylvania and urges lawmakers, lawyers, judges and schools to participate. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

### *Executive Session*

Nominations to Various Boards and Commissions. **Confirmed: 46-0.**

**Wednesday, April 30, 2014**

[Senate Bill 1194](#) (White) would amend the Public School Code to allow a school located in a municipality with no municipal police department to enter into a cooperative police service agreement with a municipality providing full-time police coverage that is located adjacent to the school. At least 30 days prior to executing an agreement, the school entity or nonpublic school would have to provide written notice of its intent to enter into the agreement to the municipality where the school is located. A copy of the executed agreement would also have to be provided to the commanding officer of the Pennsylvania State Police installation that provides primary police services to the municipality where the school is located. A cooperative police service agreement entered into under these provisions would only pertain to actions taken on school property pursuant to the agreement and would not affect the jurisdiction of the State Police. The bill would also specifically add nonpublic schools to the provisions governing school police officers and add provisions regarding safe school grants for nonpublic schools. **Passed: 46-0.**

[Senate Bill 1325](#) (Gordner) would amend Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to require an eighth class county that opts to have a Board of Inspectors of the Jail or County Prison to meet quarterly, rather than monthly. An additional change would give the county commissioners in an eighth class county the ability to determine when to meet at the county correctional institution. Under current provisions, the board must meet there quarterly. **Passed: 46-0.**

[Senate Resolution 340](#) (White) urges the Congress of the United States to reauthorize federally provided terrorism reinsurance for insurers. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 369](#) (Greenleaf) designates the month of May 2014 as “Crohn’s Disease and Ulcerative Colitis Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 370](#) (Greenleaf) designates the month of May 2014 as “Lyme Disease Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 371](#) (Browne) designates the month of April 2014 as “The Month of the Young Child” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[House Bill 434](#) (Maloney) would amend Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to eliminate separate reporting standards for school employees suspected of child abuse by placing school employees within the same reporting requirements as all other mandated reporters. Among other changes, the bill would make it a third degree misdemeanor for any employer, administrator, supervisor or other person responsible for employment decisions or the selection of volunteers who fails to require mandated submissions and information relating to prospective child-care personnel. A foster family care agency would also be prohibited from approving placement in a residence with an individual at least 18 years of age or older who resides for at least 30 days a year with a prospective foster parent and is in the statewide database as the perpetrator of a founded report committed within the last five years or who has been found guilty of a child abuse offense. **Passed: 46-0.**