

WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – EDWIN B. ERICKSON, CHAIRMAN

Monday, September 15, 2014

[Senate Resolution 432](#) (Folmer) designates the week of September 14 through 20, 2014 as “InfantSEE Week” in Pennsylvania. “InfantSEE” is a public health program that provides a one-time, no-cost eye assessment for infants who are six to twelve months old. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 433](#) (Tartaglione) recognizes September 15 through October 15, 2014 as “Hispanic Heritage Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 434](#) (Vance) designates the month of September 2014 as “Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 435](#) (Farnese) supports the ideals of Peace Day, September 21, 2014. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 436](#) (Boscola) designates September 18, 2014 as “Pitt Hopkins Syndrome Awareness Day” in Pennsylvania. Pitt Hopkins Syndrome is a rare neurological disorder characterized by developmental delays, moderate to severe intellectual disability, epilepsy or recurrent seizures and other health problems. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 437](#) (Boscola) commends the Chiropractic Fellowship of Pennsylvania for its educational efforts, and recognizes the month of September 2014 as “Vertebral Subluxation Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

[Senate Bill 1210](#) (Pileggi) would amend the Transit Revitalization Investment District Act to add a new chapter relating to the capture of TRID tax revenue. Among other provisions, the legislation would:

- Allow a “management entity” to apply to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to establish a TRID fund for the purpose of funding an eligible project or for covering debt service payments;
- Authorize DCED to approve two applications under the new chapter;
- Require DCED to make a decision on an application within 90 days of submission;
- Authorize a management entity to borrow money for the purposes of executing a TRID or TRID planning study for which a TRID fund has been approved;

- Prohibit a member of the management entity from receiving money directly or indirectly from the TRID fund;
- Require the management entity to file annually with DCED a list of all businesses located in the TRID and all construction contractors engaged in construction, reconstruction or renovation of a facility in the TRID in the prior calendar year;
- Direct a qualified business located in a TRID to file a report with DCED including the amount of each eligible tax paid to the Commonwealth by the business for the previous year and the amount of each eligible tax refund received by the business;
- Require the Department of Revenue to verify the state baseline tax amount which consists of 75 percent of taxes paid by qualified businesses. Within 10 days of receiving the certified TRID tax amount from the Department of Revenue, the Office of the Budget would have to direct the State Treasurer to transfer the amount of certified TRID tax revenues from the General Fund to each TRID fund. (Provided that a transfer could not exceed \$350,000 to each TRID fund.);
- Clarify that if a transfer is insufficient to make payments on issued bonds, the management entity would have to notify DCED and the Budget Office of the additional money necessary to make the payments. Within 90 days, the Budget Office would direct the State Treasurer to transfer money from the General Fund to a restricted account for the use of the management entity to make payments on the bonds (a transfer could not exceed \$100,000 and would only be in effect for the first seven years following the baseline year.) Money transferred under this provision would have to be repaid by the management entity to the General Fund. The municipality and the transit agency which established the management entity would be responsible if the management entity fails to make repayment;
- Establish restrictions on how the money transferred to the management entity can be utilized;
- Provide that money transferred from the TRID fund for eligible projects would have to be matched by other sources of funding at a ratio of two fund dollars to one private dollar;
- Provide that a TRID fund would remain in effect for the period of time required to complete any project for which debt was incurred or a period equal to the time for the repayment of debt incurred for the TRID. Bonds would have to be paid no later than 30 years following their initial issuance; and
- Require DCED, the Office of the Budget and the Department of Revenue to develop and publish guidelines to implement the new chapter by December 31, 2014.

The legislation would also:

- Add a definition for “management entity;”
- Require that a TRID and its boundaries be established by ordinance;
- Provide that the participating municipality or county and the transit agency approving the TRID planning study designate the management entity to administer, manage and facilitate implementation of the TRID planning study;
- Clarify that any funding utilized by DCED to assist with TRID planning studies be awarded on a 25 percent matching basis; and
- Provide that a portion of the incremental tax revenues generated within a TRID be dedicated to transit capital and public infrastructure improvements designated in the comprehensive plan. A public transportation agency could not use the tax revenue for a transit capital investment outside of a designated TRID unless the investment is necessary and integral to achieve an approved TRID implementation objective. Incremental tax revenue generated by a TRID property could be directed for use in TRID projects for up to 20 years from the date the property is designated as a TRID. **Passed: 49-0.**

Senate Bill 1356 (Corman) would amend the Unfair Insurance Practices Act to add “affiliated insurer” to the definition of “renewal or to renew.” The change would permit homeowner insurers to transfer customers between corporate affiliates which would allow a transfer of a policy to an affiliate without an insured receiving a nonrenewal notice and a re-issue offer. **Passed: 49-0.**

Senate Bill 1357 (Corman) would amend the Insurance Company Law of 1921 to add “affiliated insurer” to the definition of “renewal or to renew.” The change would permit automobile insurers to transfer customers between corporate affiliates which would allow a transfer of a policy to an affiliate without an insured receiving a nonrenewal notice and a re-issue offer. **Passed: 49-0.**

Senate Resolution 440 (Mensch) designates the month of September 2014 as “Emergency Preparedness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 441 (Corman) designates the month of September 2014 as “College Savings Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 442 (Corman) designates the month of September 2014 as “Childhood Cancer Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania; honors those young people who have lost their lives to childhood cancer; expresses gratitude to the doctors and nurses who provide special care to patients and families affected by childhood cancer; and encourages all citizens to join in the fight against childhood cancer in the Commonwealth. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 443](#) (Schwank) recognizes the month of September 2014 as “National Recovery Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 444](#) (Stack) designates the month of September 2014 as “Life Insurance Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 445](#) (Vulakovich) designates the week of September 22 through 28, 2014 as “Respite Care Week” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 446](#) (Vulakovich) recognizes September 23, 2014 as “National Falls Prevention Awareness Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 447](#) (Costa) recognizes September 22, 2014 as “Monday of P.O.W.E.R.” in Pittsburgh and commemorates the contribution of Women in Bio in the Commonwealth. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[House Bill 1052](#) (Freeman) would amend the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code to provide that subdivision and land development ordinances could provide for recreational fees to be used to acquire, operate or maintain a park or recreational facilities reasonably accessible to the development. An additional change would remove the requirement that fees deposited in an interest-bearing account be identified for a specific recreational facility. The bill would require the fees to be identified as reserved for providing, operating or maintaining park or recreational facilities. The legislation would also remove the three-year waiting period from the date the fee was paid before any person who paid a fee could request a refund if the municipality used the fee for a purpose other than that specified. **Passed: 49-0.**

[House Bill 1558](#) (O’Neill) would amend the Cosmetology Law to permit massage therapists to practice in cosmetology or esthetician salons under certain conditions and to change the testing requirements for a cosmetology license.

The conditions under which a massage therapist could practice within the premises of a licensed cosmetology or esthetician salon would be as follows:

- The massage therapy licensee is the owner of or employed by the salon;
- The massage therapist practices in accordance with the Cosmetology Law and the Massage Therapy Law; and
- The salon owner provides an appropriate level of privacy for clients as outlined in the bill.

Salons employing massage therapists would be subject to inspection by the State Board of Cosmetology and the State Board of Massage Therapy and subject to discipline by the applicable licensing board for a violation. The State Board of Cosmetology and the State Board of Massage Therapy would be required to jointly promulgate regulations concerning the practice of massage therapy in cosmetology or esthetician salons.

Changes to the testing requirements for a cosmetology license, a license to teach cosmetology, an esthetician license, a nail technician license and a natural hair braiding license would only require a written exam (instead of a written exam and hands-on practical exam) which includes both theoretical and procedural skill questions. Further, applicants could take the licensure test while they are still students but would have to complete the other specified education requirements. **Passed: 49-0.**

Executive Session

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

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