

# WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

## Monday, September 18, 2017

[Senate Bill 135](#) (Scavello) would amend Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to allow the use of a leashed tracking dog to track a white-tailed deer, bear or elk in an attempt to recover an animal which has been legally killed or wounded during any open season for white-tailed deer, bear or elk. **Passed: 48-0.**

[Senate Bill 785](#) (Rafferty) would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide for the operation of golf carts. A “golf cart” would be defined as a self-propelled motor vehicle designed and manufactured for the transportation of persons or equipment for sporting, maintenance or recreational purposes that is not capable of exceeding a speed of 20 miles per hour. The vehicle registration exemption section for golf carts, and certain vehicles used for golf course and university maintenance, would be updated. It would be unlawful to operate a golf cart on any highway, but a cart could make a direct crossing of a highway upon compliance with certain requirements outlined in the bill. The legislation would permit the Department of Transportation to designate golf-cart crossings on state highways and local authorities to designate the crossings on local highways. A person between 12 and 16 years of age could not drive a golf cart across any highway unless under the direct supervision of a person 18 years of age or older. **Passed: 48-0.**

[Senate Resolution 175](#) (Martin) recognizes the week of September 24 through 30, 2017 as “National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 176](#) (Tartaglione) recognizes September 10, 2017 as “World Suicide Prevention Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 177](#) (Bartolotta) recognizes the week of September 17 through 23, 2017 as “Constitution Week” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 178](#) (Killion) designates the week of October 1 through 7, 2017 as “Bullying Awareness Week” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 179](#) (Killion) designates the month of September 2017 as “Sepsis Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 180](#) (McGarrigle) designates the month of September 2017 as “Hydrocephalus Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Tuesday, September 19, 2017**

[Senate Bill 252](#) (Vulakovich) would amend Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to allow an authority in a second class city (Pittsburgh Parking Authority) to enter into transactions with private developers through the allocation of a percentage of parking spaces for private projects. The legislation would authorize an authority to grant an interest, such as a lease or easement, in or to all or a portion of land, buildings, and structures for dedicated parking to support commercial or residential uses, if in the good faith opinion of the board:

- The grant of interest would not negatively impact the financial standing of the authority; and
- The consideration for the grant of an interest is appropriate considering the overall transaction.

The term of the interest could not extend beyond the term of existence of the authority. The grant of interest would not be permissible where the average occupancy rate of parking spaces at the facility during the prior six months has exceeded 90 percent. The legislation would also authorize an authority to develop, operate or participate in the development or operation of one or more mixed-use projects. The authority could finance the mixed-used projects by incurring indebtedness as outlined in the bill or by pledging or encumbering all or a part of the authority's revenues or real or personal property. A “mixed-use project” would be defined as a commercial, industrial, residential, or retail development that includes a public parking garage or public parking lot as an appurtenance. **Passed: 50-0.**

[Senate Resolution 181](#) (Argall) commemorates the 283<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the “Schwenkfelder Thanksgiving Day” on September 24, 2017 in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 182](#) (Boscola) recognizes the month of September 2017 as “Vertebral Subluxation Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 183](#) (Boscola) designates September 18, 2017 as “Pitt Hopkins Syndrome Awareness Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 184](#) (Tartaglione) recognizes the month of September 2017 as “National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 185](#) (Tartaglione) observes September 15 through October 15, 2017 as “Hispanic Heritage Month” in Pennsylvania in recognition of the achievements of Hispanic Americans in the Commonwealth. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 186](#) (Aument) designates the month of September 2017 as “Veteran Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 187](#) (Fontana) designates the month of September 2017 as “Realtor Safety Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 188](#) (Fontana) designates the week of October 15 through 21, 2017 as “Homeless Children’s Awareness Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 189](#) (Farnese) recognizes September 21, 2017 as “International Day of Peace” in Pennsylvania, expresses support for its ideals and principles and encourages Pennsylvanians to engage in this worldwide event. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 190](#) (Stefano) designates the week of October 1 through 7, 2017 as “National Newspaper Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 191](#) (Schwank) designates October 9, 2017 as “PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal infections) Awareness Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 192](#) (Eichelberger) designates the month of September 2017 as “Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 193](#) (Sabatina) designates the month of October 2017 as “Polish American Heritage Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 194](#) (Schwank) recognizes the month of September 2017 as “Recovery Month” in Pennsylvania and encourages relatives and friends of individuals with mental illness or substance abuse issues to take preventive steps, be alert to warning signs and assist those in need to seek appropriate treatment and recovery support services. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

### **Wednesday, September 20, 2017**

[Senate Bill 751](#) (White) would amend Title 7 (Banks and Banking) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide for the licensure and regulation of non-bank mortgage servicing entities. The Department of Banking and Securities would be required to issue a license to a mortgage servicer if the applicant has met the requirements outlined in the legislation and pays the required licensing fees. In addition, a mortgage servicer licensee would be required to act in good faith when the mortgage loan is paid in full by:

- Requesting that the mortgage holder release a lien on the dwelling and deliver to the consumer releases or other documents which are evidence of the release; and
- Requesting the mortgage holder cancel any insurance provided in connection with the mortgage loan and refund the borrower.

A mortgage servicer would have to establish a single point of contact for borrowers to communicate about foreclosure matters or loss mitigation options and abide by standards and consumer protections contained in the Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s

(“CFPB”) Mortgage Servicing Regulations (12 CFR PT. 124, Sub Pt. C) which are to be adopted by the Department through promulgation of a regulation. A “mortgage servicer” would be defined as a person who engages in the mortgage loan business by directly or indirectly servicing a mortgage loan. **Passed: 50-0.**

**Senate Resolution 195** (Scarnati) recognizes the month of September 2017 as “Hunger Action Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 196** (Wagner) designates the month of September 2017 as “Childhood Cancer Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania, encourages young Pennsylvanians who are fighting cancer, honors 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 residents in the Commonwealth to join the fight against childhood cancer. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 197** (Hughes) recognizes September 26, 2017 as “National Voter Registration Day” in Pennsylvania and encourages Pennsylvanians to register and vote. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 198** (Hughes) designates October 2, 2017 as “Justice Thurgood Marshall Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 199** (Scavello) designates October 6, 2017 as “Manufacturing Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 200** (Leach) condemns white supremacy and neo-Nazism. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 201** (Haywood) honors Fannie Lou Hamer on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth, October 6, 2017, in recognition of her vast and valiant efforts to ensure the civil rights of minorities, women and low-income families. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 202** (Dinniman) designates September 2017 as “Mushroom Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 203** (Dinniman) recognizes the month of September 2017 as “Prostate Cancer Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania and acknowledges the importance of raising public awareness of the threat and causes of prostate cancer. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 204** (Dinniman) recognizes the week of September 24 through 30, 2017 as “Juvenile Detention Centers and Alternative Programs Week” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

**Senate Resolution 205** (Fontana) recognizes the month of October 2017 as “Italian-American Heritage Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 206](#) (Fontana) designates the month of October 2017 as “Spina Bifida Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 207](#) (Costa) recognizes September 26, 2017 as “P.O.W.E.R. 4 Precision Medicine” in Pittsburgh and commemorates the contributions of Women in Bio in the Commonwealth. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[House Bill 453](#) (Ryan), as amended in the House, would amend the Fiscal Code to provide implementation language for the 2017-2018 Commonwealth budget. The legislation would:

- Clarify that funds available to the General Assembly through a short-term agreement or other instrument executed with a lending institution would be considered augmenting revenues and appropriated for salaries, wages and other expenses;
- Require public agencies and other entities to respond to audit findings and recommendations of the Auditor General within 120 days of publication of an audit. The Auditor General would be required to post responses on its publicly accessible website and to notify the Governor and the House and Senate Appropriations Committees when no response is provided;
- Authorize the Auditor General to audit the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and the Delaware Valley River Commission;
- Provide for \$30.4 million from the Volkswagen settlement, \$248,830 from the Nationwide data breach settlement, and \$8.3 million from the Mylan Epi-pen settlement to be deposited in the General Fund;
- Continue the Oil and Gas Lease Fund and set the transfer from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund to the Marcellus Legacy Fund for distribution to the Environmental Stewardship Fund at \$20 million for FY 2017-18 and at \$5 million for distribution to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund;
- Extend the expiration date of the section prohibiting well permits for oil and gas exploration in the South Newark Basin, until certain conditions are met, until January 1, 2024;
- Require taxicabs operating in Philadelphia to pay one percent of the gross receipts from fares charged to passengers to the parking authority on a quarterly basis. The measure would also allow the parking authority to suspend or revoke the license of a transportation network company that fails to collect and remit a fee of \$0.40 to the second class A county where the airport is located, each time a vehicle accesses an international airport to pick up or drop off a passenger. An additional change would allow a vehicle up to 15 model years old to be used to provide transportation network service;

- Authorize the Budget Secretary to transfer \$100 million from the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund to the General Fund by October 15, 2017. The funds would have to be repaid after June 30, 2018 and before July 1, 2029, plus interest;
- Authorize \$15 million from funds available to the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) and a transfer of \$10 million from the trust account for the Building Pennsylvania Program to the CFA for water and sewer projects with a cost of not less than \$30,000 and not more than \$500,000;
- Provide that for FY 2017-18, the sum of \$19.659 million would be transferred from the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund in 32 equal weekly installments to the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Restricted Receipts Account and \$10,066,000 to the State Racing Fund for enforcement of medication rules and regulations;
- Transfer \$10,750,000 from the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund in 32 equal weekly installments to the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2017-2018;
- Transfer \$2.5 million from the sale of liquor and alcohol to the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs for FY 2017-18;
- Require any amount transferred from the Workers' Compensation Security Fund under the General Appropriation Act of 2016 to be repaid to the Fund by July 1, 2019;
- Repeal Section 1726-C which provided for a \$200 million transfer from the unappropriated surplus of the Pennsylvania Professional Liability Joint Underwriting Association to the General Fund during the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year;
- Direct the Gaming Control Board to require the slot machine license fee for any slot machine license issued after June 30, 2017 to be paid in full no later than 10 days after the issuance of the license or authorization;
- Provide \$5,269,000 to the State Employees Retirement System Board and \$6,801,000 to the Public School Employees Retirement System Board for the establishment of their defined contribution plans;
- Extend the limitation on new applications for public school building projects through the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year;
- Extend the deadline for the Public School Building Construction and Reconstruction Advisory Committee report from May 15, 2017 until January 31, 2018;
- Authorize the sale of a portion of the revenue the Commonwealth will receive under the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) annual payment (\$1 billion up front to be repaid, with interest, with a portion of the MSA payments over a period not to exceed 10 years);

- Provide for the lapsing of unexpended and unencumbered funds, including funds for the Statewide Judicial Computer System;
- Provide detailed budget implementation language and direction for state departments and agencies;
- Transfer \$235 million from funds available to the Liquor Control Board and \$15 million available for the New Pennsylvania Venture Capital Investment Program to the General Fund during the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year; and
- Provide for the following fund transfers from special funds to the General Fund:
  - Public Transportation Trust Fund - \$50,000,000;
  - Multimodal Transportation Fund - \$50,000,000;
  - Machinery and Equipment Loan Fund - \$40,000,000;
  - Recycling Fund - \$70,000,000;
  - Insurance Regulation and Oversight Fund - \$10,000,000;
  - Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank - \$25,000,000;
  - Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority Fund - \$5,000,000;
  - State Racing Fund - \$15,000,000;
  - Municipalities Financial Recovery Revolving Aid Fund - \$7,000,000;
  - Rehabilitation Center Fund - \$10,000,000;
  - Manufacturing Fund - \$21,000,000;
  - Historical Preservation Fund - \$4,000,000;
  - Environmental Stewardship Fund - \$70,000,000;
  - Industrial Sites Cleanup Fund - \$10,000,000;
  - Highway Beautification Fund - \$500,000;
  - State Treasury Armory Fund - \$750,000;
  - Justice Reinvestment Fund - \$2,735,000;
  - Energy Development Fund - \$3,967,000;
  - Conservation District Fund - \$2,506,000;
  - Small Business First Fund - \$11,000,000;
  - Local Government Capital Project Loan Fund - \$2,000,000;
  - Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Fund - \$1,992,000;
  - Environmental Education Fund - \$500,000;
  - Coal Lands Improvement Fund - \$2,000,000;
  - Minority Business Development Fund - \$1,000,000;
  - State School Fund - \$672,000;
  - Cigarette Fire Safety and Firefighter Protection Fund - \$250,000;
  - Industrial Development Fund - \$47,000;
  - Solid Waste-Resource Recovery Development Fund - \$448,000;
  - State College Experimental Farm Fund - \$24,000;
  - Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund - \$50,000,000;
  - Banking Fund - \$25,000,000;

- Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction Fund - \$4,500,000;
  - Industrial Sites Environmental Assessment Fund - \$7,500,000; and
  - Job Training Fund - \$359,000;
- Require the State Treasurer to take action to lapse \$5 million from the remaining balances of prior year appropriations from the operating appropriations of all four legislative caucuses. [Motion to Non-Concur in House Amendments: 43-7.](#)

*Executive Session*

Nominations to Various Boards and Commissions. [Confirmed: 50-0.](#)

(2017-140)