

WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

Monday, September 23, 2019

[Senate Bill 723](#) (Laughlin) would amend the Public School Code to permit a public high school student who successfully completes a course in personal finance during grades nine through twelve to apply up to one credit earned for completion of the course to satisfy the student's social studies, family and consumer science, mathematics or business education credit requirement for graduation. The governing body of the student's school would have discretion to determine the graduation credit to which the credit earned would be applied. A student could not apply more than one credit earned to satisfy the mathematics credit requirement. The change would apply beginning with students graduating at the end of the 2020-2021 school year and continue each school year thereafter. [Passed: 49-0.](#)

[Senate Resolution 197](#) (Browne) designates the week of September 23 through 27, 2019 as "Clean Energy Week" in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 198](#) (Browne) designates the week of September 23 through 27, 2019 as "Safe2Say Something Week" in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 199](#) (Tartaglione) recognizes the month of September 2019 as "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 200](#) (Tartaglione) recognizes September 10, 2019 as "World Suicide Prevention Day" in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 201](#) (Martin) designates the month of September 2019 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 202](#) (Dinniman) recognizes the month of September 2019 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 203](#) (Iovino) recognizes September 23, 2019 as "Teal Talk Day" in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[House Bill 318](#) (Mizgorski) would amend the Telemarketer Registration Act to:

- Require that registration of a telephone number on the "do-not-call" list be maintained until such time as the number is no longer valid for the subscriber, or the subscriber requests that the number be removed from the registry;
- Require a telemarketer using robocalls to provide an opt-out process for the called party within the first few seconds of each call;

- Require that robocalls left on voicemail include a toll-free call back number that directly connects a person to the opt-out process;
- Prohibit telemarketing on legal holidays; and
- Allow business telephone numbers to be registered on the do-not-call list. **Passed: 49-0.**

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Senate Bill 586 (Argall) would amend the Cosmetology Law to remove the requirement for an applicant for a cosmetology license to be “of good moral character” in order to be eligible for a license, limited license, or enrollment as a student at a school of cosmetology. **Passed: 49-0.**

Senate Resolution 204 (A. Williams) designates the week of September 23 through 29, 2019 as “Community Supervision Awareness Week” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 205 (Scarnati) recognizes the month of September 2019 as “Hunger Action Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 206 (Scarnati) designates the month of September 2019 as “Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 207 (Tomlinson) recognizes the month of October 2019 as “Dyslexia Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 208 (Martin) designates the week of August 10 through 17, 2019 as “Local Water Week” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 209 (Brooks) recognizes the week of September 15 through 21, 2019 as “National Medicare Education Week” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 210 (Iovino) recognizes the month of September 2019 as “Preparedness Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 211 (J. Ward) designates September 24, 2019 as the day to commemorate “United States National Health IT Week – September 23, 2019 to September 27, 2019” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 212 (Bartolotta) recognizes the month of September 2019 as “National Recovery Month” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

Senate Resolution 213 (Tartaglione) observes September 15 through October 15, 2019 as “Hispanic Heritage Month” in the Commonwealth. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 214](#) (Stefano) recognizes the week of October 6 through 12, 2019 as “National Newspaper Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 215](#) (Phillips-Hill) recognizes the Senate Library’s exhibition on the history of the Constitution of Pennsylvania occurring September 23, 2019 through February 28, 2020. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 216](#) (Dinniman) recognizes the month of September 2019 as “National Senior Center Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 217](#) (Dinniman) designates the week of September 30 through October 4, 2019 as “Juvenile Detention Centers and Alternative Programs Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 218](#) (Farnese) recognizes September 21, 2019 as “International Day of Peace,” expresses support of its ideals and principles and encourages Pennsylvanians to engage in this worldwide event. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 219](#) (Mensch) recognizes the week of September 2 through 6, 2019 as “National Payroll Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

Executive Session

Nominations to Various Boards and Commissions. [Confirmed: 49-0.](#)

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

[Senate Bill 439](#) (Regan) would amend the Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits Law to include the following law enforcement officers under the act:

- Probation officers employed by a participating county;
- Campus police officers employed by a participating university (a state-owned university, a community college or a state-related college or university that elects to participate in the act by submitting a notice to the Department of Labor and Industry);
- Commissioned police officers employed by the Department of Corrections, Bureau of Investigations and Intelligence;
- DCNR rangers, DCNR ranger supervisors, DCNR ranger operations specialists and DCNR ranger trainees employed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources;
- Members of the Fort Indiantown Gap Police;
- Investigative staff of the Office of Inspector General;

- Members of the Allegheny County Port Authority Police;
- Members of the Allegheny County Housing Authority Police; and
- Corrections officers or jail guards employed by a participating county and whose principal duty is the care, custody and control of inmates.

The bill would direct that any payments required to be made on account of these employees be made by their employers from moneys appropriated to them. **Passed: 49-0.**

Senate Bill 473 (Scavello) would amend Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to increase the legal age to purchase tobacco products in Pennsylvania to 21 years of age. Anyone under 21 years of age who purchases tobacco products or attempts to purchase tobacco products by providing false identification would be guilty of a summary offense. Retailers would be required to adopt and implement a written policy that includes training employees selling tobacco products to verify that a purchaser is at least 21 years of age before selling the products in order for the retailer to maintain an affirmative defense for selling tobacco products to a minor. The term “tobacco product” would not include:

- A product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product or for other therapeutic purposes where the product is marketed and sold solely for such approved purpose; or
- A device sold by a licensed dispensary licensed under the Medical Marijuana Act.

The legislation would make it a summary offense for the use of tobacco products in a school or on school property. An additional provision would amend Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) to preempt any local ordinance or rule relating to the sale of tobacco products. **Passed: 43-6.**

Senate Bill 694 (Yaw) would amend Title 58 (Oil and Gas) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to allow operators, who have the right to drill an oil or gas well on separate leases or units, to drill and produce a well that traverses, by horizontal drilling, more than one lease or unit. An operator would have to reasonably allocate production from the well to or among each unit the operator reasonably determines to be attributable to each unit. The operator could allocate production on an acreage basis for multiple units provided the allocation has a reasonable correlation to the horizontal wellbore in each unit. The 330-foot location requirement in Section 6 of the Oil and Gas Conservation Law would not apply to unit lines traversed by a conservation well. The changes included in the bill could not be construed to: 1) authorize an operator to drill a well that is not subject to a valid lease or royalty agreement, or 2) expand or diminish current surface rights of an operator to include operations related to any existing unit or any well drilled between existing units. **Passed: 49-0.**

Senate Resolution 220 (Blake) recognizes October 5, 2019 as “Ostomy Awareness Day” in Pennsylvania. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

[Senate Resolution 221](#) (Mastriano) commemorates Pennsylvania’s contribution to the Allied victory in the First World War. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 222](#) (Mensch) recognizes the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee on its 60th anniversary. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 223](#) (Killion) designates the month of September 2019 as “Sepsis Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 224](#) (Killion) recognizes the 375th anniversary of William Penn’s birth. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 225](#) (Bartolotta) recognizes the week of September 17 through 23, 2019 as “Constitution Week” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 226](#) (Boscola) recognizes the month of September 2019 as “Vertebral Subluxation Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 227](#) (Haywood) honors Fannie Lou Hamer on the 102nd anniversary of her birth, October 6, 2019, 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 228](#) (Regan) designates the month of October 2019 as “Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 229](#) (Street) designates September 25, 2019 as “Someone You Know Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 230](#) (Dinniman) recognizes 2019 as the “International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 231](#) (Dinniman) designates the month of September 2019 as “Mushroom Month” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[Senate Resolution 232](#) (Dinniman) recognizes October 2, 2019 as “Energy Efficiency Day” and October 19, 2019 as “Clean Energy/Solar Tour Day” in Pennsylvania. [Adopted by Voice Vote.](#)

[House Bill 265](#) (Staats) would amend the Public School Code to make a number of changes. Among other provisions, the legislation would:

- Replace references to “vocational-technical schools” with “career and technical schools;”
- Require a school entity to offer representatives of skilled trades, publicly identified priority occupations, area career and technical schools, community colleges, and institutions of higher education the opportunity to participate in the delivery of

information regarding employment, training or education opportunities, and the recruitment of students. If the school receives assistance under the Every Student Succeeds Act, it would also have to provide the same access to military recruiters;

- Direct school entities to offer at least one opportunity during the school year to each representative to provide information to all students in grades four through twelve either individually or in a group setting;
- Mandate that career and recruitment representatives be compliant with volunteer background check requirements and require them to give no less than 30 days' notice when requesting access from a school entity;
- Prohibit a school entity from discouraging students from pursuing any educational or career path;
- Require the Department of Education to develop, in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Industry, a summary of regional workforce needs produced biennially by Labor and Industry, career cluster occupations, publicly identified priority occupations, training opportunities and future earning potential. The materials would have to be reviewed and updated annually. Each school entity would have to ensure that all students in grades four through twelve are provided access to the materials during the school year and the materials are available at any scheduled educational or career fair or activity;
- Require the Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence, in consultation with the Department of Education, to develop guidelines to identify the circumstances when a student who successfully completes an academic course, program or activity for credit may apply the credit toward the completion of an agricultural education program;
- Codify the Department of Education guidelines for Career and Technology Education Equipment Grants;
- Direct the Department of Education to issue guidelines to identify the circumstances under which a student who successfully completes a course, program or activity in science, technology, engineering or mathematics for credit could apply the credit toward the completion of a course offered by any area career and technical school;
- Require an occupational advisory committee to be established for each career and technical education program or cluster of related programs offered by an area career and technical school or school district to advise the board of directors, administrators and staff on curriculum, equipment, instructional materials, safety requirements, program evaluation and other related matters;
- Direct the Department of Education and the Department of Labor and Industry, in consultation with and the Department of Agriculture, to establish a central online clearinghouse database with the information and resources outlined in the bill. The

online database would have to be easily accessible by students, parents, educators, school officials and the public, and be updated at least annually;

- Require the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board, with assistance from the Department of Education, to determine the number and types of workforce development programs offered at secondary and postsecondary institutions. The Board could, in consultation with the Department of Education, compile a clearinghouse of model programs identified during the survey. The Departments of Labor and Industry and Education would be required to encourage the use of the model programs and foster business-education partnerships. The Board would be required to report its findings and actions to the majority and minority chairs of the Appropriations and Education committees of the House and Senate one year after the effective date of the legislation;
- Create a Schools-to-Work Program to award grants on a competitive basis to support the establishment or enhancement of workforce development partnerships between schools, employers, organizations or associations to create employment and training pathways;
- Mandate that the Department establish a standard application form for a public school entity seeking approval to establish or renew a classification of program code. A definition of “classification of program code” would be added to mean a numerical coding of instructional programs developed by the United States Department of Education used to identify career and technical programs; and
- Require each institution of higher education and public school to provide the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee and the Department of Education copies of subsequent articulation agreements for inclusion in the electronic database within 30 days of entering into the agreement. Each institution of higher education would have to submit interim reports describing the status of the institution's articulation agreements by September 30 of each year. [Concurrence in House Amendments, to Senate Amendments, as Amended: 49-0.](#)

[House Bill 1170](#) (Mackenzie) would create the Construction Industry Employment Verification Act to prohibit a construction industry employer from knowingly employing an individual who does not have the legal right or authorization under federal law to work in the United States. Every construction industry employer who hires an employee would be required to verify their eligibility for employment through the E-Verify program and to keep a record of the verification for the duration of the individual's employment or three years, whichever is longer. Complaints about violations could be submitted to the Department of Labor and Industry. The Department would have the authority to investigate complaints under the act and would be required to develop a complaint form for alleged violations. If all information required to complete the form is provided, including the name of the person filing the complaint, the Department would be required to investigate the complaint. For a first violation, the Department would issue a warning letter. For a second or subsequent violation, the case would be referred to the Attorney General for enforcement as outlined in the legislation. It would be unlawful for an employer to retaliate against an employee for reporting a violation or cooperating with an investigation. An

employee who suffers retaliation could bring an action in a court of common pleas for the relief specified in the bill. **Passed: 46-3.**

House Bill 1557 (Gabler) would amend the Coal Refuse Disposal Control Act to align the requirements of a temporary cessation of a coal refuse disposal site with those required under the Federal Surface Mine Conservation and Reclamation Act (SMCRA). The bill would remove Pennsylvania's one-year limitation on a cessation and clarify that any rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to the act would have to be consistent with federal provisions. The Department of Environmental Protection could promulgate regulations to provide for the connection of coal refuse or related material to the coal refuse disposal area. **Passed: 46-3.**

House Resolution 470 (Mihalek) is a concurrent resolution recognizing October 13, 2019 as the 244th birthday of the United States Navy. **Adopted: 49-0.**

(2019-098)