

WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

Monday, June 8, 2020

[Senate Bill 276](#) (J. Ward) would amend Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to increase the pension payment to blind, amputee, and paralyzed veterans from \$150 per month to \$180 per month. [Passed: 50-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 798](#) (Killion) would amend the Dog Law to revise the summary offense of harboring a dangerous dog. Under the revisions, the term “without provocation” would be replaced with “unprovoked.” The term “unprovoked” would be defined as any action by a dog that involves biting, attacking or forcibly coming into unwanted physical contact with a person or domestic animal that is acting peaceably and lawfully. The legislation would further clarify that if an unprovoked dog acts with propensity to kill or inflict severe injury, it could be proven by a single incident. A magisterial district judge would be required to report a conviction under the law to the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement. An additional provision would increase the registration fee for a dangerous dog certificate from \$500 to \$1,000 per calendar year. [Passed: 50-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 905](#) (Browne) is the Capital Budget Project Itemization Act of 2019-2020. The legislation itemizes capital projects and provides for the estimated financial costs of projects in the categories of: public improvement; furniture and equipment; transportation assistance; redevelopment assistance; flood control; Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission projects; and Manufacturing Fund projects. The measure would prohibit the use of funds for the deactivating or decommissioning of the Polk Center or White Haven Center. All money received from the federal government for the projects specifically itemized in the act would be appropriated for those projects. [Concurrence in House Amendments, as Amended: 50-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 927](#) (Mastriano) would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to require the Department of Transportation to independently validate the documentation and immediately issue a veteran’s driver’s license, without submitting the application or documentation to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for review, approval, or validation. [Passed: 50-0.](#)

Executive Session

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

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

[Senate Bill 494](#) (Martin) would amend Act 78 of 1979 to authorize political subdivisions and authorities to enter into contracts for services when two consecutive advertisements fail to induce bids. Under the provisions of the legislation, when a political subdivision, municipal authority or transportation authority is required to advertise for bids in order to enter into a contract for

services and no bids are received, the political subdivision or authority could advertise for bids a second time. In the event that no bids are received within 15 days of the second advertisement, the political subdivision or authority could initiate negotiations for a contract for services with any provider not otherwise disqualified by law or an enactment or policy of the governing body. Prior to the execution of the contract, the political subdivision or authority would be required to disclose at a regular or special public meeting the identity of the parties, the proposed contract price and a summary of the other terms and conditions relating to the proposed contract. The amendment would also specify that misuse of the provisions of the act to evade advertising requirements would subject a member of the governing body to the same penalties that exist in the applicable competitive bidding law. **Passed: 50-0.**

Senate Bill 952 (Regan) would amend Chapters 71 and 72 of Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes regarding the Veterans Preference Law. The legislation would clarify that the purpose of Chapter 71 is to provide a hiring preference to qualified veterans seeking public employment for the discipline and experience represented by the veteran's military training. The bill would provide for an additional 10 points to be added to a veteran's passing final examination score on both commonwealth and municipal examinations for determining the veteran's standing on any eligible list certified or provided to an appointing authority. The same hiring preference afforded to veterans would be extended to the surviving spouse or spouse of a disabled veteran. The Office of Administration would be required to provide annual statistics to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs on the appointment of veterans to civil service and non-civil service positions during the previous year. The Department would be directed to provide an annual report to the State Government Committee and Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives. The Department would also be required to annually establish veterans' preference guidelines and verify the federal qualifying periods of service during a war or armed conflict to ensure understanding of the required documents and compliance with Chapters 71 and 72. **Passed: 50-0.**

Senate Bill 995 (Laughlin) would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) of Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to update the definition of "multipurpose agricultural vehicle" by increasing the allowable width of the motor vehicle from 62 inches or less to 66 inches or less. **Passed: 50-0.**

House Bill 1510 (Jozwiak) would designate the following exits, highways and bridges:

- The section of Pennsylvania Route 183 from Segment 0040/Offset 2555 to Segment 110/Offset 1180 in Berks County as the Trooper Wayne C. Ebert Memorial Highway;
- The bridge located on State Route 2087 over Inners Creek near Lake Redman, York Township, York County, as the Corporal Michael Cohen Memorial Bridge;
- The section of State Route 50 in Mount Pleasant Township, Washington County, identified as segment 210-220, as the Corporal Brady Clement Paul Memorial Highway;
- The Morgan Road Bridge over Interstate 79 in Cecil Township, Washington, County, as the Wreaths Across America Bridge;

- Exit 17 on Interstate 70 in the city of Washington, Washington County, as the Sergeant Russell Crupe, Jr., Memorial Exit;
- The bridge located on North Main Street over the East Branch Perkiomen Creek, in Sellersville Borough, Bucks County as the Sellersville Veterans Memorial Bridge;
- The section of Pennsylvania Route 39 in Dauphin County from Dover Road to Forest Hills Drive as the Officer Mark Gaspich Memorial Highway;
- The bridge, identified as Bridge Key 11414, on U.S. Route 219 in Brady Township, Clearfield County, as the Lance Corporal Robert Clyde Gontero Memorial Bridge;
- The bridge, identified as Bridge Key 46789, on that portion of State Route 3012 over Back Creek on the border of Hamilton Township and St. Thomas Township, Franklin County, as the Sergeant Melvin G. Ehrhart Memorial Bridge;
- The bridge located on State Route 8042 over U.S. Route 40, West Brownsville Borough, Washington County, as the SFC Thomas McDonough Memorial Bridge;
- The bridge, identified as Bridge Key 53827, located on that portion of State Route 2003, also known as S. Porter Street, over the South Fork of Tenmile Creek in Waynesburg, Greene County, as the Sheriff Brian A. Tennant Memorial Bridge;
- The interchange of State Route 43, also known as the Mon-Fayette Expressway, with U.S. Route 40, known as Exit 22, in Redstone Township, Fayette County, as the PFC Joseph Frank Duda Memorial Interchange; and
- The interchange of U.S. Route 40 with State Route 4035, also known as Market Street and Spring Street, in Brownsville, Fayette County, as the Corporal Denny Ray Easter Memorial Interchange. **Passed: 50-0.**

[House Resolution 836](#) (Diamond) is a concurrent resolution terminating Governor Wolf's disaster emergency declared on March 6, 2020, as amended, and renewed on June 3, 2020. The measure requires the Secretary of the Senate to notify the Governor of the adoption of the resolution along with a directive to terminate the disaster emergency in accordance with statute. The Chief Clerk of the House is directed to transmit a copy of the resolution, upon its passage, to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and, within five days, to publish a summary of the resolution in newspapers of general circulation. **Adopted: 31-19.**

Executive Session

Nominations to Various Boards and Commissions. **Confirmed: 50-0.**

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

[Senate Bill 430](#) (Fontana) would create the Carbon Monoxide Alarm Standards in Child Care Facilities Act to require each building in which a child care facility is in operation, which uses a fossil fuel-burning heater or appliance, fireplace or has an attached garage, to have an operational, centrally-located and approved carbon monoxide alarm. The Department of Human Services could not issue or renew a license for a child care facility required to have the alarm if it does not meet the requirement. Nothing in the act would modify the Department of Labor and Industry's authority under the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act. **Passed: 50-0.**

[Senate Bill 1125](#) (Martin) would amend the Local Tax Collection Law to allow the board of directors of a school district to extend the discount period for, or waive a penalty for failure to make timely payment of, taxes on real estate for the school year that begins July 1, 2020. If a board of school directors adopts a resolution, it would have to immediately deliver it to the tax collector via mail or electronic mail. The tax collector would have to, in consultation with the board of school directors, modify the contents of the late payment notice required under the law and could send an additional notice explaining the provisions of the resolution. The measure would clarify that the provisions relating to the extension of discount periods and waiving of penalties would apply to school districts of the first class, school districts in cities of the second class A and all other school districts. **Passed: 50-0.**

[Senate Bill 1166](#) (K. Ward) proposes two distinct and separate amendments to the Pennsylvania Constitution. The first proposed change would amend Article I by adding Section 29 which states, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania because of the race or ethnicity of the individual." The second would amend Article IV by adding Section 20 to require the passage of a concurrent resolution by the General Assembly for the Governor to extend an emergency declaration beyond 30 days. Upon expiration of the declaration, the Governor could not declare a new emergency based on the same or similar facts without the passage of a concurrent resolution by the General Assembly. Constitutional amendments must pass two legislative sessions and be approved by the electorate. **Passed: 44-6.**

[House Bill 2502](#) (Mihalek) would amend the Administrative Code of 1929 to require the Department of State to issue a report on the administration of the 2020 primary election to the Chairs of the Senate and House State Government Committees addressing the issues delineated in the bill. The report would have to be issued no later than 60 days after the election. The Department of State would be required to develop a process to collect data required to be included in the report from each county board of elections or registration commission as applicable. A county board of elections or registration commission would have to comply with the process for submission of data no later than 45 days after the 2020 general primary election. A copy of the report would also have to be made available on the Department of State's website. **Passed: 50-0.**