

WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – DAVID G. ARGALL, CHAIRMAN

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

There were no final passage votes taken in the Senate on Tuesday.

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

[Senate Bill 377](#) (Boscola) would amend Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to create a summary offense punishable by fine of not less than \$2,000 for the killing of a bald eagle or golden eagle. The legislation would also establish a special grading for the unlawful taking and possession of protected birds under the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The grading would be a second degree misdemeanor, in addition to any other penalties. An offense which results in the killing of a bald eagle or golden eagle would be graded one degree higher. The provisions of the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act would continue to apply. **Passed: 50-0.**

[Senate Bill 594](#) (Langerholc) would amend the Workers' Compensation Act to require workplace safety committees to provide information regarding the risks associated with opioid use. The Department of Labor and Industry would be required to develop and make available resources for employers to comply with the provision. **Passed: 50-0.**

[Senate Bill 915](#) (Yaw) would amend Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to repeal Chapter 67 (Fertilizer) and replace it with a new Chapter 68 providing for the labeling, application, recordkeeping, packaging, use, sale and distribution of agricultural fertilizer, as well as turf or other specialty fertilizer. Among other provisions, the new chapter would:

- Establish best practices for the use of fertilizer products;
- Require enhanced labeling of fertilizer products;
- Provide for the Department of Agriculture to promote fertilizer education programs through public outreach in consultation with Pennsylvania State University and the agricultural and turf grass industries;
- Require certain advanced reporting of fertilizer use to the Department;
- Require the annual licensure of fertilizer application businesses and the certification of commercial and public fertilizer applicators;
- Direct the Treasurer to transfer \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Agronomic Regulatory Account for use by the Department to develop the fertilizer applicator

certification and recertification courses and any computer programming or software necessary for administration and enforcement;

- Establish new fee structures for fertilizer manufacturer and distributor licenses, specialty fertilizer registrations and inspections;
- Provide for fertilizer application restrictions and application rates;
- Allow the seizure and condemnation of fertilizer not in compliance with the law;
- Provide for criminal and civil penalties for unlawful conduct related to the act;
- Direct that all funds collected from license fees, registration fees, applicator certification, fines and penalties be paid into a special restricted account in the General Fund known as the Agronomic Regulatory Account. Moneys in the account would be appropriated on a continuing basis to the Department for the purposes of the chapter; and
- Provide for the preemption of local laws and regulations that conflict with the act.
Passed: 49-1.

Senate Resolution 310 (Browne) adopts a temporary rule of the Senate relating solely to amendments to the General Appropriation Bill and other appropriation bills for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, including any amendments offered to or for supplemental appropriations for prior fiscal years. The temporary rule requires any amendment offered on the floor of the Senate to the 2020-2021 Budget that proposes spending from the General Fund or any special fund at a level different from the amount contained in the 2020-21 Budget as reported from the Appropriations Committee to contain sufficient revisions or reductions so that the amendment does not result in a net increase in total spending and yields a balanced budget based on current and projected revenues. The rule could be temporarily suspended only by a vote of the majority of the members elected to the Senate. The rule expires upon enactment of a General Appropriation Act for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020. **Adopted: 50-0.**

House Bill 102 (Maloney) would amend Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide that, upon the request of the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), public school districts would be required to make a school facility under their control available for the purpose of conducting a hunter education course. Classes could occur as an after-school or weekend function or any other day when school is not in session. Classes would have to comply with curriculum standards and program policies established by the director of the PGC. The Game Commission would have to compensate the school for the actual cost related to its use of the school facility and work with the school to schedule classes for a time-frame that best suits both the school and the Commission. No fees could be charged to the public for the classes.
Passed: 50-0.

House Bill 1036 (Moul) would amend Title 8 (Boroughs and Incorporated Towns) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to modify the process by which a borough, having a population of 3,000 residents or fewer, may seek to reduce the size of its borough council from

seven members to either five members or three members. The change would require a court of common pleas to certify a ballot question for a decrease in the size of a borough council to be submitted to the voters of an eligible borough where at least five percent of the registered electors of the borough have petitioned the court asking for such a reduction. Upon receipt of the certified election results, the court would be instructed to issue a final decree granting or denying the petitioner's request. No petition could be considered by the court more often than once every five years. The legislation would also allow landowners in first class townships to petition the county court to form a new borough if they meet or follow specifications in the Code. An additional provision would exempt the borough purchase or selling of electricity for use inside the limits of the borough from the Gross Receipts Tax. [Passed: 40-10.](#)

[House Bill 1048](#) (Knowles) would amend the Liquor Code to exempt national veterans' organizations and volunteer fire companies from the \$700 application surcharge for the renewal of restaurant, club or catering club liquor licenses. The legislation would also remove the liquid fuel prohibition for restaurant, hotel and club licensees, malt and brewed beverage licensees, and malt and brewed beverage manufacturers, distributors, and importing distributors. (The Liquor Code prohibits the sale of liquid fuels on a licensed premise, although it allows an interior connection to a licensed premise if the LCB approves it.) In addition, the measure would allow the use of all cash registers for sales by malt or brewed beverage licensees, retail dispenser licensees, and wine expanded permit holders provided certain conditions are met. The registers would be deemed license areas, but no application beyond notice to the PLCB would be required. [Passed: 50-0.](#)

[House Concurrent Regulatory Review Resolution #1](#) disapproves the Department of Labor and Industry's regulation (#12-106) on the minimum wage. [Adopted: 29-21.](#)

Executive Session

Yassmin Gramian – Secretary of Transportation. [Confirmed: 50-0.](#)

Estella M. Hyde – Pennsylvania Council on Aging. [Confirmed: 50-0.](#)

Thursday, May 28, 2020

[Senate Bill 166](#) (Hughes) would create the Capital Budget Act of 2019-2020. The bill would authorize the maximum indebtedness that the Commonwealth could incur during the fiscal year for capital projects specifically itemized in a capital budget project itemization act. The legislation would authorize: \$550,000,000 for buildings and structures; \$10,000,000 for furniture and equipment; \$175,000,000 for transportation assistance projects; and \$275,000,000 for redevelopment assistance projects. The measure would also create new limits for the redevelopment assistance capital program (RACP) by decreasing the allowable maximum amount of outstanding obligations for redevelopment assistance projects by \$50,000,000 annually until either the sum of the outstanding obligations equals \$3,100,000,000, or July 1, 2022, whichever occurs first. [Concurrence in House Amendments, as Amended: 50-0.](#)

[Senate Bill 1027](#) (Gordner) would amend the Administrative Code of 1929 to make a number of changes. Among other provisions, the legislation would:

- Extend certain temporary gaming regulations for one additional year;
- Extend the sunset date for the State Geospatial Coordinating Board from June 30, 2020, to June 30, 2024. The measure would also add the Secretary of Agriculture or a designee as a member of the board and clarify provisions for the appointment of local government representatives by the Senate and House of Representatives. An additional provision would allow the Board to hire an executive director with the approval of the Governor. Funding for the executive director's compensation would be evenly apportioned among the executive agencies represented on the board;
- Increase the maximum annual compensation for a local registrar from \$60,000 to \$85,000 and exclude from the calculation of compensation any fees received from death certificates issued after March 6, 2020 and during the duration of the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020 and any subsequent renewals;
- Require that, no later than 60 days after the 2020 general primary election, the Department of State issue a report on the administration of the election to the Chairs of the Senate and House State Government Committees addressing the issues delineated in the bill. 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;
- Direct the Office of the Governor to notify the legislative leaders of the suspension or waiver of laws and regulations as outlined in the legislation. The initial notification would have to be made within two days of the effective date of the legislation to include notifications of all suspensions, modifications and waivers which occurred prior to the effective date. Subsequent notifications would have to be made within one day of the suspension, modification or waiver;
- Direct the Treasury Department, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Budget, the Auditor General and any chairperson of an authority, commission, agency or board that has the power to issue debt, to identify and review all outstanding debt obligations of the Commonwealth and its authorities, commissions, agencies, and boards and to submit a report of the findings to the General Assembly no later than September 30, 2020. The report would also have to identify any options for the refinancing of the outstanding debt to reduce the costs to the Commonwealth and its authorities;
- Extend the expiration date for imposition of the surcharge included in Article XXVIII-E (relating to Judicial Administration) from December 31, 2020 to December 31, 2021; and

- Provide that a licensee or other person subject to a professional or occupational license, certificate, registration or permit could not be subject to a criminal, civil or administrative penalty or other sanction solely based on violating the terms of an order issued under: certain provisions of the Administrative Code of 1929 (relating to general health administration and quarantine); the Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955; and 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301 (relating to general authority of Governor). **Concurrence in House Amendments: 29-21.**

Senate Bill 1076 (Baker) would amend Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to eliminate the sunset date for the Military Family Relief Assistance Program, which is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2020. **Passed: 50-0.**

Senate Bill 1108 (Browne) would create the COVID-19 Emergency Supplement to the General Appropriation Act of 2019. The measure would make supplemental appropriations from the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account to distribute federal funds received by the Commonwealth to address costs incurred due to the COVID-19 disaster emergency. The appropriations would be continuing appropriations and would not lapse at the close of the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year. Supplemental appropriations provided for in the legislation would include:

- Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency – \$150,000,000;
- Department of Agriculture – \$40,000,000;
- Department of Community and Economic Development – \$930,000,000;
- Department of Education – \$9,000,000;
- State System of Higher Education – \$30,000,000;
- Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency – \$42,200,000;
- Department of Health – \$20,000,000;
- Department of Human Services – \$1,106,000,000;
- Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency – \$100,000,000; and
- Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency – \$175,000,000. **Concurrence in House Amendments: 50-0.**

Senate Bill 1122 (Pittman) would amend Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to establish the COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program within the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to provide grants to fire and emergency medical services (EMS) companies that provide services during the emergency declaration. PEMA would be required to provide grants to fire and EMS

companies in the same manner and amount in which funds were provided under Sections 7813 and 7823 (relating to the Fire Company Grant Program and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program), respectively. Eligible companies that did not apply for or receive a fire and EMS grant in fiscal year 2019-20 would be required to submit an application for this funding.

The measure would utilize federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) for the grants. Of any funds appropriated, \$44 million would be made eligible for grants to fire companies, and \$6 million would be made eligible for grants to EMS companies. PEMA could use up to \$200,000 in unencumbered funds for administration of the program. The grant program would expire six months after the effective date of the legislation. An additional change would allow volunteer firefighters' association relief funds to be used for the costs of cleaning and sanitizing equipment or property, or other expenses incurred to prevent the spread of communicable illnesses. [Concurrence in House Amendments: 50-0.](#)

[House Bill 1083](#) (Sankey) would amend the Fiscal Code to repeal provisions relating to Capital Stock and Franchise Tax reports and payment of the tax and provide for implementation language for the FY 2020-2021 budget. Among other provisions, the legislation would:

- Provide that a municipality operating pursuant to a recovery plan would be eligible for an 18-month extension beyond the five-year period imposed by the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act;
- Eliminate the transfer from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund to the Marcellus Legacy Fund for distribution to the Environmental Stewardship Fund for FY 2020-21;
- Extend the 1.4 percent assessment a transportation network company is required to pay to the Philadelphia Parking Authority until December 31, 2022;
- Extend the assessment on all managed care organizations until June 30, 2025, and continue a per member per month rate of \$24.95;
- Provide for the extension of the transfer of revenues from the Cigarette Tax to the Tobacco Settlement Fund for Fiscal Year 2020-21 and provide for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 distribution of Tobacco Settlement Fund payments;
- Provide for 22 equal weekly transfers from the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund to the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Restricted Receipt Account beginning September 1, 2020 totaling \$19,659,000;
- Transfer \$10,066,000 from the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund to the Racing Fund for enforcement of medication rules and regulations;
- Prohibit the General Assembly or a local governmental body or agency from enacting or enforcing a law, rule, regulation or ordinance imposing a tax on or relating to the use, disposition, sale, prohibition or restriction of single-use plastics, auxiliary containers,

wrappings or polystyrene containers, until July 1, 2021, or six months after the Covid-19 disaster emergency, whichever is later;

- Allow a Category 1, 2 or 3 slot machine licensee that has a sports wagering certificate and has paid the non-refundable sports wagering authorization fee to conduct sports wagering at an affiliate Category 4 licensed facility without paying any additional sports wagering authorization fee. Within 90 days of the effective date of the subsection, the Gaming Control Board would be required to conduct an auction of any Category 4 slot machine license for which the board denied the application filed by the winning bidder of an initial auction;
- Increase the maximum annual compensation for a local registrar from \$60,000 to \$85,000 and exclude from the calculation of compensation any fees received from death certificates issued after March 6, 2020 and during the duration of the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020 and any subsequent renewals;
- Establish that if a medical marijuana grower/processor permit is surrendered or revoked due to misrepresentation of information on a permit or renewal application, the permit could be issued to the next most qualified applicant in the same region;
- Authorize the State Employees' Retirement Board to assess each employer an annual per-participant charge for the payment of administrative fees, costs and expenses of managing, investing and administering the State Employees' Defined Contribution Plan and Trust;
- Provide for the extension of various Judicial Administration fees and surcharges;
- Expand the definition of "municipality" to include a local, regional, or metropolitan transportation authority for Multimodal Transportation Program applications submitted on or after March 1, 2020 and extend the date for which local match requirements for the Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation programs could be waived for good cause until December 31, 2021;
- Allocate medical assistance day-one incentive payments to qualified non-public nursing homes for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 at \$16 million;
- Authorize the transfer of federal funds from the COVID – ESSER – SEA appropriation to the School Safety and Security Fund;
- Authorize the transfer of funds to the Environmental Stewardship Fund from Personal Income Tax revenue for the payment of debt service on the Growing Greener bonds;
- Provide that, in the event of insufficient revenue to provide for \$621 million of statewide property tax relief, the budget secretary would be authorized to transfer up to

\$300 million from the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account to the Property Tax Relief Fund; and

- Provide detailed budget implementation language and direction for state departments and agencies. **Passed: 37-13.**

House Bill 1210 (Jones) would amend the Public School Code of 1949 to provide for the distribution of \$7,686,124,000 in educational subsidies from the General Fund and \$214,762,000 in funds from the School Safety and Security Fund. Among other provisions, the legislation would:

- Extend the deadline for the Special Education Funding Commission to make its report from November 30, 2019, to September 30, 2020;
- Provide for the reconstitution of the Basic Education Funding Commission to review the funding formula to provide basic education funding to school districts no later than July 1, 2022, and to issue its report not later than November 30, 2023;
- Remove the requirement that a school district be located in a financially distressed municipality to convert from a mercantile or business privilege tax to a payroll tax through a one-time, revenue-neutral rate adjustment. An additional provision would waive the provision under the Taxpayer Relief Act requiring a referendum to impose a new tax to allow for the conversion from a mercantile or business privilege tax to a payroll tax. (These provisions are applicable to Scranton School District);
- Extend the PLANCON moratorium prohibiting the Department of Education from approving new school building construction or reconstruction applications for Fiscal Year 2020-21;
- Provide for community colleges to receive the same allocation as in Fiscal Year 2019-20;
- Provide that payments from the Community College Capital Fund could only be made to community colleges that received funding for operations in the prior year;
- Provide that following the expiration of a rural regional college trustee's initial terms, no member could serve for more than an additional three consecutive terms;
- Provide for the distribution of \$7,500,000 million in grants from the School Safety and Security Fund by the School Safety and Security Committee during the 2020-21 Fiscal Year for programs to reduce community violence;
- Provide for \$199,762,000 in federal funds to be distributed from the School Safety and Security Fund by the School Safety and Security Committee for the 2020-21 school year to provide grants to school entities to address health and safety needs related to the COVID-19 disaster emergency. Each school district will receive an allocation of \$120,000 and a pro rata share of \$114,472,000 based upon the school district's average

daily membership compared to the average daily membership for all school districts. Each area career and technical school, intermediate unit, charter school, regional charter school and cyber charter school will receive an allocation of \$90,000;

- Provide \$7,500,000 million from the School Safety and Security Fund to be distributed by the School Safety and Security Committee for the 2020-21 school year as targeted grants to intermediate units on behalf of nonpublic schools to address health and safety needs related to the COVID-19 disaster emergency. Intermediate units would be required to make applications for targeted grants on behalf of a nonpublic school or a combination of nonpublic schools;
- Provide that beginning with the 2020-21 school year, the minimum number of school days (180) requirement would apply notwithstanding a declaration of disaster emergency;
- Extend the deadline for the Public Higher Education Funding Commission to make its report from November 30, 2019, to November 30, 2020;
- Provide for each library to receive a pro rata share of funding in Fiscal Year 2020-21 based on its allocation in Fiscal Year 2019-20;
- Provide for each school district to receive a basic education funding allocation for general operating purposes in the same amount as it received in the 2019-20 fiscal year;
- Provide for intermediate units to be funded at an amount equal to 5.5 percent of the Special Education Funding appropriation, the same percentage amount as in Fiscal Year 2019-20;
- Provide for each school district to receive a special education funding allocation in the same amount as it received in the 2019-20 Fiscal Year;
- Allow the Department of Education to use up to \$7,000,000 in undistributed funds in Fiscal Year 2020-21 to assist school districts in financial distress or identified for financial watch status;
- Require the Secretary of Education to report to the Secretary of the Budget and the Chairs of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees on a quarterly basis information documenting payments from the appropriation for Pupil Transportation during the fiscal year and provide a revised estimate of required payments for the remainder of the fiscal year;
- Require the Secretary of Education to report to the Secretary of the Budget and the Chairs of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees on a quarterly basis information documenting all wages used to calculate payments for School Employees Social Security, the required payment amounts during the fiscal year and a revised estimate of required payments for the remainder of the fiscal year;

- Require the Department of Education to ensure payments made for School Employees' Social Security from the appropriation for Basic Education Funding are reported separately in the Commonwealth accounting system;
- Allow for supplemental appropriations for School Employees Social Security to be made in any fiscal year; and
- Repeal several outdated provisions of the law that are obsolete. **Passed: 44-6.**

House Bill 1907 (Rothman) would designate the bridge carrying State Route 1025 over U.S. Route 11/15 in East Pennsboro Township, Cumberland County, as the Senator Hal Mowery Memorial Bridge. **Passed: 50-0.**

House Bill 2387 (Saylor) is the General Appropriation Act of 2020, which provides for the expenses of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. The legislation would provide interim funding to minimize disruptions to services and programs in the state. The General Fund state appropriations in the legislation are funded to generally provide five months of support to Commonwealth agencies, with limited exceptions. Federal and special fund appropriations would be funded for a full fiscal year. Full year funding for basic education, special education, early education and higher education would be maintained at current levels. The interim spending plan would also make a full-year financial commitment for a variety of food security programs, including state food purchasing, farmers markets and school food service programs. **Passed: 44-6.**

House Bill 2441 (Saylor) would appropriate \$242,096,000 to the Pennsylvania State University for general support for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year and \$26,736,000 for the Pennsylvania College of Technology. The measure would also authorize the appropriation of funds from the Agricultural College Land Scrip Fund for agricultural research and extension services. **Passed: 50-0.**

House Bill 2442 (Saylor) would appropriate \$151,507,000 to the University of Pittsburgh for general support for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year and \$3,346,000 for rural education outreach. No funds appropriated by the act could be used for the costs of personnel and operations of the environmental law clinic. **Passed: 50-0.**

House Bill 2443 (Saylor) would appropriate \$158,206,000 to Temple University for general support for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. **Passed: 50-0.**

House Bill 2444 (Saylor) would appropriate \$15,166,000 to Lincoln University for general support for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. **Passed: 50-0.**

House Bill 2445 (Saylor) would appropriate \$31,660,000 to the University of Pennsylvania for veterinary activities and \$295,000 for the Center for Infectious Diseases for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. **Passed: 50-0.**

[House Bill 2467](#) (Saylor) would appropriate \$56,700,000 from the Professional Licensure Augmentation Account within the General Fund to the Department of State for the operation of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, including the State Board of Auctioneer Examiners, during the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. Other appropriations listed in the bill for operational costs during the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year include: \$9,248,000 to the State Board of Medicine; \$2,532,000 to the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine; \$393,000 to the State Board of Podiatry; and \$868,000 to the State Athletic Commission. **[Passed: 50-0.](#)**

[House Bill 2468](#) (Saylor) would appropriate \$75,802,000 from the Workmen's Compensation Administration Fund to the Department of Labor and Industry for the administration of the Workers' Compensation Act and the Pennsylvania Occupational Disease Act for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. The bill would also appropriate \$280,000 from a restricted revenue account within the Workmen's Compensation Administration Fund to the Office of Small Business Advocate for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. **[Passed: 50-0.](#)**

[House Bill 2469](#) (Saylor) would appropriate \$1,896,000 from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Small Business Advocate in the Department of Community and Economic Development for its operational expenses for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. **[Passed: 50-0.](#)**

[House Bill 2470](#) (Saylor) would appropriate \$6,204,000 from a restricted revenue account in the General Fund to the Office of Consumer Advocate in the Office of Attorney General for its operational expenses for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. **[Passed: 50-0.](#)**

[House Bill 2471](#) (Saylor) would appropriate \$52,294,000 from the Public School Employees' Retirement Fund to the Public School Employees' Retirement Board for its operational and administrative expenses for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. The bill would also appropriate \$1,083,000 from the PSERS Defined Contribution Fund to the Public School Employees' Retirement Board for expenses related to the administration of the School Employees Defined Contribution Plan for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. **[Passed: 50-0.](#)**

[House Bill 2472](#) (Saylor) would appropriate \$30,696,000 from the State Employees' Retirement Fund to the State Employees' Retirement Board for its operational and administrative expenses for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. The bill would also appropriate \$4,557,000 from the SERS Defined Contribution Fund to the State Employees' Retirement Board for expenses related to the administration of the State Employees Defined Contribution Plan for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. **[Passed: 50-0.](#)**

[House Bill 2473](#) (Saylor) would appropriate \$3,124,000 from the Philadelphia Taxicab and Limousine Regulatory Fund and \$100,000 from the Philadelphia Taxicab Medallion Fund to the Philadelphia Parking Authority for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. **[Passed: 50-0.](#)**

[House Bill 2474](#) (Saylor) would appropriate \$78,061,000 to the Public Utility Commission (PUC) for the operation of the Commission for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. The bill would also appropriate \$3,892,000 in federal funds to the PUC to enforce the regulations of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act and \$1,130,000 in federal funds for motor carrier safety. **[Passed: 50-0.](#)**

[House Bill 2475](#) (Saylor) would establish the Gaming Control Appropriation Act of 2020. The bill would appropriate monies from the State Gaming Fund for salaries, wages, and necessary expenses related to gaming, as follows:

- Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, \$43,357,000;
- Pennsylvania State Police, \$16,877,000;
- Department of Revenue, \$5,490,000; and
- Attorney General, \$1,355,000.

The bill would also appropriate:

- \$156,000 to the Gaming Control Board and \$418,000 to the Department of Revenue from the Fantasy Contest Fund for wages and expenses during Fiscal Year 2020-2021; and
- \$475,000 to the Gaming Control Board and \$567,000 to the Department of Revenue from the Video Gaming Fund for wages and expenses during Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Passed: 50-0.

[House Bill 2510](#) (Turzai) would amend the Fiscal Code to create a new program for regional health collaboration and provide for the use of federal funds for the COVID-19 emergency response.

The Department of Human Services would be charged with dividing the state into six regions, solicit proposals from health collaboratives to protect residents in long-term care facilities from COVID-19 and contract with at least one health collaborative in each region. Each health collaborative would have to: 1) directly support COVID-19 readiness and response in facilities; 2) improve the quality of care related to infection prevention and other conditions common in facilities; and 3) expand COVID-19 testing to include asymptomatic staff and residents in facilities to expand public health surveillance. In addition, the health collaborative would be required to provide for enhanced testing capability, infection control including contact tracing, and advanced clinical care including remote monitoring and physician care.

The legislation would also create the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account and require all funding received from the federal government under Division A of Title V of the CARES Act to be deposited into the account. All money in the account would have to be appropriated by the General Assembly.

House Bill 2510 would provide for the distribution of \$2.1 billion of the \$2.6 billion appropriated from the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account as follows:

- Dairy Assistance--**\$20 million** to farmers who experienced a loss with the production of milk that was discarded, of which \$5 million would have to be distributed through the Pennsylvania Agriculture Surplus System.
- State Food Purchase--**\$20 million**, of which \$5 million would have to be distributed through the Pennsylvania Agriculture Surplus System.
- Food Access Initiative--**\$10 million** to address the need for access to fresh food in urban and underserved areas.
- County Block Grant--**\$625 million** to be allocated proportionally by population to counties that did not receive direct funding from the federal government.
- Cultural and Museum Preservation Grants--**\$20 million** to be distributed by the Commonwealth Financing Agency to eligible organizations.
- PreK Counts--**\$7 million** to be distributed through the current program, estimated to serve 800 children.
- Headstart--**\$2 million** distributed through the current program, estimated to serve 230 children.
- Community-Based Health Care Centers--**\$10 million** to be distributed proportionally based on the amount of funds received from the CARES Act.
- Long-Term Living Programs--**\$632 million** distributed as follows:
 1. Health Collaboratives--**\$175 million**
 2. Nursing Facilities--**\$245 million**
 - **\$196 million** to be allocated based on Medical Assistance days of care; and
 - **\$49 million** to be allocated based on licensed beds.
 3. Personal Assistance Services--**\$140 million**
 - **\$112 million** to be allocated proportionally based on the health care or home care provider model; and
 - **\$28 million** to be allocated proportionally based on the participant-directed model.
 4. Assisted Living Facilities and Personal Care Homes--**\$50 million**
 - **\$45 million** to be allocated proportionally based on occupancy;
 - **\$5 million** to be allocated proportionally based on the number of SSI residents.
 5. Adult Day Services--**\$13 million** to be allocated proportionally based on total Medical Assistance Fee-For-Service and Community HealthChoices payments.

6. Residential Habilitation--**\$1 million** to be allocated proportionally based on total Medical Assistance Fee-For-Service and Community HealthChoices payments.
 7. Ventilator Services--**\$8 million** to be allocated proportionally based on the number of recipients. Eligible facilities would be required to have 10 or more Medical Assistance patients and at least 17 percent of patients receiving ventilator or tracheostomy services.
- Community Health Choices--**\$50 million** to be distributed proportionally based on Medical Assistance participants.
 - Long-Term Care Managed Care (LIFE)--**\$10 million** to be distributed through the base program according to reimbursements for the first quarter of 2020.
 - Community ID Waiver--**\$259.3 million** distributed through the current program.
 - Child Care Services--**\$116 million** with the distribution to be determined by an economic impact survey to be completed in July.
 - Domestic Violence--**\$10 million** to be distributed through the current program.
 - Homeless Assistance--**\$10 million** to be allocated through the current program.
 - Legal Services--**\$8 million** to be distributed through the current program.
 - Critical Access Hospitals--**\$10 million** to be proportionally distributed through the base program according to FY 2019-20 allocations.
 - Health Care System Assistance--**\$50 million** to replace the funds transferred from special funds as part of Act 10 of 2020.
 - Student Loan Interest Forbearance Program--**\$2.2 million** to provide for interest payment relief.
 - PHFA Mortgage and Rental Assistance--**\$175 million** to provide rent and mortgage assistance payments for those who experienced income loss due to COVID-19.
 - State System of Higher Education--**\$30 million** to be distributed to institutions based on 2019 fall enrollment.

Any funding that remains unspent by December 1, 2020 would be redistributed through the County Block Grant program. **Passed: 50-0.**