

WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – MARIO M. SCAVELLO, CHAIRMAN

Monday, March 15, 2021

[Senate Bill 70](#) (Langerholc) would designate the bridge, identified as Bridge Key 8556, carrying State Route 1008 (Eckenrode Mill Road) over Chest Creek, in East Carroll Township, Cambria County, as the Kenneth John Ivory Memorial Bridge. [Passed: 48-0.](#)

[House Bill 11](#) (Kaufer) would make a number of road and bridge designations, as follows:

- The portion of Pennsylvania Route 92 from Apple Tree Road to Rustic Lane in Exeter Township, Luzerne County, as the Robert F. Kile, Sr., Memorial Highway;
- The bridge, identified as Bridge Key 13861, carrying State Route 1025 over State Route 1014 in East Pennsboro Township, Cumberland County, as the Senator Hal Mowery Memorial Bridge;
- The bridge, identified as Bridge Key 15986, on the portion of Interstate 79 northbound over West 16th Street in the City of Erie, Erie County, as the U.S. Marine Captain Thomas J. Kennedy, Jr., Memorial Bridge; and
- The bridge, identified as Bridge Key 16385 on the portion of State Route 4015, also known as West 38th Street, between Schaper Avenue and Pittsburgh Avenue over Interstate 79 in the City of Erie as the Major Tom Carr Memorial Bridge. [Passed: 48-0.](#)

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

[Senate Bill 116](#) (Scavello) would amend Title 37 (Historical and Museums) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to modernize the History Code regarding property on loan, state archives, and Commonwealth records. The changes to the Code would:

- Remove the requirement for the Historical and Museum Commission (HMC) to issue an annual report on the operation of the Conservation Center;
- Provide for the sale or disposition of abandoned property on loan to the commission;
- Give the HMC the power and duty to administer the State Archives which will be the official repository for the permanent and historically valuable public records of the Commonwealth;
- Provide the commission with the authority to demand the return of Commonwealth archival records, petitioning the court if necessary, if the removal of the record from Commonwealth possession was not authorized;

- Provide access to public records 75 years or older unless prohibited by law;
- Increase the maximum period during which the HMC could enter into a lease from five years to 25 years; and
- Remove historic properties no longer under HMC jurisdiction. **Passed: 48-0.**

House Bill 157 (Fee) would repeal Act 109 of 1978, which established the Milrite Council. Act 109 provided for a limited duration of the council, which terminated at the end of 1994. **Passed: 48-0.**

Executive Session

Nominations to Various Boards and Commissions. **Confirmed: 48-0.**

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Senate Bill 69 (Langerholc) would create the Recovery-to-work Act, establishing a pilot program to connect individuals in drug recovery to occupations through local workforce development boards. The legislation would empower selected local workforce development boards, along with their business partners and participating agencies, to develop innovative recovery-to-work pilot programs designed to provide individuals in recovery with career development opportunities, training, and/or work experience. Local workforce boards would apply to participate in the pilot program, and the Department of Labor and Industry would be authorized to approve up to seven local recovery-to-work pilot programs.

The Department would have to give priority to certain designated workforce areas based on substance use and unemployment statistics, and to applications which contain a commitment from one or more business partners to provide preferred interviews to individuals completing the program and which substantially integrate education, support services, and participation of business and other relevant government agencies. To pay for the programs, the Department could utilize funds deposited in the Reemployment Fund, existing funds appropriated to the Department, and funds appropriated to any participating agency for Recovery-to-work. Administrative expenses over five percent would not be allowed. If a business partner hires an individual for a job opening through the program, the business partner would be eligible to receive an incentive payment in the amount of \$1,250 after the individual remains employed an average of 35 hours per week for 12 consecutive weeks.

The Department would be required to develop outcome-based metrics by which the local recovery-to-work pilot programs would be evaluated to collect information on the programs, including the types of skill training being received by individuals, best practices and retention rates of individuals employed as a result of a local pilot program. The Department would have to submit an annual report on the pilot programs to the Governor, Auditor General and legislative committees, as well as a final report after the programs expire. The reports would have to include the information outlined in the bill for each local recovery-to-work pilot program. **Passed: 28-20.**

[Senate Bill 120](#) (Tomlinson) would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to authorize a permitted vehicle or combination hauling a dozer with an attached blade in excess of 12 feet in width, but not wider than 15 feet, to move on a highway if a traffic protector guiderail device is securely fastened to the dozer or if the blade is angled and the total width of the load does not exceed 12 feet. If the blade is over 15 feet in width, a permitted vehicle or combination would have to remove it and haul it separately. **Passed: 48-0.**

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