

WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – MARIO M. SCAVELLO, CHAIRMAN

Monday, May 10, 2021

[Senate Bill 147](#) (Langerholc) would amend the Workers' Compensation Act to require workplace safety committees to provide information regarding the risks associated with opioid use. Within 21 days, the Department of Labor and Industry would be required to develop and make available resources for employers to comply with the provision. **Passed: 47-0.**

[Senate Bill 274](#) (Fontana) would authorize the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Governor, to grant and convey through competitive bidding approximately 2.09 acres of land in Coraopolis Borough, Allegheny County, together with any buildings, structures and improvements. The conveyance would be made subject to all lawful and enforceable easements, servitudes and rights of others, as well as under and subject to any lawful and enforceable estates or tenancies vested in third persons appearing of record, for any portion of the land or improvements erected thereon. The conveyance would be by Special Warranty Deed executed by the Secretary of General Services in the name of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Secretary of General Services could impose covenants, conditions or restrictions on the property determined to be in the best interests of the Commonwealth. Proceeds from the sale would be deposited in the State Treasury Armory Fund. **Passed: 47-0.**

[House Bill 26](#) (Borowicz) would designate the bridge, identified as Bridge Key 43976, carrying State Route 1010 over Chatham Run in Pine Creek Township, Clinton County, as the Tech. Corporal Lee R. Phillips Memorial Bridge. **Passed: 47-0.**

[House Bill 56](#) (Struzzi) would designate the bridge, identified as Bridge Key 8516, carrying State Route 271 over the West Branch Susquehanna River, Northern Cambria Borough, Cambria County, as the Sergeant William Stock Memorial Bridge. **Passed: 47-0.**

[House Bill 124](#) (Rigby) would designate the bridge, identified as Bridge Key 8680, carrying State Route 3055 over Stonycreek River in the City of Johnstown, Cambria County, as the City of Johnstown Firefighters Memorial Bridge. The bridge would also commemorate any future fallen firefighters from the City of Johnstown's Fire Department. **Passed: 47-0.**

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

[Senate Bill 156](#) (Mensch) would amend the Tobacco Settlement Act to provide for a new category of Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD), known as Workers with Job Success. The bill would require a worker with job success, as defined in the legislation, seeking to purchase MA benefits to pay 7.5 percent of his or her monthly income to the Department of Human Services or its designee. Failure to make payments would result in

termination of MA coverage. The bill would require a worker with job success, who participates in MAWD with income at or above \$75,000 compounded by the annual cost-of-living increases granted by the federal government under the Social Security program annually since the year 2000 and who is seeking to purchase MA benefits, to pay the Department or its designee 100 percent of the Commonwealth's average cost of the MAWD program. Assets developed by a MAWD enrollee who was made eligible under the job success category would not be counted in the determination of eligibility for the MAWD program if the enrollee loses eligibility in the job success category. An additional provision would require the Department of Human Services to post its annual report on the MAWD program on its internet website. **Passed: 48-0.**

Senate Bill 251 (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: 47-1.

Senate Bill 323 (J. Ward) would amend the State Lottery Law by extending the current Social Security cost-of-living adjustment moratorium from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2023. As a result of the change, individuals enrolled in PACE and PACENET as of December 31, 2020 would remain eligible for the prescription assistance program if their maximum income limit is exceeded due solely to a Social Security cost-of-living adjustment. Such eligibility would expire December 31, 2023. **Passed: 48-0.**

Senate Resolution 96 (Stefano) directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a performance audit on the provision of 911 communications service under 35 Pa.C.S. Ch. 53. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

State System of Higher Education Property Request No.1 of 2021 (**Resolution A**).
Adopted: 48-0.

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Senate Bill 115 (Boscola) would create the Nurse Licensure Compact Act to authorize the Commonwealth to execute a nurse licensure compact with any one or more states of the United States. The compact would provide for a multistate license allowing registered nurses (RN) or licensed practical nurses (LPN) to practice as an RN or LPN under the multistate licensure privilege in each compact state. Compact states would be required to participate in a coordinated licensure system that includes information on the licensure and disciplinary history of each nurse. The head of the state licensing board or designee would be the administrator of the compact for Pennsylvania and hold one vote on the Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators. The Commission would have the authority to promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and administration of the compact.
Passed: 32-16.

Senate Bill 432 (Laughlin) would amend the Department of Banking and Securities Code to convert the Banking Fund to the Banking Trust Fund to be administered by the Department of Banking and Securities for the benefit of banks, credit unions, licensees and their customers. The legislation specifies that all interest and money in the Trust Fund would not be considered general revenue of the Commonwealth but used only by the Department to pay its expenses relating to the examination and regulation of institutions, credit unions, and licensees. The Trust Fund would be subject to audit by the Auditor General. The Secretary of Banking and Securities would be required to maintain an adequate operating reserve in the Trust Fund to ensure the Department is able to pay its expenses in the event of adverse economic conditions or loss of revenue resulting from institutions or licensees becoming subject to another regulator's jurisdiction. In addition, the Secretary would be required to ensure sufficient reserves are paid into the Institution Resolution Account in the event the Department needs to resolve, seize, or

liquidate an institution or credit union without impairing the Department's ability to perform its other duties. **Passed: 48-0.**

Senate Bill 445 (Mensch) would amend Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to require the Department of Transportation to offer an individual renewing a driver's license, identification card, or vehicle registration through the Department's website the ability to make a contribution of \$5.00 to the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition, in addition to the regular fees. The contributions would have to be used exclusively for breast cancer research approved and administered by the Coalition. The Department would have to determine the total amount received under the section annually and report it to the State Treasurer for transfer from the Motor License Fund to the Coalition. The Department would be directed to provide adequate information concerning the contribution for breast cancer research on its website, including how the individual could provide additional contributions to the Coalition. The Coalition would have to conduct a public information campaign on the availability of the opportunity to Pennsylvania taxpayers and submit an annual report to the appropriate legislative standing committees on how the funds were used. The Coalition would be required to reimburse the Motor License Fund for the actual administrative costs incurred by the Department.

Passed: 48-0.

Senate Bill 664 (Corman) would amend the Public School Code of 1949 to provide parents and students the ability to make up for lost educational opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the bill would add Section 1383 (Extended Special Education Enrollment Due to COVID-19) to allow the parent of a student with a disability who is enrolled for the 2020-21 school year and reaches 21 years of age prior to the beginning of the 2021-22 school year to elect to enroll the student in school for the 2021-22 school year. The school entity would implement the student's most recent Individualized Education Program (IEP) and provide extended school year services during the summer after the 2020-21 school year in accordance with the student's most recent IEP. A student's attendance would be included in the school entity's average daily membership. Section 1501.10 (Optional Year of Education Due to COVID-19) would also be added to allow a student age 18 or older, or a parent or guardian of a student under the age of 18 for the 2021-22 school year, to elect to repeat a grade level to make up for any lost educational opportunities due to COVID-19, regardless of whether the student met the requirements to be promoted to the next grade level. The election would have to be made by July 15, 2021. School entities would be required to create an online application to make the election under the section. **Passed: 48-0.**

Executive Session

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

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