

# WEEKLY SESSION NOTES

SENATE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE – MARIO M. SCAVELLO, CHAIRMAN

**Monday, June 20, 2022**

***Bills voted on Third Consideration:***

**[SB 1105 \(BROWNE\)](#)** Non-preferred appropriation to the University of Pennsylvania for veterinary activities and the Center for Infectious Diseases. **PASSED 49-0.**

**[SB1283 \(BROWNE\)](#)** Non-preferred appropriations to the Pennsylvania State University, the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University, and Lincoln University. **PASSED 44-5.**

**[SB 1284 \(BROWNE\)](#)** Authorizes an appropriation for Agricultural Research and Extension Services. **PASSED 49-0.**

**[SB 907 \(YAW\)](#)** Creates the Animal Welfare Board Act by establishing the Animal Welfare Board to review existing laws and regulations related to the keeping and handling of animals and to make recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes. **PASSED 29-20.**

**[A04947 \(MUTH\)](#)** Changes composition of proposed Animal Welfare Board to remove positions and add Human Society Police Officer to list of required members. **FAILED 29-20.**

***Bill amended on Third Consideration:***

**[SB 569 \(ARGALL\)](#)** Establishes the Correctional and Forensic Employees Investigation Procedure Act, providing for procedures to be followed when correctional and forensic employees are under investigation for malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance. **OVER AS AMENDED.**

**[A04761 \(ARGALL\)](#)** Technical Amendment. **ADOPTED 49-0.**

***Bills voted on Supplemental:***

**[SB 1171 \(HUTCHINSON\)](#)** Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) to require a minimum number of axles to haul pulpwood or wood chips. **PASSED 49-0.**

**[HB 1421 \(THOMAS\)](#)** Amends Title 52 (Military Affairs) to increase the daily stipend allowance for burial detail (Military Honor Guards). **PASSED 49-0.**

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**Tuesday, June 21, 2022**

***Bill on Concurrence in House Amendments:***

**SB 709 (TOMLINSON)** Establishes the Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Education and Newborn Screening Act by requiring DOH to make information regarding CMV available publicly on its website. A birth facility, health care practitioner, certified-nurse midwife or unlicensed midwife assuming care of a newborn who fails initial newborn screening will be required by DOH to offer CMV testing of the child to his or her parent or guardian.

**HOUSE AMENDMENTS CONCURRED IN 50-0.**

***Bills voted on Third Consideration:***

**SB 569 (ARGALL)** Establishes the Correctional and Forensic Employees Investigation Procedure Act, providing for procedures to be followed when correctional and forensic employees are under investigation for misconduct.

**PASSED 42-8.**

**SB 1083 (BAKER)** Amends the Unemployment Compensation Law to provide for eligibility of spouses of active-duty member of the Armed Forces in certain circumstances and makes technical changes to the Shared-Work program. **PASSED 50-0.**

**A03934 (L. WILLIAMS)** Adds a qualification requirement to secure compensation to any employee who is or becomes unemployed. A claimant shall not be provided benefits for a 30-day period following a stoppage of work caused by a labor dispute other than a lockout. **FAILED 21-29.**

**SB 1124 (ARGALL)** Amends the Human Services Code to require the DHS to check death certificates against recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Benefits (SNAP) monthly. **PASSED 30-20.**

***Resolution Adopted:***

**HR 203 (STEPHENS)** Recognizing and commemorating the 132<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Korean American Citizenship. **ADOPTED 50-0.**

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## *Resolution Amended and Adopted:*

[SR 288](#) (J. WARD) Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct research on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the staffing needs of long-term care facilities as they pertain to the expenditure of Medicaid funds by the Commonwealth. **ADOPTED 50-0.**

[A04692](#) (AUMENT) Technical amendment. **AGREED TO.**

## *Executive Session:*

James G. McCormack, Major General, Pennsylvania Army National Guard. **Confirmed 50-0.**

Elizabeth Bolton Penna, Pennsylvania Parole Board. **Confirmed 50-0.**

## **Wednesday, June 22, 2022**

### *Bills voted on Third Consideration:*

[HB 723](#) (MIZGORSKI) Amends the Workforce Development Act (WDA) to bring it into compliance with federal law as provided for in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014. **PASSED 49-0.**

[SB 1093](#) (GEBHARD) Amends the Outdoor Advertising Control Act to authorize energy efficient lighting on outdoor advertising signs. **PASSED 49-0.**

[SB 1173](#) (MARTIN) Amends the Dental Law to provide for continuing education for volunteer dentists, dental hygienists, or expanded function dental assistants. **PASSED 49-0.**

### *Bills amended on Third Consideration:*

[SB 225](#) (PHILLIPS-HILL) Amends the Insurance Company Law to provide for uniform definitions, preauthorization standards, step therapy protocols, and an adverse determination appeal process in managed care plans.

**AMENDED AND RE-REFERRED TO APPROPRIATIONS.**

[A05018](#) (PHILLIPS-HILL) Expands applicability of provisions to Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and fully insured commercial plans. **ADOPTED 49-0.**

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[SB 1203](#) (ARGALL) Creates the Restrictions for Associations with Russia and Belarus Act to prevent the Commonwealth from dealing with persons associated with the Government of Russia or the Government of Belarus by imposing duties on the Treasury Department and the Attorney General. **OVER AS AMENDED.**

[A05069](#) (ARGALL) Technical amendment. **AGREED TO.**

## *Bills voted on Supplemental:*

[SB 1188](#) (BROOKS) Establishes the Lyme Disease and Related Tick-Borne Illness Diagnosis and Treatment Act and requires a health insurance policy or government program to provide coverage for individuals or recipients seeking treatment for Lyme disease or related tick-borne illness testing. Stipulates coverage must include all diagnostic testing, and prescribed treatment. **PASSED 49-0.**

[SB 1194](#) (MENSCH) Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) to establish the Military College of Pennsylvania Educational Assistance Program to enable eligible cadets from the Valley Forge Military College (VFMC) to become commissioned officers within two years in the Reserve or National Guard and provide them tuition assistance through PHEAA at VFMC or an approved institution of higher learning. **PASSED 49-0.**

[SB 892](#) (LAUGHLIN) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) to create an electric low-speed scooter (e-scooter) pilot program in a city of the second-class A and third class. **PASSED 47-2.**

## *Resolution Adopted:*

[SR 285](#) (GORDNER) Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct an assessment and analysis of public and private recycling infrastructure and operations across the Commonwealth. **ADOPTED 48-1.**