



Capitol Recap

A comprehensive review of the day's events in the Pennsylvania Capitol

Volume 5 Number 306
April 16, 2018

At 3:59 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2018 the Senate stands in recess until Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

At 6:41 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2018 the House stands adjourned until Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 11:00 a.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

Apr 17, 18, 30
May 1, 2, 22, 23
June 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13,
18-21, 25-30

Senate

Apr 17, 18, 23, 24, 25
May 21, 22, 23
June 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13,
18, 19, 20, 25-30

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THE PLS REPORTER

Special bonus coverage from the PLS Reporter, included each Monday in the Capitol Recap

Abortion bill, high school civics test pass House in afternoon votes

Author: Stephen Caruso/Monday, April 16, 2018/Categories: News and Views

The House passed one bill that drew fiery opposition and another that won nearly the entire chamber's support during session Monday.

The former, a bill to ban abortion on the basis of a Down syndrome diagnosis, touched on a partisan wedge issue. The latter, having high school students take a civics test at some point before graduation, was a far easier sell.

Speaker of the House Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny) said during his abortion bill's committee hearing that he was inspired to write HB 2050 after seeing media reports on Iceland's eradication of the genetic syndrome that stunts physical and intellectual growth.

During the meeting and since, Democrats have criticized the legislation for not providing extra resources for families with a child with Down syndrome.

The line of attack was used especially during the bill's second consideration, when House Democrats proposed multiple amendments to provide additional funding that were ruled out of order.

But rising to offer rare remarks on the House floor Monday, Turzai criticized the argument as a false choice.

"The way to solve [a lack of funding] is not for people with Down Syndrome to not be born," Turzai said.

After he spoke, the House approved the bill 139-56, more than the two-thirds majority needed to override the Governor's likely veto.

In justifying the legislation, Turzai had also pointed to language already in state law that banned woman from using sex as a deciding factor in getting an abortion.

But in a conference call held by the American Civil Liberties Union's Pennsylvania chapter last week, Alexa Kolbi-Molinas — an ACLU attorney who focuses on abortion rights — cited precedent and said the bill was unconstitutional.

"There is nothing in any Supreme Court decision...to suggest the right to abortion can be restricted based on a woman's reason," Kolbi-Molinas said.

Three states — Ohio, Indiana and North Dakota — passed similar legislation that Turzai also cited as inspiration. However, the first two states' laws have already been challenged and blocked in court. Kolbi-Molinas in fact was co-counsel on Ohio's case.

The bill's final passage drew praise from the state's anti-abortion groups, which described it as disability rights legislation, criticisms from Planned Parenthood, and even a fundraising email from Governor Tom Wolf's reelection campaign.

Besides HB 2050, the House also approved along less acrimonious lines a bill to require Pennsylvania high school students to take a civics test modeled after the country's

citizenship test before they graduate.

The bill, HB 564, has bipartisan cosponsors in Representatives Karen Boback (R-Luzerne) and Bill Kortz (D-Allegheny).

“We want them to get an education on the basic form of our government and get an education and become engaged citizens when they come out of school,” Kortz said after the bill’s committee vote last week.

After amendment, a passing grade on the test was removed as a graduation requirement, though students between grades 7-12 must take it at least once. Also, schools will be allowed to customize the test to fit their own curriculums.

Boback said they were necessary compromises

“Now [students] will be exposed to it, and that’s what we wanted to happen,” she said.

The bill ended up passing 191 to 4.

Both bills will now be taken up in the Senate. HB 564 already has a related bill in the upper chamber, SB 723, from Sen. John Rafferty (R-Montgomery). However, they are not exact companions.



The PLS Reporter provides original news, insight and in-depth analysis on current topics and proposals moving through the state legislature. For more information about adding the PLS Reporter to your subscription, please email us at info@mypls.com.

AROUND THE ROTUNDA

PLS coverage of Capitol events including press conferences, bill signings, & media availabilities

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION HOLDS LOBBY DAY

By Andre Dienner, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | April 16, 2018

The American Heart Association (AHA) held a press conference Monday in the Main Rotunda as part of their annual lobby day. Speakers called for a vote on [SB 521](#) or companion legislation [HB 921](#), which would require every high school student in Pennsylvania to receive training in hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) before graduation.

Amy Cavaliere, AHA volunteer, outlined three main issues being ensuring high school students receive CPR training, strengthening the Clean Indoor Air Law to prevent exposure to secondhand smoke, and protecting local control in public health policies. She explained she is a survivor of sudden cardiac arrest and AHA is a leader in hands-only CPR training, as most often the first responder is not an emergency medical professional but individuals and bystanders still do not know how to administer CPR in many cases. “To save more lives, we need to train more people in CPR,” Cavaliere stated, adding that ensuring high school students receive training is a common sense approach already passed in 38 states. She emphasized she is “upset and embarrassed” with Pennsylvania lagging behind in this training but voiced pleasure with SB 521 pending third consideration on the Senate calendar for today.

Sen. Thomas Killion (R-Delaware), prime sponsor of SB 521, agreed CPR saves lives and said the bill would create “an army of students” to be there to administer CPR. He called for Pennsylvania to join the 38 other states with similar laws.

Rep. Stephen Barrar (R-Delaware), prime sponsor of HB 921, opined a plan to train students in CPR saves lives and creates real life superheroes equipped with how to administer CPR correctly. He said at family gatherings if someone collapses it is “the worst feeling in the world” to not know what to do, and if CPR can be instilled in students, it will save lives and boost education.

Paul Newiadomy, lieutenant with First Aid and Safety Patrol of Lebanon EMS, outlined his volunteer experience and being a cardiac arrest survivor. He focused on how hands-only CPR is easy to administer until help arrives and everyone should know the technique, as his family did in his case. He stated a well-trained individual can easily administer hands-only CPR to anyone, and highlighted his case of suffering cardiac arrest while helping his daughter move where his wife was able to administer CPR until EMS services arrived to take over and transport him to a hospital. Newiadomy reiterated CPR can be administered by anyone who takes the time to be trained, as evidenced by his wife saving his life even though she had never administered CPR to a real person before. He also outlined other cases of cardiac arrest seen in his line of work which resulted in the patient surviving due to bystanders knowing CPR. He closed by describing the bills as a good “first step” to save lives and train bystanders and called for moving the bill in the Senate.

Cavaliere summarized CPR saves lives and lawmakers have the ability to add thousands of trained bystanders into the community through the legislation. “We’ve waited long enough, now is the time to pass this bill,” she closed.



HUMANE SOCIETY CELEBRATES PROGRESS AT LOBBY DAY

By Jessica Richardson, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | April 16, 2018

The Humane Society hosted its annual lobby day in the Media Center.

Pennsylvania State Director Kristen Tullo pointed out more than 200 advocates were present and explained [HB 1238](#) includes provisions to increase penalties for heinous animal abuse, establish tethering regulations and other imperative measures. Tullo said their efforts are possible because of the invaluable leadership and vital support of legislators present.

Sen. Richard Alloway (R-Franklin) thanked the advocates for their hard work and advocacy as what has happened in the Pennsylvania legislature in the last two years is astounding.

“The legislature is the machinery and you are the fuel that ignites it,” Sen. Alloway said.

Sen. Andrew Dinniman (D-Chester) added there are several bills coming up. He said one bill, [SB 480](#), is concerning domestic abuse as a person that has a protection from abuse order against them in 77 percent of cases will damage, maim, or kill a pet. Sen. Dinniman stated they have to stop that by upping the penalty.

[SB 636](#) is in regards to dogs in hot cars and any senator who votes against it maybe should be put in a hot car and see how much they like it, Sen. Dinniman quipped. He added the last [bill](#) is to end puppy mills once and for all. Sen. Dinniman explained the way to do that is to make it so the puppy mills cannot make any money. He stated the bill would allow pet stores to only sell rescue animals.

“We talk much about violence in our society, we see how crazy we have become in terms of this issue, but what we know is that people who commit that violence are often the same people who commit violence toward animals,” Sen. Dinniman said. “If we really are committed to ending the violence in our culture and its expression in terms of school shootings and other things happening, then we have to make it clear that no one can exercise cruelty to an animal.”

Sen. John Rafferty (R-Montgomery) commented he has been working with Sen. Alloway to put together some steady funding for the Humane Law Enforcement Officers. He stated it is time for Pennsylvania to recognize the importance of these dedicated individuals who are law enforcement officials.

Rep. Todd Stephens (R-Montgomery) presented the Humane Officer Team of the Year Award to the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and Officer Nicole Wilson. He stated the same way it takes to get legislation to the governor’s desk, it takes a team to enforce those laws. Rep. Stephens said with Libre’s Law it was important to educate people shortly after its passage. He presented Officer Ron Hollister with the Humane Officer of the Year Award for his help.

Rep. Stephens explained he heard in Lancaster County about Libre, people who were blowing up turtles, and an Amish man who beat a horse to death on the streets. He said the District Attorney of Lancaster County Craig Stedman immediately went to work on training people around Lancaster County and protecting the animals. Rep. Stephens presented Stedman with the Humane Law Enforcement Award.

Stedman commented it was a real honor. He said he did his part because he took the job as a prosecutor to be a voice for victims especially for the ones who cannot speak for themselves. Stedman stated all the law enforcement officers and county district attorneys have tools they never had before.

“There ain’t no party like an animal advocacy party,” Rep. Ryan Bizzarro (D-Erie) said.

Rep. Bizzarro thanked everyone for their continued advocacy and said there is more work to be done that cannot be done without continued support. Rep. Bizzarro presented Rep. Frank Farry (R-Bucks) with the Humane Legislator of the Year Award.

Rep. Farry thanked the society for the honor. He said the work that Representatives Stephens and Bizzarro did with Libre’s Law was fantastic. Rep. Farry explained he had the honor of one of his freestanding bills included in that which was immunity for Humane Law Enforcement Officers. He stated the component was not just a change in the law and a protection they deserved, but it lowered the insurance rate which means more money in the non-profits. Rep. Farry said regarding the discussion on dogs in hot cars earlier, he authored the bill in the House, [HB 1216](#), which currently sits in the Senate and he hopes it can get passed before the hot weather.

“Humane lobby day as you can see if the most important advocacy event of the year, and we are so grateful to your tireless commitment and the selfless way you give of your personal time,” Tullo said.

Rep. Keith Gillespie (R-York) was also in attendance.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ENACT MEDICAL MARIJUANA ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

By Matt Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | April 16, 2018

Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary of the Department of Health, held a press conference in the Capitol Media Center this afternoon to announce that the department will implement the recommendations made by the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board.

Sec. Levine explained that more than 30,000 patients have registered to participate in the medical marijuana program with more than 1,000 who have received their identification cards and received medical marijuana at a dispensary and nearly 1,000 physicians have registered for the program with more than half of those certified as practitioners.

“On behalf of Gov. Wolf, I would like to thank the members of the Medical Marijuana Advisory Board for their hard work and due diligence in evaluating not only how the program is serving patients now but how it will serve them in the future,” Sec. Levine stated. “After careful consideration I have decided our team led by John Collins to draft regulations to enact these recommendations. These regulations will appear in the May 12th edition of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. This means that dry leaf or flower will be sold in Pennsylvania dispensaries in a form that can be vaporized and I emphasize a form that can be vaporized and not smoked. We anticipate that dry leaf will be available in dispensaries later this summer.”

Sec. Levine also highlighted other Advisory Board recommendations including the following:

- Expanding list of serious medical conditions to 21;
- Eliminating the need for patients to pay for a medical marijuana card more than once a year;
- Allowing physicians to opt out of the public facing list of practitioners; and
- Requiring pediatric patients to be certified by a pediatrician or pediatric specialist but implementation will be delayed

by at least one year.

Dr. Levine then responded to questions from the media.

What did you view of the pros and cons for allowing dry leaf or flower?

All of the research is done with dry leaf or flower at least in the United States so it made sense to include that preparation in the program. In addition, there are safety concerns if you are using a concentrate. By definition it is going to be stronger so dry leaf and flower has important safety considerations. Finally, it is availability and cost. It requires less preparation by the grower and processors so we hope this will help in terms of keeping it affordable. There were medical and scientific considerations as well as practical and cost considerations.

Why does it have to be vaporized, why can't it be smoked?

The law specifically says you cannot have medical marijuana for smoking.

Why?

That's what the legislature passed and the governor signed so it can't be used in a smoke-able form. We expect that just with any other medication that a doctor would recommend and a pharmacist would dispense that patients will use this medication according to the instructions of the doctor and the pharmacist.

What's the utility of allowing physicians to opt out of the public facing list of practitioners?

It's for the benefit of physicians. We've heard feedback on this. They want to enter the program so they can treat patients they currently have but they are not looking to get lots of new referrals for that. If they were on a public facing list their concern was that they would now be, in certain areas, known as the doctor that can recommend medical marijuana. You will now have to be a patient who registers for the program to see the list.

What are the four additional medical conditions that will qualify a person for the program?

The complete list can be found at www.medicalmarijuana.pa.gov.

Can you just give your overall reaction and how this new option will benefit Pennsylvanians?

I really feel this is the right thing to do. I think patients will be able to use this option if they choose and it will improve cost and access to patients. There are some patients and practitioners feel the dry leaf or flower product has specific advantages to some of the other preparations. The whole idea of this program is to give physicians another tool in the toolbox to treat these 21 serious medical conditions and one that will be cheaper. We don't have a preference for one preparation over another.



PHARMACISTS HOLD FAIR PHARMACY REIMBURSEMENT RALLY

By Andre Dienner, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | April 16, 2018

The Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association held a press conference Monday in the Main Rotunda as part of a fair pharmacy reimbursement rally calling for a state investigation into state Medicaid prescription reimbursement practices.

Specifically, speakers called for an investigation into practices by pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) CVS Caremark which they said overcharges for prescriptions filled by their own CVS pharmacies and reimburses other community pharmacies less than the cost of prescription drugs they buy while keeping the price differential, unnecessarily raising the cost of the state Medicaid program for taxpayers and out-of-pocket expenses for prescription patients.

Patricia Epple, CEO of Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association, highlighted how pharmacists play a critical role in health care by dispensing drugs, counseling on medications, and containing hospital visits and overall medical costs. She emphasized pharmacies provide many services, provide knowledge to consumers, help combat the opioid crisis, and are an important segment of health care, with some community pharmacies existing in areas where no other pharmacies are available.

She focused on three issues for the rally being delivering convenient and accessible vaccines to patients, prescription reimbursement policy changes to reduce Medicaid costs, and eliminating the “gag clause” in Medicaid and other pharmacy contracts which prevent pharmacists from advising patients on how to lower out of pocket costs.

On immunizations, Epple stated they are asking to be allowed to administer any approved vaccines for individuals age nine or older with parental approval, as designated in [HB 1089](#) and [SB 626](#), in order to eradicate disease. She lastly called for Auditor General Eugene DePasquale and Attorney General Josh Shapiro to investigate the reimbursement practices of PBMs and advocated for legislation to prohibit PBM gag order clauses.

Patrick Lavella, manager of pharmacy compliance for Value Drug Company, reiterated prescription reimbursement policies are driving up Medicaid costs and threatening the wellbeing of community pharmacies. He drew on other states already investigating CVS Caremark for their practices, adding that they also oversee many contracts in the Pennsylvania Medicaid realm and highlighting one instance in Arkansas where “CVS pharmacies were found to be reimbursed \$400.65 for a drug used to manage pain by CVS Caremark, while community pharmacists were given \$75.74, an almost \$325 difference.” Lavella further asserted CVS Caremark has been cutting reimbursement rates in Pennsylvania, with 40 to 50 percent of all managed Medicaid prescriptions billed to independent pharmacies in Pennsylvania which were processed by CVS Caremark being reimbursed below actual costs. ““In one example, CVS Caremark dropped the reimbursement rate for a drug commonly prescribed to treat lung infections from \$665 in July last year to just \$128 in November, \$250 below the cost of the medication for the community pharmacy to purchase,” Lavella added, asserting that there are thousands of examples and community pharmacies around the state agree there is a problem.

“Our state Medicaid programs should have open accountability in these contracts,” Lavella summarized. “This game of hide and keep is a critical reason why this investigation of CVS Caremark and the PBM industry as a whole is needed.” He admitted that CVS Caremark had recently tweaked some rates which he equated to an admission of a problem, but explained pharmacies cannot change certain prices due to “one-sided, take it or leave it” PBM contracts. Lastly, he mentioned letters from CVS outlining financial issues with running community pharmacies and inviting owners to discuss selling their businesses, reiterating calls for the Auditor General and Attorney General to investigate their practices and voicing support for what he said will be filed as HB 2212.

Angela Zaydon, government affairs manager, Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association, agreed PBMs require community pharmacies to sign take it or leave it contracts with gag order clauses preventing pharmacists from telling patients how to reduce their out of pocket costs. She advocated for what she said will be filed as HB 2211 and SB 1110, which currently has a [cosponsor memo](#) distributed, to prohibit gag orders in these contracts in order to save the state money. “Let pharmacists speak,” Zaydon closed. “Let us share in the real truth behind prescription prices.”

In closing, Epple discussed letters to Auditor General DePasquale and Attorney General Shapiro from Rep. Seth Grove (R-York) and Sen. Thomas McGarrigle (R-Delaware) calling for the investigation and thanked them for their initiative, also asking the General Assembly to adopt changes in the law to stop practices like gag orders and make the Medicaid reimbursement process “transparent and fair.” She listed several bills which she believed would serve that end, including previously referenced HB 2211 and SB 1110 to address gag orders as well as what she said will be filed as SB 1105 and HB 2212. “The over 2,800 community pharmacies across the state cannot continue to provide critical health care services to their patients unless these policies are addressed and corrected,” she closed.



PSBA DISCUSSES 2018 STATE OF EDUCATION REPORT

By Andre Dienner, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | April 16, 2018

The Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) held a press conference Monday in the Main Rotunda to discuss the [2018 State of Education Report](#).

The report pinned the three biggest education challenges as budget pressures, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) implementation, and school construction and maintenance.

According to the report, the top five budget pressures include pension costs, charter school payments, special education costs, inadequate state funding, and health insurance increases.

The report also labeled the top five ways schools will balance budgets included drawing down fund balance levels, raising local property taxes, increasing class sizes, reducing staffing levels, and reducing programs and services.

Nathan Mains, PSBA CEO, focused on funding, saying the concern is no surprise especially due to pension costs, charter school payment costs, and only 37 percent of school funding coming from the state which is low nationally. He explained financial issues can result in increased property tax reliance, reduced staff, and other measures like fewer programs. He also discussed barriers to achievement such as poverty which he said creates an alarming achievement gap between students while poorer districts receive less funding per student. However, Mains stated that Pennsylvania still has reading and math rates “well above the national average” despite these issues, but that trajectory is unsustainable without further assistance from the General Assembly.

Thomas Gluck, executive director of the Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units, opined communities have remained committed to education and innovation but at the same time schools face many challenges in ensuring student success. He added intermediate units face these challenges in the same way but are in a good place to find solutions for education and career pathways, and is pleased to be a part of the report.

Paul Healey, executive director of the Pennsylvania Principals Association, also stated his organization was pleased to participate in the report and emphasized improving school leadership ranks high on school reform surveys. He said effective leadership at the building level has a significant impact on all aspects of the school and the annual report depicts the complexity principals face on a daily basis such as standardized testing, curriculum requirements, supervising and evaluating teachers, and addressing student discipline and attendance, which he described as a “daunting task.” Healey also highlighted early childhood education and intervention as an important topic, which he noted has received increased funding in recent years but called for more increases for access for Pre-K across the state and investing in early childhood programs to decrease costs in other areas.

On student achievement, Healey noted the graduation rate at public schools has surpassed 88 percent as an all-time Pennsylvania high in spite of an “underwhelming” amount of state funding and a “significant” funding gap between wealthy and poor districts. He said the governor’s proposed increase should be viewed as a “minimum increase” as cuts and hard choices will still be necessary even with these additional funds. On teacher shortages, Healey emphasized there is a current shortage in special education, math, science, and foreign languages and not enough candidates are in the pipeline to meet future needs. “Our future students deserve high quality teachers and school leaders,” he summarized, adding that education is a powerful tool to change the state, country, and world.

Mark DiRocco, executive director of the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators, opined the impact of quality schools on future outcomes is undeniable and “the better the school, the better your child’s economic opportunities.” He added that more investment in education results in fewer dropouts and fewer teen pregnancies. “The bottom line is that all of these schools matter and adequate funding for all of our schools to ensure that they are delivering quality education to our children matters now more than ever,” DiRocco quipped. He drew on the 88 percent graduation rate and one report placing Pennsylvania as eighth in the nation for public school success despite financial challenges, adding that a commitment is needed to fund every school in Pennsylvania and this is the time to do that.

Jackie Cullen, executive director, Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators (PACTA), agreed students are well-prepared in Pennsylvania but there are many challenges for career and technical centers such as funding, pension cost increases, and unique challenges in updating industry standards for their curriculum. She explained funding comes from school districts which send students to the centers, and when these schools are under-funded, districts can no longer afford to send students. Cullen noted there has been no increase in career and technology center funding in a decade even though they are uniquely positioned for job placement, but they can only function with adequate funding and resources. She closed by looking forward to working to improving funding and resources available to schools and career centers.

Richard Frerichs, president of the Pennsylvania Public Education Foundation, outlined his 20 years of experience in public education with a constant of wanting to see students grow and reach their full potential. He emphasized public schools can have a positive contribution on that potential and growth as evidenced by recent success in graduation rates and higher education rates when compared nationally, despite increasing mandates and financial issues. He also highlighted success in reading and math assessments, summarizing “our foundation will continue to support this work through innovative solutions and increased awareness of opportunities for all Pennsylvania students because a strong foundation for our students results in a strong foundation for Pennsylvania.



HEALTH ACCESS ADVOCATES REACT TO MEDICAID WORK REQUIREMENTS PUSH

By Mike Howells, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | April 16, 2018

Ahead of a scheduled House floor vote on [HB 2138](#) today, caregivers, recipients, and other stakeholders warned of the dangers of tying work requirements to Medicaid services.

“Medicaid work requirements are nothing more than Medicaid cuts in disguise,” said Antoinette Krauss, director of the Pennsylvania Health Access Network.

Krauss said research shows that work requirements for Medicaid eligibility will result in reduced coverage, and over time would leave the state liable for additional costs.

Challenging the value of exceptions placed in the bill with the intention of helping keep the neediest with eligibility, Krauss also said having to prove one’s particular condition is not an acceptable solution.

“Taking someone’s healthcare away because of a paperwork error is way too high of a price to pay,” she said.

Rep. Gene DiGirolamo (R-Bucks), chairman of the House Human Service Committee, said he is “terribly worried” about how the verification process for exemptions will work, and criticized the notion as adding another level of bureaucracy between the vulnerable and state aid.

Rep. DiGirolamo pointed out the population group in question is less likely to possess a computer or phone, increasing the risk they could lose coverage for missing a notification or deadline.

The chairman also challenged that the millions of dollars the Department of Human Services (DHS) says it will cost to administer the verification process could be used to drive out services instead.

Ray Landis, advocacy manager for AARP Pennsylvania, said the proposal raises “any number of concerns” for his members. Near the top, he indicated, is the issue of family caregiving.

“We recognize that there are hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians who are providing family caregiving services both

for their children, but also for older adults in their family,” he said. “Individuals who might be on Medicaid right now because of their ability to qualify for the program because of a disability...many of them are caring for someone else in their family.”

Landis said imposing work requirement on such an individuals could increase Medicaid costs as the people they were caring for are forced to obtain state assistance themselves, in a nursing home or elsewhere.

Landis said AARP is opposed to HB 2138.

Mara Brough, senior advocacy manager for the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society, expressed concern about the bill’s impact on people with health issues.

She said the language may not capture all those currently with or at risk of serious health problems that prevent them from meeting work requirements.

Brough added that the bill only exempts caregivers caring for individuals with permanent disability; she said it is possible a Pennsylvanian could be prevented from working by caring for an individual with a condition not considered permanent.

“Battling administrative red tape in order to keep coverage should not take away from Pennsylvanians’ focus on maintaining their or their family’s health,” Brough said.

Folsom resident Ruth Ann Davidson, whose son suffers from bipolar disease, said before Medicaid expansion he was unable to access healthcare and turned to illegal drugs.

“This is not unusual” she said, of people with mental illness who cannot get the help they need.

Davidson said her son overdosed on heroin twice, but since gaining coverage has been able to obtain treatment and ongoing medication. She said she is very worried about having the correct documentation to keep him eligible for his needed care, since though he has part-time employment, he is not good at filling out forms or maintaining paperwork.

“Today he is doing well but he will need medication his entire life,” Davidson said.

Jennifer Wolff, policy specialist for Mental Health Partnerships, said the bill “sets individuals up for failure.”

She pointed out the exemption language implies that a person has an official diagnosis from a doctor, “which would almost always require health insurance to begin with.”

Dr. Rhea Powell, a primary care physician based in Philadelphia, said chronic medical conditions often “wax and wane,” allowing them to work for some periods of time but not at others.

She called the legislation punitive and said it will hurt health outcomes.



GOVERNOR WOLF SIGNS SB 449, TIERNE'S LAW

By Nina Lehr, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | April 16, 2018

Governor Wolf signed into law today [Senate Bill 449](#), also known as Tierne's Law, which strengthens protections for victims of domestic violence.

Governor Wolf stated Tierne's Law was passed unanimously by both chambers and will hold abusers accountable for their actions while helping survivors gain security and a peace of mind needed during their recovery. He added this bill will allow judges to use risk assessment tools to determine whether the perpetrator poses a continued danger to the victims and gives them a resource to objectively look at situations and additional avenues to use when setting bail in domestic abuse cases. He noted this bill adds strangulation to the list of offenses for police officers to be able to arrest a perpetrator without a warrant when it has been committed against a family member or someone sharing their household. He stated this change helps accurately assess the risk the domestic abuser poses to the victim and help keep the victim safe during the period before the perpetrator goes to trial. He reiterated "Tierne's Law will strengthen our hand as we seek to protect the survivors of domestic abuse and will help us hold those who endanger others accountable."

Sen. Camera Bartolotta (R-Washington) thanked the General Assembly for passing this legislation and Tierne's family for all they have done. She stated she is grateful this bill will finally become law and "Tierne's memory will live on as an angel for those who don't have a voice."

Governor Wolf and Sen. Bartolotta then took questions from the media.

Can you give some examples of new risk assessment tools?

Governor Wolf replied "what we're trying to do is give judges the ability to systematically do the things they are already doing." Sen. Bartolotta added the Commission on Sentencing is tasked with developing the risk assessment tools and is "a survey of sorts." She noted the bill creates an algorithm for the propensity for re-offense or lethality. Bail will not be determined based on flight risk, she noted, but on risk of lethality instead. She said judges look at criminal background, drug and alcohol abuse, how many times that person has been before the courts, among other things. She emphasized this bill reaffirms some tools already in place and tasks a board with creating new ones.

Is there a deadline for the Sentencing Commission to develop new risk assessment tools?

Sen. Bartolotta replied "there is no deadline that we've set but believe me I don't let things go very easily" and everyone is pushing for it to be accomplished in a timely manner.

Can you speak to what the legislature should do next?

Gov. Wolf stated he gave a press conference last week on the Justice Reinvestment Initiative and referenced the proposals in that plan. Sen. Bartolotta stated she is encouraged to know this issue is a priority for the legislature.



COMMITTEE NEWS

Comprehensive coverage of House & Senate public hearings & voting meetings

Local Government Commission

04/16/18, 10:00 a.m., 461 Main Capitol

By Jessica Richardson, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The Local Government Commission (LGC) held a meeting of the Assessment Reform Task Force.

Legislators in attendance included Chairman John Eichelberger (R-Blair) and Rep. Mary Jo Daley (D-Montgomery). Rep. Kate Harper (R-Montgomery) participated via conference call.

LGC members in attendance included:

- Steve Howe, Dauphin County Tax Assessment
- JR Hardester, Assessors' Association of Pennsylvania (AAP)
- Joan Righter Price, Assessors' Association Of Pennsylvania via conference call
- Doug Hill, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP)
- Philip Klotz, LGC
- Radee Skipworth, Department of Revenue
- Richard Villeo, Department of Community and Economic Development
- Renee Reynolds, State Tax Equalization Board
- David Greene, LGC
- Danette Magee, LGC
- Karen Bear, LGC

Draft Model RFP and Contracting Guidelines for County Reassessment

Kortz recognized Deb Crawford, Chief Assessor for Tioga County, and Joshua Zeyn, Assistant Chief Assessor for Tioga County for being at the table and for their help with the document.

Howe thanked the commission for recognizing the importance of the document to the counties. He said when comparing Pennsylvania to other states there are no guidelines of contracting for reassessment of vendors, which is no surprise as some counties have not experienced reassessment for as long as 40 years. Howe explained reassessment infrequency is because few are aware of the procedures and contracting for the services. He added this will create a springboard in assisting counties on the matter.

Magee explained this began because of [HR 334 of 2009](#). The contracting subcommittee used a template from New York because New York has state oversight but their locals do the reassessing, Magee said. She stated they are trying to produce an unbiased document. Magee explained she modified the template to match the administrative procedures in Pennsylvania, and because of the vendors in Pennsylvania being so dissimilar it was a tough needle to thread. However, they believe they have a very good product that will provide some standards to start with, Magee said.

Magee stated the document is broken down into three sections: Request for Proposal (RFP), contract guidelines, and appendixes. Within the language of the RFP there are blue bold brackets that are geared toward the commissioners or technology people to offer guidance suggestions, Magee said. She added there is a sample cover letter for prospective vendors and tables to provide help.

Greene commented they wanted to articulate that the contract is the primary document and the RFP and proposal itself are the subordinate documents.

Magee continued that Section 3 of the document discussed the county responsibilities which include a budget management team and providing the vendor with various documents. She highlighted there is to be contract moderating where a third party is hired to ensure the terms of the contract are being adhered to. Section 4 is the meat of the RFP which includes project requirements and vendor responsibilities, Magee said. She stated there are suggestions of a proposed budget timetable or benchmarks included in this section. They do note in blue bold type the legislation regarding board training and

qualifications of personnel, Magee said. She explained the document is written in current law but if any of the proposed legislation by the commission passes there will be changes the counties and vendors need to be aware of.

Magee explained Section 5 is a brief section on data security. Section 6 discusses vendor staffing and identifies the minimum project management and technical staff that should be included, Magee said. She noted they also identified vendor charges that may occur outside the base agreement, and that a vendor must get county approval before making changes to management staff. Magee said Section 7 states specified deliverable products and dates required.

Greene stated Section 8 discusses the payment schedule. He explained after the submission of the bill, 90 percent is paid and 10 percent is accumulated until the completion of the project. If at the time they are unsatisfied then 20 percent can be retained with notice for the vendor to catch up, and will be alleviated in 30 days for the 20 percent to be paid back, Greene said. He noted the provisions provided are to be a springboard for further negotiations.

Greene explained Section 9 of the document regards contractual requirements. For example there is a conflict of interest provision that the county must be provided notice of public employees that are hired from outside municipalities outside of the county itself, Greene stated. He said the Right to Know Law provision is set forth from the example of Department of General Services (DGS).

Magee went on to Section 10 that lists items that may have to be itemized by cost such as data collection being mobile versus hard copy. She said the county can fill out the list as it works for them but is provided so they are aware of some things that may add or take away cost of the project. The appendixes offer several documents such as a sample vendor evaluation checklist, a county signoff document, data collection standards, and special laws and programs.

Chairman Eichelberger suggested a change to page 59 regarding the insurance requirements and changing county counsel to county insurance representative. He said the whole effort has been outstanding.

Hill commented the amount of work that went into this has been remarkable. He said for many years they talked about assessment reform and a significant part of that is how it is administered and best fits the needs of the citizens. Hill stated the document is a template of needed guidance.

Kortz said the document will be brought to the next LGC meeting on May 21 and published on the website that day. He noted the document is not set in stone as it may need changes as technology changes or bills are passed. Chairman Eichelberger commented the AAP and CCAP will be the custodians moving forward.

Rep. Daley added sitting on the commission has been an educational experience. She expressed her appreciation for the document acknowledging the differences in counties and providing guidance.

A recommendation from the task force to accept the document as presented was unanimously **approved**.

The next Assessment Reform Task Force meeting will take place on June 4 at 10:00 a.m. in 461 Main Capitol.



House Judiciary Committee

4/16/18, 12:00 p.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

By Nicole Trayer, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a public hearing on public safety, gun laws and violence.

Rep. Jozwiak testified on his bill, [HB 249](#). He said there is an increasing number of attacks on law enforcement officers by criminal elements using firearms, but also knives, vehicles and baseball bats that are all capable of inflicting serious bodily injury or death. He explained that this bill would address section 2702.1 of the crimes code regarding assault on a law enforcement officer by changing the language to include assault by a firearm or “serious bodily injury by use of a deadly weapon.” He said this would include any item that can cause risk of death, disfigurement or impairment of any function of any bodily or internal organ. The bill currently has 29 co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle, he added.

Chairman Marsico asked Rep. Jozwiak if he has received any resistance on the bill. Rep. Jozwiak said he has not. Chairman Marsico asked him what kind of support the bill has. Rep. Jozwiak said he has 29 co-sponsors and he knows the police are in support. Chairman Marsico asked if he has talked to district attorneys on the bill. Rep. Jozwiak said he has not.

Rep. Miller spoke on a variety of solutions that have been brought forward. He said the General Assembly should assist school districts with infrastructure improvements as well as the need for school resource and police officers. When addressing these solutions, he said the committee must think about the constitutional requirements and clarify where government action on this issue has been allowed and where it has not. He noted that certain aspects of the 2nd Amendment have been regulated since it was written and brought up the *District of Columbia v. Heller* case. He said this case found that the 2nd Amendment is not unlimited. Rep. Miller said he is in support of universal background checks as well as addressing elements of the background check system that are not working, specifically regarding mental health. He added that he believes any device that increases the rate of fire of a semi-automatic weapon should be prohibited in addition to a ban on high-capacity magazines. He also said he is in support of raising the age to buy a firearm to 21 except for those who have served or are serving in the military. Additionally, he spoke in support of bills such as [HB 2227](#) and those that have been introduced regarding domestic violence. He noted that he does oppose any effort to create a gun registry. In regards to any legislation that would involve a complete ban for certain people, he said there must be a fully functioning due process system, but that recommendations for the Public Defender’s Office to “fill the gaps” are concerning due to the large workload they already have.

Rep. Saccone commented that the standards should be very high if infringing on a constitutional right and that the solutions proposed need to be effective. He said high capacity magazine and AR-15 style-rifles were banned from 1994 to 2004 and that the Department of Justice (DOJ) found “absolutely no effect on crime” at the end of those 10 years. On universal background checks, he said there have not been any private sales on handguns since 1934, but that an individual is 20 times more likely to be killed by a handgun than a rifle. He added that individuals who serve in the military should have the right to own a firearm to protect themselves and their families. “I want to make changes that are going to work,” he said. Rep. Miller said he agrees that military personnel should have the ability to own a firearm. He noted that the problem being seen is that the guns are legally purchased before being used to inflict violence or mass shootings.

Rep. Schemel said the *United States v. Lopez* case says any restriction of the 2nd Amendment must be scrutinized “very carefully.” He stated that many of the solutions offered do something, but may not actually bring about any result other than putting barriers in place for responsible gunowners. He acknowledged Rep. Miller’s efforts in finding a solution, but said that many of the solutions being given would not have any impact. Rep. Miller said he believes the background system is a “large success” with application problems in some areas. He added that there are mental health components in almost all mass shootings, but that some individuals have been able to kill a lot of people with “relative ease.”

Rep. Jozwiak asked Rep. Miller if he was talking about voluntary or involuntary treatment for mental health in his testimony. Rep. Miller said he is interested in both. He added that aspects of HB 2227 should be looked into to prevent an individual with depression from not seeking treatment due to the fear that they may lose their firearms. Rep. Jozwiak commented that the federal government should put regulations on devices that increase the rate of fire and asked Rep. Miller if he agrees. Rep. Miller said if the federal government were to take action he would understand, but that he is unwilling to wait for the federal government to do so. Rep. Jozwiak added that last year the Pennsylvania State Police conducted 1,055,449

background checks with about 15,000 rejected.

Rep. Farry said he has two bills that are currently in draft form that would enhance school safety. He explained that one bill is modeled after Colorado's Safe2Tell tip line that would allow students and the public to use a tip line to provide information on a potentially dangerous act or individual. He said this tip line would go directly to the PSP and then be forwarded to the proper local authorities. The second bill he is working on would create an emergency preparedness grant program to provide schools with a trauma bag that is specific to controlling bleeding as well as the necessary training, he said. Rep. Farry said the goal is for the trauma bags to be throughout the schools similar to fire extinguishers. "We have to put the right tools in people's hands to save lives," he said. He mentioned that the Department of Health (DOH) is working with him to help develop the program.

Rep. Sims said in the city of Philadelphia there is a shooting every six hours and that from 2006 to 2016 there were 2,629 people killed by firearms in Philadelphia. He called for the passage of [HB 1400](#) to expand the background check system. He spoke on his own legislation [HB 1115](#) that would subject the sale of ammunition to be regulated in the same way as firearms. He explained that under this bill only a licensed dealer could sell ammunition and that it would allow a business to use its existing license to sell both firearms and ammunition. When some individual wishes to purchase ammunition, the licensee would have to contact the Pennsylvania Instant Check System (PICS) and the PSP would conduct a background check, he said. He noted that his bill would allow an individual to apply for a PSP ammunition purchase authorization that would last for four years allowing the individual to purchase ammunition during that time without the need for a background check for every ammunition purchase. The authorization would be revoked if an event occurred that disallowed an individual from purchasing a firearm, he said. Rep. Sims also expressed support for eliminating the use and possession of bump stocks or other triggering devices.

Chairman Marsico asked how many co-sponsors HB 1115 has. Rep. Sims said 19.

Rep. Jozwiak asked Rep. Sims if he has ever held or handled a bump stock. Rep. Sims said he grew up in a military family around a variety of firearms and that he has not held a bump stock, but understands that they take an otherwise legal weapon and put them into a category of performance with illegal weapons. Rep. Jozwiak said they do not really put legal weapons into illegal categories and that a bump stock has only been used one time in a mass shooting event. He suggested Rep. Sims learn more about bump stocks before taking his position. Regarding PICS, Rep. Jozwiak said 15,000 background checks were rejected and that PICS does more than the national check does. Rep. Sims said he believes people who have been deemed unable to own firearms should also be prevented from purchasing ammunition.

Rep. Costa clarified whether the 2,629 individuals killed between 2006 and 2016 were nationwide or specifically in Philadelphia. Rep. Sims said that was just in Philadelphia. Rep. Costa asked Rep. Sims if he had any statistics on how many of those 15,000 rejected background checks involved individuals who were arrested for filing illegal or false reports in the PICS system. Rep. Sims said he does not have those numbers and that his concern is that those 15,000 individuals under current law can still buy ammunition.

Rep. Saccone said a lot of the results on the PICS system are false positives regarding law abiding citizens. Rep. Sims said the level of inaction up to this point has created a system where the number of children killed by firearms has increased steadily. He added that although around 3,500 individuals have appealed the result of PICS there are still up to 13,000 individuals who by law cannot have a firearm and he believes that means they should not have access to ammunition as well.

Rep. Nesbit asked how licensing ammunition sales would be implemented. Rep. Sims said all that he would like to do is treat ammunition the same way firearms are treated in Pennsylvania.

Rep. Krueger-Braneky said she supports swift action on the gun bills discussed thus far including HB 2227, [HB 2060](#), [HB 175](#) and [HB 1872](#). She said 26 bills have been introduced on gun reform so far this session, but that the common theme among these bills is that as of today none of them have had a vote. She expressed strong support for HB 1400 and said without it the other bills lack their full power. She also cited it as an important companion bill to HB 2060 and [SB 501](#). She pointed out that HB 1400 is needed to keep survivors of domestic violence safe by preventing an abuser from attending a gun show or arranging a private sale to purchase a long gun without a background check. "Together these bills create a

more secure safety net for all people threatened by domestic abusers,” she said. Rep. Krueger-Braneky said that almost 700 advocates rallied in the Main Rotunda last week demanding a vote on common sense gun reform and urged a vote on HB 1400.

Rep. Rabb said he is not anti-gun, but rather anti-violence. He added that in the US there are more guns than people and that violence of all kinds has “permeated our nation” even before semi-automatic weapons came into existence. He shared the story of Alex Cherry who two years ago this month had expressed strong enthusiasm to work the polls leading up to Rep. Rabb’s election, but was shot and killed in front of him two days before the election. He said the murder made national news because Cherry was shot “in front of a candidate.” He said while gun violence is common, it is not normal and that this issue is about having the “political will and moral courage to save the lives of countless souls who simply do not have to die or live in fear or with the pain that trauma inflicts on all who are wounded by violence, whether those wounds are physical or psychological.”

Rep. Knowles said he is receptive to listening to all of the legislation that has been proposed, but added that he has received emails from constituents on both sides of this issue since these hearings began. “We are doing what’s right here,” he said. He asked people sending those emails to think about what they’re doing.



House Education Committee

4/16/18, 11:00 a.m., Room B31 Main Capitol

By Matt Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider legislation.

Chairman David Hickernell (R-Lancaster) explained that the package of bills before the committee today is based on the recommendations of the Select Subcommittee on Technical Education and Career Readiness that held hearings last session. “We spent a considerable time working in a bipartisan fashion on these bills,” he stated. “I’d like to thank Chairman Roebuck and his staff and our staff and all the members who worked on this package. It’s a great to be able to advance these bills today.”

Minority Chairman James Roebuck (D-Philadelphia) echoed the comments of Chairman Hickernell. “It’s a good package of bills, it’s a bipartisan effort, and it’s a positive step forward,” he stated.

[HB 2155 Bloom, Stephen](#) - (PN 3276) Amends the Public School Code further providing for vocational instructional certificate. Adds language directing the State Board of Education to require an applicant for a vocational instructional certificate to present evidence of at least four years of wage-earning experience in the occupation to be taught in order for the Secretary of Education to grant the applicant the certificate. Further provides the board shall not require an applicant to have completed more than 18 credit hours in an approved program of vocational teacher education in order for the secretary to grant the applicant a certificate which shall entitle the individual to teach for eight annual school terms. Also provides the board shall not require an applicant to have completed more than 60 total credit hours in an approved program of vocational teacher education to be granted a Vocational Instructional II Certificate. Requires the Department of Education to form a professional advisory committee to review vocational instructional certification program guidelines very five years. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Rep. Stephen Bloom (R-Cumberland), prime sponsor of the bill, noted that the impetus for the legislation came from career and technical students who visited the Capitol last year. “They told me about the need and said they were losing teachers due to the situation with the certification requirements,” he stated. “House Bill 2155 reduces the barriers to certification of career and technical education (CTE) teachers in order to increase the number of CTE teachers in the classroom.”

[HB 2156 Tobash, Mike](#) - (PN 3277) Amends the Public School Code adding a new article establishing the Career and Technical Education Partnership Tax Credit Program to expand access to high-career and technical education by encouraging private investment in education, career and technical education programs and the repair, upkeep, replacement and upgrading of industry-grade materials and instructional equipment. Provides for qualification and application by organizations; application

by business firms; tax credits; limitations; lists; guidelines; school participation in program; scholarships; carryover, carryback, refund and assignment; and original jurisdiction. Further provides the total aggregate amount of all approved tax credits for contributions from business firms shall not exceed \$15 million in a fiscal year. Requires the Department of Community and Economic Development to submit an annual report summarizing the effectiveness of the tax credit to the chairs and minority chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations and Education Committees. Also provides the new article shall apply to taxable years commencing December, 31, 2018. Effective immediately. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Rep. Mike Tobash (R-Schuylkill), prime sponsor of the legislation, thanked the chairmen for moving the package of bills and explained that the bill focuses on public-private partnerships. "This bill uniquely focuses tax credits, the ability for businesses to invest in exactly what they're looking for their education system to produce in order for them to grow their businesses in the state of Pennsylvania," he stated.

[HB 2157 Grove, Seth](#) - (PN 3278) Amends the Public School Code adding language requiring the Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence to issue guidelines and update the guidelines every five years to identify the circumstances when a student who successfully completes an academic course, program or activity for credit may apply the credit toward completion of an agriculture education program. Requires the Department of Education to issue guidelines and update the guidelines every five years to identify the circumstances when a student who successfully completes a course, program or activity in science, technology, engineering or mathematics for credit may apply the credit toward the completion of a course, program or activity offered by any area vocational-technical school, technical institute or vocational school or department. Also requires the department to establish a standard application form for a public school entity seeking approval to establish or renew a classification of program code. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Rep. Seth Grove (R-York), chairman of the Select Subcommittee on Technical Education and Career Readiness, emphasized the importance of career and technical education and thanked the chairmen for moving the legislation. "House Bill 2157 simply provides flexibility for our school districts," he stated. "If there is a new job being created, new industry being created, it allows flexibility for career and tech education to provide a new program in state law."

[HB 2158 Mako, Zachary \(F\)](#) - (PN 3285) Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for career information and recruitment. The bill establishes that school entities shall seek participation of representatives of skilled trades, area career and technical education schools, institutions of higher education, business, industry, charitable institutions or other employers regarding employment, employment training or education opportunities. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 2159 Staats, Craig](#) - (PN 3279) Amends the Public School Code adding language requiring all public schools, the Rural Regional College, state-related institutions, and the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology to submit their articulation agreements to the Department of Education to be included in the department's electronic database and portal that displays articulation agreements entered into by community colleges, the institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and institutions that elect to participate. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Rep. Craig Staats (R-Bucks), prime sponsor of the bill, explained that the legislation expands the Department of Education's database of articulation agreements to include state-related institutions, accredited rural regional colleges, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, and public schools.

[HB 2203 Harkins, Patrick](#) - (PN 3286) Amends the Public School Code, in vocational education, providing for an online career resource center. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish a central online clearinghouse which shall at a minimum include an online database of the following: postsecondary pathways and options; career and technical education and workforce; career pathways; data and statistics on employment opportunities and compensation; statewide and regional articulation agreements; and other relevant career resources. Effective immediately. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Rep. Pat Harkins (D-Erie), minority chairman of Select Subcommittee on Technical Education and Career Readiness, thanked the committee for moving the package of legislation. "House Bill 2203 directs the Department of Education, the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Agriculture, to create and annually update an easily accessible online clearinghouse that includes postsecondary pathways and options; career and technical education and workforce

opportunities; career pathways; data and statistics on employment opportunities and compensation; statewide and regional articulation agreements; and other relevant career resources,” he stated.

[HB 2204 Mullery, Gerald](#) - (PN 3252) Amends the Public School Code adding a new section requiring the Department of Education, no later than January 1, 2019, in consultation with the Department of Labor and Industry, to conduct an inventory to determine the number and types of workforce development programs offered at secondary and postsecondary institutions. Allows the department to compile a clearinghouse of model programs discovered during the inventory. Provides the department shall encourage the use of the model programs by secondary career and technical education programs, postsecondary programs and business and industry. Also requires the department to report its findings and actions to the chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations and Education Committees. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Rep. Gerald Mullery (D-Luzerne), prime sponsor of the legislation, explained that the bill would require the Department of Labor and Industry to conduct a complete inventory of existing workforce development programs offered at secondary and postsecondary institutions. “My legislation creates a one-stop shop for our stakeholders,” he stated.

[HB 2205 Roebuck, James](#) - (PN 3330) Amends the Public School Code, in vocational education, further providing for advisory committees by requiring that an occupational advisory committee be established for each career and technical education program or cluster of related career and technical education programs offered by an area vocational-technical school or school district. The occupational advisory committee shall be appointed by the board of directors of the area vocational-technical school or school district, as applicable. A majority of the members of the occupational advisory committee shall be employees and employers in the occupation for which the career and technical education program is provided. Each occupational advisory committee shall meet at least twice each year to: (1) advise the board of directors, administrators and staff on curriculum, equipment, instructional materials, safety requirements, program evaluation and other related matters; and (2) verify that the programs meet industry standards and, if appropriate, licensing board criteria, and that the programs prepare students with occupation-related competencies. To increase employer participation in an occupational advisory committee, the boards of directors of multiple area vocational-technical schools or school districts operating career and technical education programs may agree to establish a shared occupational advisory committee to serve all agreeing area vocational-technical schools or school districts, provided that all agreeing area vocational-technical schools or school districts are located within the same intermediate unit. If a shared occupational advisory committee is formed, the occupational advisory committee shall be designed to provide equal opportunities for all agreeing area vocational-technical schools or school districts to participate, including scheduling meetings at each area vocational-technical school or school district on a rotating basis. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Roebuck, prime sponsor of the legislation, explained that the bill would require career and technical education programs to establish Occupational Advisory Committees (OACs). “The establishment of these committees will help to improve the effectiveness of local councils establishing new programs and reduce the burden on local industries and school districts to establish viable OACs on their own,” he stated.

[HB 2206 Roebuck, James](#) - (PN 3331) Amends the Workforce development Act, in local workforce investment areas and boards, adding that membership shall include at least one local administrator of a career and technical center. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Roebuck, prime sponsor of the legislation, said the bill adds at least one local administrator of a career and technical center to a local workforce development board. “This legislation will ensure that local communications with workforce development boards is consistent across the commonwealth and improve the delivery of their technical programs,” he stated.



House Insurance Committee

4/16/18, 11:00 a.m., Room 60 East Wing

By Mike Howells, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider legislation.

[HB 1800 Nelson, Eric](#) - (PN 3224) Amends Title 40 (Insurance), in regulation of insurers and related persons generally, providing for medication synchronization. The bill establishes no individual or group health insurance plan providing prescription drug coverage shall deny coverage for the dispensing of a medication that is dispensed by a network pharmacy on the basis that the dispensing is for a partial supply if the prescriber or pharmacist determines the fill or refill to be in the best interest of the patient and the patient requests or agrees to a partial supply for the purpose of medication synchronization. Effective in 365 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Prime sponsor Eric Nelson (R-Westmoreland) said the bill is a “commonsense effort” to allow Pennsylvanians on maintenance medication begin to have their prescriptions come due on the same day. He said it would be optional for patients should they choose to do so.

Rep. Rob Matzie (D-Beaver), acting as minority chairman, supported the bill.



House Labor and Industry Committee

4/16/18, 11:30 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

By Kimberly Howells, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a public hearing on House Bill 1781.

[HB 1781 Keller, Fred](#) - (PN 2408) Amends the Workers’ Compensation Act, in liability and compensation, providing for registration of status as independent contractor by adding that a person may file a registration with the department regarding the status of an individual who is classified for Federal income tax purposes as an independent contractor of the person. The bill provides for contents of the registration and states that a person who registers an individual as an independent contractor shall not be liable to the individual for benefits under this act and shall not be required to provide insurance coverage or self-insure under this act regarding the individual. The bill provides for revocation of the registration and stipulates that a person may not offer or provide an incentive, pecuniary or otherwise, for an individual to complete the waiver and affidavit or refrain from filing a request for revocation. Effective in 60 days.

Chairman Kauffman reviewed the bill and emphasized that it applies in circumstances where the business owner and the contractor agree on the nature of the relationship.

Rep. Keller explained the need for the bill is so insurance companies can be sure they are capturing the appropriate employees when they do audits. He argued the bill adds clarity.

[Lynn Sholley](#), Sholley Agency, testified most independent contractors are often either sole proprietors or LLCs that have no employees. In these situations, he explained, independent contractors are not required to carry workers’ compensation (WC). He offered an example of a smaller trucking company that was determined by the State Workers Insurance Fund (SWIF) to be excluded from WC premiums, but was audited by an insurance company and that company concluded that the premium for independent contractors would be charged. The documents were provided to the insurance company, he explained, but the insurance company nonetheless required the premium so ultimately the trucking company returned to SWIF where costs would be lower. Sholley acknowledged insurance companies need to be protected if a claim is filed against them, but argued employers should not be required to provide WC coverage to independent contractors who specifically indicate that they do not want to be covered.

[Kevin Shivers](#), executive state director of the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB), emphasized the important role of small businesses in Pennsylvania and supported “the spirit of HB 1781.” He said it is an effort to clarify

the law for business that have an agreement with contractors and argued they should be able to conduct business without fear of additional bureaucracy. He acknowledged the challenges that arise when an independent contractor is injured and the weight that judges may give to certain factors over others when rendering a decision. Shivers recommended that the committee look at the law in Arizona, which he explained has declarations for both WC and for independent businesses, and urged the state to do its best to honor the relationship in place between the business and contractors. He also added that a registration requirement likely would not reach the level that courts need and instead would be another regulatory hurdle.

[Sam Marshall](#), president of the Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania, said Pennsylvania has a “well-chronicled, persistent and growing problem in our workers’ compensation system” and this bill directly addresses the problem through a process run by L&I. He argued uncertainty in the current system is not fair to anyone in the system and supported the bill as a “solid step” to address that uncertainty by having the individual and employer agree up front what the relationship is. “The bill is clear in requiring this to be a knowledgeable, informed and arms-length agreement,” Marshall stated. He also offered suggestions to strengthen the bill to expressly state that the individual is not subject to coverage under the Uninsured Employer Guaranty Fund (UEGF). “What we want is clearer language up front,” he said. He urged those that do not support this concept to offer an alternative to resolve the current uncertainty in the law.

Rep. Nelson said “the idea romantically sounds good,” but “pragmatically,” he suggested, it creates a potential that the individuals would fall on the state. Marshall explained that refers to the UEGF and to file a claim an individual should have to prove they are an employee of an uninsured employee, which, he said, is leading to insolvency in that fund. This would not lead to the UEGF, he said, because the individual would have affirmed up front he is not an employee. Rep. Nelson wondered who would pay a claim in these cases. Sholley explained if the employer is insured and the employee determined to be an employee, the employer’s insurance would have paid. In the trucking company example, he said, SWIF would pay. If the employee is determined to be an independent contractor, then he would pay. He pointed out the individual may have other insurances, like hospitalization coverage or first-party benefit coverage. Rep. Nelson was concerned that if there are no personal medical benefits, the person will fall on the state in one way or another. Sholley pointed out the person could choose to purchase first-party benefit insurance or medical insurance. Marshall added a person can purchase WC coverage, too. “They can, but in reality they don’t,” Rep. Nelson responded. Marshall explained that is why it is important to address the uncertainty upfront and an individual would know they would be responsible for their own coverage. Rep. Nelson asked if the bill requires the individual to have another form of insurance. The panelists replied in the negative.

Rep. Neilson recollected his experience working at L&I in 2007-09 and mentioned this became a problem as the department realized employers had dozens of employees they were calling independent contractors and that was bankrupting the UEGF. Shivers recalled a law that allowed sole proprietors to purchase WC and discussed the responsibility on the contractors and the people they are working with. He said a level of education is needed for businesses that are doing contracting work. Rep. Neilson asked if that’s something that should be fixed before this; requiring all independents to require WC. Shivers disagreed the committee needs to go that far and said it should be up to the individual company to say whether they have the coverage and let the employer decide whether to enter into the contract. He said this is about letting the judge know they are free from control, but reiterated his belief the bill is only a first step toward a resolution. Rep. Neilson wondered if a more comprehensive piece of legislation is needed to address all the outstanding questions. Shivers again referenced the Arizona law and said it includes a declaration rendering the agreement null if it is subject to duress or similar circumstances. He argued a person seeing in plain language all that’s at stake may encourage thoughtfulness. Rep. Neilson then asked how the company would know if registration is revoked. Marshall replied the employer would file the registration and list all the individuals who have signed the attestation, so the department would have a record. Sholley acknowledged Rep. Neilson’s point, but argued requiring WC would do the individuals a disservice because the WC rate would be very expensive and only cover them while they are working. It would be better for them, he opined, to use that money to purchase health insurance, disability, or other items that cover them 24/7. Rep. Neilson agreed on that point and suggested requiring other types of insurance instead.

Rep. Keller pointed out that page 2, line 27 of the bill requires the department to confirm receipt of revocation. He said the bill would eliminate grey areas so everyone understands the nature of the agreement. He then asked if the presumption language needs to go further. Shivers remarked some “belts and suspenders” would clarify what the bill is seeking to do.

Chairman Galloway asked if this would supersede existing law. Marshall replied that in filing an attestation, “your word is

your bond” and the person cannot come back and say they were an employee. Chairman Galloway wondered if current law needs to be repealed. The panelists replied in the negative. Marshall pointed out this would not apply in all circumstances; it applies where individual and employer have filed an attestation. Rep. Keller agreed, stating this is to make sure there are no grey areas for those who want to be clear. Shivers argued this actually strengthens the act governing misclassification.

Rep. Dush appreciated suggestions to look to Arizona and was glad to see efforts underway to improve the law.

Rep. Miller asked if this would be one form to be used in all these arrangements. Marshall confirmed this would be done by L&I. Rep. Miller asked if the bill requires the department to make that form. Rep. Keller referred him to page 2, line 9. Rep. Miller wondered if this would have to be *the form* used in every circumstance. Marshall agreed, but pointed out that a person *may file* at their choice. Rep. Miller asked if it should be a “may.” The panelists nodded and Marshall suggested a forward-thinking employer and individual would want to file and clarify the relationship. He was hopeful this would become the standard of relations.

Rep. Keller clarified that a general contractor with subcontractors that normally have coverage of their own; there is no need for this.

Rep. Krueger-Braneky wondered what happens if an individual is injured during the period between filing revocation and the revocation taking effect. Shivers replied it would follow the current process and they could make a claim with the department. He said the bill is trying to get at situations where two people are contracting together to get a service done, but sought clarity for when someone does get injured. Marshall added “one of the great virtues of the bill” is that it educates both sides up front. He said there is currently a presumption that someone who gets hurt will be covered, but that’s not necessarily the case and they often learn of that uncertainty only once they’re injured. This allows them to prepare in advance, he argued.

[Michael Vovakes](#), deputy secretary for compensation and insurance at the Department of Labor and Industry (L&I), raised some concerns with the legislation. “A lot of this is legal stuff,” he quipped, and explained firstly that the department sees a conflict with current law and case law and secondly the bill would create confusion for stakeholders in the WC system. He also noted the lack of definition of “independent contractor.” Vovakes anticipated that this would be litigated “heavily.” Regarding implementation, he commented that the increased volume for the mailroom causes him “operational angst” as only two people work in the mailroom. He speculated that more hiring would be necessary and suggested the best way to do this would be electronically through enhancements in the WC system, but that would take time to implement.

Rep. Neilson asked about the burden this would put on the department. Vovakes guessed that a few more employees would be needed in the mailroom and ball-parked the cost for them at \$140,000. He said his instinct is to automate, but guessed that would take eight months to do and cost about \$400,000. Rep. Neilson asked how many cases the legislation would affect. Vovakes did not have a guess.

Rep. Dush remarked businesses want simplification and suggested WC judges would have to rule based on legislative intent and the law, and said this will alter case law “to good effect.” He said this would address situations where a person makes a conscious decision to be an independent contractor and then changes their mind to place the costs on employers. Vovakes suggested sections 103 and 104 of the WC Act define employee and employer and those need to be looked at as a part of this.

Rep. Cephas asked if L&I has looked at the Arizona model. Vovakes referred the question to the Compensation Rating Board. He was not familiar with the Arizona law, but mentioned Delaware assumes all workers are employees and argued that would be the most straightforward model. He indicated Delaware is happy with that model and opined it simplifies their system.

Rep. Keller wondered if this would save money on the back-end by lowering the caseload. Vovakes did not know, speculating that judges would do what they do now and look at each case on its own merits.

[Bill Taylor](#), president of the Pennsylvania Compensation Rating Bureau (PCRB), called bills of this nature “great” and said PCRB is “by and large” neutral on the bill, noting its role is to oversee the process once it is in place. He said registration would help those businesses that are on the same page to agree, but he emphasized this not a “be all end all” because

they are many situations that this bill does not address. He offered some concerns that a bigger picture is emerging relating to the gig-economy and up to seven states have enacted laws to “uncuff” independent contractors. He opined some of that is in the wrong direction and said the bill “does a lot of great things but on the other hand maybe doesn’t go far enough.”

Rep. Cephas restated her question and said she, too, was thinking about the effect of moving toward contracting. She asked if Taylor is familiar with the Arizona and Delaware models. Taylor was not familiar with Arizona, but mentioned about nine states have certification or registration processes and said in all cases disputes do arise and often challenges are upheld in the interest of the injured worker. Regarding Delaware, he said they are unique because they require everyone in the marketplace to have coverage. Rep. Cephas asked which state Pennsylvania should model. Taylor offered to research that, but said no jurisdiction has really addressed this with broad satisfaction, but suggested there is merit to the Delaware model. Rep. Cephas asked which nine states and Taylor offered to submit that information to the committee.

Written testimony was submitted by:

- [General Contractors Association of Pennsylvania](#)
- [Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors National Association](#)



House Health Committee

4/16/18, 12:00 p.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

By Nicole Trayer, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider legislation.

[HB 1659 Tobash, Mike](#) - (PN 2227) Amends the Human Services Code, in general powers and duties, providing for work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by establishing the department may not apply for, accept, or renew a waiver of requirements established under section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 without prior approval of the General Assembly and requiring adult recipients to comply with and submit proof of compliance with various work requirements as a condition of participation and continuing eligibility for food assistance. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was **reported as amended** with all Democrats voting in the negative except Rep. Gerald Mullery (D-Luzerne).

[A06478](#) by Knowles, would limit the provisions of the bill to apply only to able-bodied adults without dependents. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Rep. Pamela DeLissio (D-Philadelphia) asked if the amendment is the same as the federal regulation. Nicole Sidle, research analyst for the committee, said yes. Rep. DeLissio asked the need for adopting the amendment since it is already in the federal regulations. Sidle said the intent is for the legislation to be directed towards a limited group of individuals.

Sidle explained that federal work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) were set in 1996, but that states do have the ability to opt out and receive a waiver. She added that Pennsylvania has currently chosen to do so with 59 counties and 10 cities waived from the work requirements. Moving forward, she said if the governor’s office sought to waive additional counties they would first need prior approval from the General Assembly under this legislation.

Rep. DeLissio clarified the number of counties waived. Sidle said 59 counties and 10 cities. Rep. DeLissio asked how long the waiver is for. Sidle said it must be renewed annually. Rep. DeLissio wanted to know if the counties have provided input as to how they feel about the General Assembly approving the request for a waiver. Sidle said the Department of Human Services (DHS) is currently responsible for deciding which counties receive a waiver based on the unemployment rate in that county and then DHS submits those numbers annually to the federal government in order to receive approval. Rep. DeLissio said if the unemployment rate is high in that county then the work requirement is “counterintuitive” because citizens are being asked to do something that may be difficult to accomplish. Rep. Mike Tobash (R-Schuylkill), prime sponsor of the bill, said Pennsylvania currently has a low unemployment rate and a need for a strong workforce which drives the push for able-bodied citizens to get themselves and Pennsylvania out of a cycle of poverty.

Rep. Mary Jo Daley (D-Montgomery) asked which counties and cities have received a waiver. Sidle said currently the counties that are not exempt include Allegheny, Lancaster, Chester, York, Cumberland, Berks and Montgomery. Rep. Tobash pointed out that 16 counties were added to the list at the start of the year. Sidle said the list of municipalities includes Lancaster, Penn Hills, McKeesport, Pottstown, Reading, York City, West Mifflin, Springettsbury Township, and York Township.

Rep. Stephen Kinsey (D-Philadelphia) asked how much the bill would cost the Commonwealth if implemented and whether Pennsylvania is at risk of losing federal dollars since it is a federally funded program. Whitney Metzler, executive director of the committee, said there is no risk of losing federal dollars since the bill mirrors federal restrictions on work requirements. She added that it may cost some additional dollars for education and training programs that must be included in the work requirements as well as some administrative dollars. Rep. Kinsey asked for a number regarding the additional dollars. Metzler said she did not have those numbers, but that a fiscal note would be provided after the bill passes second consideration. Rep. Tobash said other states are moving in this direction and gave the example of Maine where the 7,000 citizens who left the program had an increase in earnings by \$3.85 million.

Rep. Ed Gainey (D-Allegheny) said he has seen statistics that show work requirements have not been beneficial and wanted to know why the legislature should pursue an avenue that has not “rendered any type of positivity in regards to work requirements.” Rep. Tobash said there are some negative effects as well as “overwhelming positive effects.” He added that the reason he brought the legislation forward is due to the state’s “excellent opportunity for growth” and the need for able-bodied individuals without dependents to be working and not “choose a welfare roll.” Rep. Gainey said his question was more from a budgetary standpoint and wanted to know if the state would be gaining money or wasting money. He also asked if there is education and training dollars available in this bill to create more “slots for opportunity.” Rep. Tobash said this bill goes back to the federal requirement and does not include additional slots.

Rep. Judith Ward (R-Blair) clarified that if an individual could not find a job then they could perform 24 hours of community service per month. Sidle said that is correct.

Rep. Brad Roae (R-Crawford) said this is not an appropriations bill and that it is just a “common sense bill.” He pointed out that volunteering provides opportunities for networking, building job skills and making connections that lead to a paying job. “We want to encourage people to work and become taxpayers,” he said.

Rep. Mike Schlossberg (D-Lehigh) said he is “uncomfortable” assuming the General Assembly can do a better job of knowing a county’s workforce and needs than the local county government. He asked why the legislation seeks to “usurp” local control. Rep. Tobash said Pennsylvania is quickly moving down the path of exempting every municipality and that with the state’s current low unemployment rate it is important to have able-bodied citizens without dependents working.

Chairman Kathy Rapp (R-Warren) said within the special education community there is an Individualized Education Program (IEP) transition plan for each individual beginning at the age of 14 to assist students and their families with looking towards life after high school to ensure they can transition into some type of “meaningful work.” She also mentioned the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation that assists those with disabilities with entering the workforce. She said she asks for an affirmative vote on this bill.

Rep. Vanessa Lowery Brown (D-Philadelphia) offered her perspective as someone who has received welfare and SNAP benefits. She said this bill sounds good on paper, but would be difficult for individuals to actually go through the process and implement. She brought up concerns regarding transportation and the potential for an individual to lose their SNAP and food stamp benefits if they cannot travel to their assignment.

Rep. Knowles said he would disagree with Rep. Brown and that it is “very simple” and “reasonable” for an individual to either work or volunteer.

[HB 1997 Bernstine, Aaron \(F\)](#) - (PN 2864) Amends the Human Services Code adding a new section requiring the Department of Human Services to establish a deemed eligibility program for in-patient behavioral health services. Also requires the department to issue a medical assistance bulletin which contains the Commonwealth policies and procedures necessary to implement this new section; to apply for any necessary Federal waivers and maximize the use of Federal money for the purposes to implementing the program; and issue an annual report to the General Assembly. Effective in 60 days. - The bill

was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A06526](#) by DeLissio, replaces a typographical error. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Rep. Eli Evankovich (R-Westmoreland) asked how the bill would impact individuals who have been recently arrested or are awaiting arraignment and cannot proceed with their court hearing until they are seen by a mental health facility. Metzler said if the corrections facility has completed the process to be deemed a qualified entity then they could do the deemed status evaluation prior to providing services and receiving reimbursement from the Commonwealth. Otherwise, she said they would be required to provide health care and individuals who are being held pending trial are still eligible for medical assistance benefits so they are able to go through the standard medical assistance eligibility protocol as well, but the correctional facility would have to have itself deemed a “qualified entity.” Rep. Evankovich asked whether the petition is made by the individual or providing facility. Metzler said the qualified entity would assist with having the application process done for the patient.

Rep. DeLissio said mental health services is a “huge area” where an individual can potentially be discharged one day without any follow-up services because their Medicaid is not in place and that providers are unable to apply for those Medicaid benefits while the individual is in the facility. “This is a huge step forward,” she said.



House Appropriations Committee

4/16/18, 1:50 p.m., 140 Main Capitol

By Kimberly Howells, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider legislation.

[HB 25 Mackenzie, Ryan](#) - (PN 188) The CareerBound Act provides for the creation and implementation of up to seven school-to-work pilot programs in the Department of Labor and Industry, to be known as CareerBound, and provides a tax credit to businesses that participate in the program. A school-to-work pilot program shall expire at the end of the fourth school year of operation and the department shall issue a report on the programs following their expiration. Requires program partners to set objectives and measurable goals; requires Department of Labor and Industry to set outcome-based metrics used to evaluate all programs in annual and final reports; allows contributing businesses to designate which program their contributions would support; enumerates and allows Pennsylvania institutions of higher learning to participate in CareerBound; includes “soft skills” in curriculum requirements; gives priority to programs targeting middle school and early high school students; and clarifies that the Department of Labor and Industry and the Pennsylvania Department of Education must provide program partners with informational resources. Requires additional consideration be given to a pilot program which is integrated into a school partner’s curriculum as a credit course. Effective Immediately. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 163 Saccone, Rick](#) - (PN 3327) Amends Title 4 (Amusements), Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), Title 23 (Domestic Relations) and Title 75 (Vehicles) eliminating the driver’s license suspension for multiple non-driving infractions. Effective in 180 days. (Prior Printer Number: 127, 3123) - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 564 Boback, Karen](#) - (PN 3298) Amends the Public School Code adding a new section providing for assessment of civic knowledge. Requires each school entity, beginning with the 2020-21 school year to administer at least once to each student during grades seven through twelve a locally developed assessment of United States history, government and civics. Provides the school entity shall determine the form of the assessment and the manner in which the assessment shall be administered and may administer at the conclusion of the course of study required under section 1605 (a) or at the conclusion of another related course or instructional unit. Allows a school entity to use the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services test to satisfy this requirement. Requires the Department of Education to post website links to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services test and any related resources offered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services plus any additional materials the department deems useful to school entities in complying with the requirements. Also requires the department to conduct an electronic survey of each school entity at the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 589) - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 645 O'Neill, Bernie](#) - (PN 1695) Amends the Tax Reform Code, in neighborhood assistance tax credit, further providing for tax credit and for grant of tax credit and providing for reporting. The bill changes the dollar limit of tax credit granted for programs approved under the act from \$18 million to \$36 million and establishes that on the effective date of the subsection, no additional tax credits shall be granted under the article. The Department Of Community and Economic Development shall issue a report within 12 months of the effective date and each five years thereafter including a funding evaluation of the neighborhood assistance program and recommendations for the tax credit, submitted to each Finance committee. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 688) - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1228 English, Hal](#) - (PN 3299) Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, providing for sun protection of students, including the application of nonprescription sunscreen. Each school entity shall allow the following during school hours, at a school-sponsored activity or while under the supervision of school personnel: (1) The outdoor use by students of sun-protective clothing, including, but not limited to, a hat; and (2) The possession, application and use by a student of a nonaerosol topical sunscreen product without a physician's note or prescription if the Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter use for the purpose of limiting ultraviolet light-induced skin damage and the parent and guardian of the student submits a form provided by the school entity to the appropriate school personnel. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1455) - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1240 Marshall, Jim](#) - (PN 3329) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) in certificate of title and security interests, further providing for content and effect of certificate of title and for theft vehicles, and making and editorial change. Establishes a threshold that triggers the need to retitle and establishes provisions for self-insurers. Also provides for theft vehicles, establishing that if the cost of repairs exceeds the replacement value of the vehicle, the theft-branded certificate of salvage shall serve as an ownership document. If the vehicle thereafter passes the reconstructed salvage vehicle inspection requirements, it shall receive a certificate of title branded reconstructed and recovered-theft vehicle. Effective in 180 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1474, 3124) - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 2030 Bernstine, Aaron \(F\)](#) - (PN 3009) Amends Title 8 (Boroughs & Incorporated Towns), in manufacture and supply of electricity, further providing for specific powers and providing for security deposits, for payment agreements and for restrictions on termination; and making an editorial change. The bill establishes that a borough, through its governing body, shall have the power to regulate the use of and the charge for electricity furnished by the borough, if situate in more than one county, for use by residents in those counties. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was **reported as committed** with Republicans and Rep. Marty Flynn (D-Lackawanna) voting in the affirmative.

[HB 2050 Turzai, Mike](#) - (PN 3034) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in abortion, defining "Down syndrome" and further providing for medical consultation and judgment by stipulating that no abortion shall be deemed necessary if sought exclusively for either or both of the following reasons: (1) The sex of the unborn child; and (2) A prenatal diagnosis of, or belief that the unborn child has, Down syndrome. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was **reported as committed** with Republicans and Minority Chairman Joe Markosek (D-Allegheny) voting in the affirmative.

[HB 2138 Dowling, Matthew \(F\)](#) - (PN 3328) Amends the Human Services Code, in public assistance, providing for work requirements. The bill requires the secretary to apply to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a demonstration program under section 1115 of the Social Security Act in order to institute a work requirement for a Medicaid enrollee who meets certain criteria. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 3158) - The bill was **reported as committed** with Republicans voting in the affirmative.

Chairman Markosek asked for a negative vote, stating he would save "more extensive comments" for the Floor. Chairman Stan Saylor (R-York) asked for an affirmative vote.



Senate Appropriations Committee

4/16/18, 2:45 p.m., Rules Committee Conference Room

By Andre Dienner, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider legislation.

[SB 435 Boscola, Lisa](#) - (PN 612) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in miscellaneous provisions, requiring a driver to make a reasonable effort to remove snow or ice from the vehicle within 24 hours of the cessation of the falling snow or ice. The bill provides for exceptions and penalties. Provides this amendatory act shall be known as "Christine's Law." Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 426) - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Sen. Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland) wondered if the bill is only applicable if the vehicle is being moved, which Chairman Patrick Browne (R-Lehigh) confirmed.

Chairman Browne noted the fiscal impact is dependent on the number of violations, convictions and fines imposed by the Magisterial District Judge but if assuming 50 violations without death or serious bodily injury and a fine of \$50, there would be an increase in revenue of \$2,500.

[SB 742 Greenleaf, Stewart](#) - (PN 1162) Amends the Sexual Assault Testing and Evidence Collection Act further providing for rights of sexual assault victims. The bill establishes the right not to be prevented from, or charged for, receiving a medical forensic examination. It also defines "sexual assault counselor." Requires the appropriate official with custody of the collection kit to collaborate with a sexual assault counselor to employ best practices when notifying a victim of information pertinent to the victim. Also requires the Attorney General, in consultation with the Office of Victim Advocate, the State Police and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, to develop a standard protocol for notifying victims. The Attorney General, State Police and Office of Victim Advocate shall post the standard protocol on the internet. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 909) - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Sen. Stewart Greenleaf (R-Montgomery) explained this bill along with SB 915, SB 916, SB 1070, SB 1071, and SB 1072 is a legislative package consisting of work since 2012 as a result of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative and Department of Corrections (DOC) data shows the reforms could result in \$400 million in cost avoidance. He elaborated the bills provide for a sexual assault survivors bill of rights in the wake of adopted federal law. Sen. Greenleaf summarized the bill allows victims to know what is going on throughout the case and have access to some resources such as examination, and is supported by the Pennsylvania Attorney General and Office of Victim Advocate.

[SB 915 Greenleaf, Stewart](#) - (PN 1534) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary) adding a new subchapter relating to Victim and Witness Outreach. Also amends section 9545 relating to jurisdiction and proceedings extending the time period from 60 days to one year for a person bringing a petition for a post-conviction relief action. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Sen. Greenleaf explained the bill deals with collateral appeals by adding additional time and is part of the legislative package.

[SB 916 Greenleaf, Stewart](#) - (PN 1535) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in post-trial matters, further providing for postconviction DNA testing. The stated intent is to update the law by removing the supervision requirement, allowing those who plead guilty to access testing, requiring the Commonwealth to identify all physical evidence in a case, allowing testing when new DNA testing technology becomes available, and matching with DNA profiles the FBI's DNA database. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Sen. Greenleaf summarized the bill deals with DNA testing for determining innocence and language was reached in negotiation with the District Attorneys Association and Pennsylvania Innocence Project, both of which support the bill.

[SB 1041 Bartolotta, Camera](#) - (PN 1484) Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in veteran-owned small businesses, requiring the department to design two official logotypes for use by veteran-owned small businesses and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Sen. Camera Bartolotta (R-Washington) summarized the logo would function similar to a Better Business Bureau logo or award at the physical location of the business and an amendment for implementation is being worked on to offer on the floor.

[SB 1070 Greenleaf, Stewart](#) - (PN 1554) Amends the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law establishing the County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee; providing for justice reinvestment grants, phase 2 and for continuing county probation and parole grants; making an appropriation; and making a related repeal. The Justice Reinvestment Fund will be utilized to support programs and activities to improve the delivery of criminal justice services and for fiscal years 2019-2023 the Office of the Budget shall develop a formula to calculate the amount of savings to the Department of Corrections in the prior fiscal year. The calculation shall include: (1) implementation of short sentence parole under 61 Pa.C.S. 6137.5 (relating to short sentence parole); (2) increased use of the state drug treatment program under 61 Pa.C.S. Ch. 41 (relating to state drug treatment program); or (3) use of sanctions for technical parole violations under 61 Pa.C.S. 6138(C)(8) (relating to violation of terms of parole). The following amounts shall be deposited into the Justice Reinvestment Fund: (1) In fiscal year 2018-2019, an amount of \$3,700,000; (2) In fiscal year 2019-2020, an amount not to exceed the greater of \$3,700,000 or 100 percent of the amount determined to be savings in the prior fiscal year; (3) In fiscal year 2020-2021, an amount not to exceed the greater of \$10,250,000 or 50 percent of the amount determined to be savings in the prior fiscal year; and (4) In fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, an amount in each year not to exceed the greater of \$20,250,000 or 50 percent of the amount determined to be savings in the prior fiscal year. For fiscal years 2018-2023, \$250,000 shall be distributed to the commission for the purpose of crime victim compensation and \$500,000 shall be distributed to the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing to implement risk assessment and justice reinvestment sentencing features. The remaining deposits shall be distributed to the commission for formula funding to county probation and parole departments, as advised by the County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee. For fiscal years 2017-2023, \$16,222,000 shall be appropriated to the commission for the purpose of formula funding to county probation and parole departments, as advised by the County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee; for fiscal year 2023-2024, that figure is increased to \$35,722,000; and thereafter it shall be adjusted according to the CPI. This bill is part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1525) - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Sen. Greenleaf discussed the Justice Reinvestment Initiative initiated by the Council of State Governments and listed a myriad of organizations in support of the bill, including DOC. He reiterated a potential \$400 million in cost avoidance as a result of the reforms, with no increase in crime rates.

[SB 1071 Greenleaf, Stewart](#) - (PN 1555) Amends Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 61 (Prisons and Parole), in judicial boards and commissions, further providing for powers and duties, for adoption of guidelines for sentencing, for adoption of guidelines for county intermediate punishment, for adoption of guidelines for State intermediate punishment and for adoption of risk assessment instrument; in sentencing, further providing for sentencing generally, for order of probation, for sentence of partial confinement, for sentence of total confinement, for sentence of county intermediate punishment, for information required upon commitment and subsequent disposition, for modification or revocation of order of probation, for court-imposed sanctions for offenders violating probation, for modification or revocation of county intermediate punishment sentence and for revocation of State intermediate punishment sentence; in county intermediate punishment, further providing for county intermediate punishment programs and for continued eligibility; in motivational boot camp, further providing for definitions, for selection of inmate participants and for motivational boot camp program; in State intermediate punishment, further providing scope of chapter, for definitions, for referral to State intermediate punishment program, for drug offender treatment program and for reports; in recidivism risk reduction incentive, further providing for definitions, for evaluation and for reports; in Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, further providing for definitions, for advisory committee, for general powers of board, for probation services, for parole power, providing for short sentence parole, further providing for violation of terms of parole and for parole procedure; and making conforming amendments. This bill is part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Portions are effective in 60 days, portions are effective in 120 days and the remainder is effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 1526) - The bill was **reported as committed** with Sen. Wayne Langerholc (R-Cambria) voting in the negative.

[SB 1072 Greenleaf, Stewart](#) - (PN 1586) Amends the Crime Victims Act, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in crime victims, further providing for rights, for responsibilities of victims of crime under basic bill of rights, for responsibilities of State and local law enforcement agencies and for responsibilities of prosecutor's office; in administration,

further providing for office, for powers and duties of victim advocate and for powers and duties of Office of Victims' Services; in compensation, further providing for persons eligible for compensation, for filing of claims for compensation, for minimum allowable claim, for determination of claims, for emergency awards, for awards and for confidentiality of records; in services, further providing for eligibility of victims; in financial matters, further providing for costs and for costs for offender supervision programs; and, in enforcement, further providing for subrogation. This bill is part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1527) - The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A06230](#) by Hughes, is a technical amendment. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

Sen. Greenleaf noted SB 1072 is the last bill being voted on today as part of the legislative package. He thanked Chairman Browne for joining the Senate Judiciary Committee for collaboration in drafting the legislation.

Chairman Browne agreed significant work occurred in the area and long term sustainable ideas are needed to help with the budget.

[SB 1090 Corman, Jake](#) - (PN 1583) Amends Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in offenses involving danger to the person, providing for antihazing and prescribing penalties; in forfeiture of assets, further providing for asset forfeiture; and making a related repeal. The bill adds a chapter to Title 18 on antihazing, defines the offense of hazing, and provides for aggravated hazing, organizational hazing, and institutional hazing. Institutions and secondary schools shall adopt policies against hazing and appropriate penalties for hazing. Title 42 is amended to provide for asset forfeiture for aggravated hazing. Effective in 30 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 866 Dunbar, George](#) - (PN 972) Amends the Local Tax Enabling Act, in local taxes, further providing for definitions, for payroll tax and for payment of tax to other political subdivisions or states as credit or deduction and withholding tax; in consolidated collection of local income taxes, further providing for definitions, for declaration and payment of income taxes, for tax collection committees, for powers and duties of department, for powers and duties of tax officer and for withholding and remittance; and, in collection of delinquent taxes, further providing for penalties and for costs of collection of delinquent per capita, occupation, occupational privilege, emergency and municipal services, local services and income taxes. The stated intent of the bill is to provide clarification that taxpayers with no income will not be required to file a local return, to insert clear and concise safe harbor language for estimated taxes, provide oversight of the local Tax Collection Committee, clarify tax withholdings for temporary job assignments, provide W2 reporting requirements, define non-resident, and provide that audits of taxes received and disbursed shall be on a calendar year basis only. Provides that beginning January 1, 2020, no political subdivision, tax collection committee or tax officer in administering this act may use any form other than that which is promulgated by the department. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was **reported as committed** with Senators Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne) and Judy Schwank (D-Berks) voting in the negative.

Sen. Baker communicated concern with the bill from townships and voiced hope for amendments, but stated that concern will result in her negative vote with hope to work with township supervisors to address problems.

[HB 1869 Mackenzie, Ryan](#) - (PN 2592) The Maternal Mortality Review Act establishes the Maternal Mortality Review Committee to conduct a multidisciplinary review of maternal deaths and develop recommendations for the prevention of future maternal deaths and provides for its powers and duties; provides for duties of the Department of Health; and imposes a penalty. Effective in 90 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.



Senate State Government Committee

4/16/18, 10:45 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

By Jeff Cox, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a public hearing on proposed civil service reform legislation.

[SB 1037 Folmer, Mike](#) - (PN 1473) Amends Title 71 (State Government) consolidating the Civil Service Act and providing for civil service reform in the areas of merit-based hiring, civil service applications, certification, examinations and promotions; and making related repeals. The addition of the sections relating to temporary regulations and transfer of records shall take effect immediately⁷. The remainder shall take effect in nine months.

Chairman Folmer, prime sponsor of the bill, said it is an effort to continue the modernization of the Pennsylvania State Civil Service Commission which started with the passage of [Act 69 of 2016](#) and [Act 167 of 2016](#). He also said the intent of the proposed legislation is to provide additional modernizations to better meet customers' needs. Chairman Folmer explained the bill will transfer hiring responsibilities from the Civil Service Commission to the Office of Administration, including merit-based hiring, civil service applications, certifications, examinations, and promotions. He pointed out that although Senate Bill 1037 proposes to move hiring to the Office of Administration merit-based hiring would not be affected as agencies would continue to hire people based on their qualifications. Chairman Folmer also indicated that agencies and professions currently covered by merit-hiring would continue to be subject to merit-hiring. He emphasized that Senate Bill 1037 "makes no changes to veterans' preference as this is a separate law." Chairman Folmer noted that many of the proposed changes included in the bill are not new and have been introduced in previous legislative sessions.

Regarding Act 69 and Act 167, [Sen. Randy Vulakovich](#) (R-Allegheny), co-sponsor of the bill, commented, "Despite these reforms, we continue to hear horror stories about the Civil Service hiring process - namely about how long it takes to go through the process.

[Bryan Lentz](#) Chairman, Pennsylvania State Civil Service Commission, stated, "The Commission is committed to any modernization effort that preserves the essential elements of the merit employment system." He added, "These essential elements include independence and vigorous enforcement of the veterans' preference." Lentz reported, "In the past year, the Commission has devoted hundreds of staff hours to the implementation of vacancy based hiring through a new online employment application system contracted by the Governor's Office of Administration and hosted by NEOGOV, Inc." He announced, "In exactly one week, NEOGOV will go live and job seekers will be able to apply in real time on their smart phone or other device for actual vacancies as they become available." Lentz discussed the steps taken by the Commission to modernize and implement the changes as provided under Act 69 and Act 167. He noted all of the actions required by those acts have been completed. Lentz also discussed the Commission's efforts to enforce veterans' preference and to address the interest of disabled Pennsylvanians.

Regarding the proposed legislation, Lentz cautioned, "The proposed legislation would undo over one hundred years of reform efforts that led to the creation of an independent merit employment system here in Pennsylvania. A system by which all Commonwealth job seekers can compete and have an equal opportunity to obtain gainful employment based entirely on demonstrated experiences and not on whom you know." He argued the legislation will eliminate the Commission's current authority to initiate independent investigations into hiring and promoting actions resulting from complaints filed by the public, job seekers, current state employees, hiring authorities, legislative offices and others and will suspend any outside review of the Commonwealth's merit service hiring processes and procedures for an initial three-year period after passage.

[Odelfa Smith Preston](#), commissioner, Pennsylvania State Civil Service Commission, reported the commission reviewed the submitted testimony relating to a disabled individual with a service dog. She explained the Commission research the complaints made against the Commission. According to Preston, they did an extensive search and cannot find any evidence that the individual in question ever applied for a position. She indicated they will continue to look but have not found any information. Preston also said that submitted testimony from the Pennsylvania Client Assistance Program (CAP) stated that "the civil service process itself created barriers at every step for applicants with disabilities." She noted that of the ten barriers listed in their testimony; only two are under the control of the Civil Service Commission, the application and the testing. Preston told lawmakers, "At no time has the Commission rejected the responsibility to support the disabled community and through this legislation and through other discussions we have had multiple discussions with organizations that support

or represent the disabled community and we have expressed explicit support for alternative pathways to employment for people with disabilities but we lack the administrative or legal authority to create an alternative path.” She indicated the authority lies with the Office of Administration. Preston pointed out that over one half of the Commission’s exams are no longer written exams. Preston indicated they are moving in the direction to experience and training evaluations and exams. She pointed out every accommodation is reviewed but not every accommodation can be granted.

Lentz reported the Commission continues to work on disability issues. According to Lentz, the federal government has a set aside program for jobs that are set aside for people with intellectual disabilities. He said the Commission cannot do it but they “100 percent support it” and would be happy to administer it.

Sen. Vulakovich commented that the Commission “resisted on almost everything” after the previous legislation was enacted. He indicated the Commission has implemented those reforms and he wanted to know if those reforms have been good. Lentz explained that the transfer to NEOGOV began in February, 2017. He said there was no resistance on his part. He asserted, “NEOGOVS is not the holy grail that it has been portrayed as.” Lentz said it has taken time but it is not because of anything the Commission has done. Regarding the expansion of the Rule of Three, Lentz commented that he is not sure it was “a good thing,” He also reported the Commission immediately began the email application. Lentz told Sen. Vulakovich, “We are working as best we can within the rules you have given us to try to continue to enforce the rules but we were not resisting it for any purpose. We were slowing it down for no other reason than to make sure that when it did go active it wasn’t going to result in a manipulation of the hiring system.”

Sen. Vulakovich observed that Lentz “has been doing a lot of lecturing today as far as politicians and what they are trying to do here.” Noting the two Veterans Affairs committees are “the most bipartisan committees”, Sen. Vulakovich stated, “With your discussions with the veterans, everything is about this is going to hurt them thereby we are trying to hurt them.” He added, “I personally take offense to that.” Lentz responded, “I don’t see how this bill improves that process.” He continued, “This idea that we have some other motivation. I want to clear the air on that; I have no other motivation.” Lentz asserted, “I don’t need this position and I don’t need to be here today.” He stated, “I am here today because I think this bill is a grab.” Lentz argued that “bipartisanship” means “power is grabbed from independent agencies and given to people who want to use it for their own purposes.” He concluded, “You want to question my motives, I question the motives of the legislature and wanting to take control of the hiring process.”

Chairman Folmer wanted to know how long it takes a person who wants to take a state job and get one from the date of application to the first day on the job. Lentz responded that it varies. He said that the Commission has supported vacancy-based hiring for a long time and it goes into effect next week. Lentz commented that it should accelerate the process. He indicated the reason for delays is a person will sit on a list for a long time. Lentz said “list life is a problem.”

Chairman Folmer asked for the number of employees working at the Commission. Lentz responded, “87.” Chairman Folmer then asked how many are involved in the hiring process and how many are involved in the appeals from employment decisions including auditing compliance with the existing Civil Service Act. Lentz said the Commission will get the exact numbers to the committee. Chairman Folmer wanted to know if the Commission’s budget is almost exclusively from assessments of state agencies for services rendered to these agencies. Lentz responded, “Yes.” Chairman Folmer then asked if an agency is dissatisfied with the Commission’s service for any reason, what recourse is available to that agency. Lentz explained that the Commission has an emphasis on being responsive.

Chairman Folmer wanted to know how many counties currently rely on the Commission to assist them with their hiring. Gregory Lane, commissioner, Pennsylvania State Civil Service Commission, responded, “50.” He added that the number fluctuates and they will provide the committee with a more accurate number. Chairman Folmer requested information on how many counties utilized their services five years ago and ten years ago. Lentz responded they would provide that information. Chairman Folmer commented that information from the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) indicated more than 20 counties no longer utilize the services of the Civil Service Commission. He wanted to know why those counties made that decision. Lentz indicated that one of the major complaints is they are getting stale lists and when you are hiring stale lists are not useful. He said that the vacancy-based process should dramatically improve that.

Chairman Folmer noted the Commission’s annual report states the Commission has seven examination centers. He wanted to know the average cost for operating the centers. Lentz said he will get the information. Chairman Folmer asked if the

number of centers has decreased over time. Lentz responded that it has decreased which he attributed to the Commission giving less written exams. Lane added that the Allentown center closed a handful of years ago and they have seen the demand for that location be shifted to Harrisburg and Philadelphia. Chairman Folmer asked if the Commission has any plans to utilize technology to reduce the number of centers. Lane said that the shift away from written examinations will probably lead to the eventual elimination of the need for some test centers. Chairman Folmer wanted to know what measures the Commission uses to gauge their customers' wants, needs, and expectations. Lentz explained that they keep files of the compliments and complaints they receive from people. Chairman Folmer asked how the Commission knows they are changing quickly enough to meet their customers' wants, needs and expectations. Lentz responded that a majority of the people working for the Commonwealth were hired in the past ten years so "obviously we are succeeding in hiring people." He said, "That process seems to be working." Lentz also stated that it is a myth that a person cannot be fired from a civil service position in the Commonwealth. Chairman Folmer wanted to know the number one request from customers that the Commission has not been able to implement. Lentz expressed his belief that the number one issue is how long people sit on lists. He added a major complaint is they did not get a job.

Chairman Folmer asked Lentz if he would like to comment on Sec. Minnich's testimony that the Commission did not become responsive until the introduction of SB 1037. Preston explained that the reform legislation (Act 167) was drafted by the Commission after meeting with the human resources officers of the various agencies. She said those officers identified 40 areas of concern. Preston noted the Commission implemented their recommended changes that did not incur costs or require legislative change. Lentz pointed out that since February employees of the Commission have been meeting with Sec. Minnich's employees on a weekly basis and communicating on a daily basis. Chairman Folmer asked about CCAP's concern that the Commission has not implemented Act 69 and Act 167 and its proposed regulations were inconsistent with the legislative intent of the Acts in several areas. Lentz reported they met with the county commissioners in rewriting their regulations. He said the Commission has implemented Act 167 and they are cooperating in the implementation of NEOGOV.

[Sharon Minnich](#), Secretary, Office of Administration, expressed support on behalf of Governor Tom Wolf and OA for the changes outlined in SB 1037 in order to "maintain the merit system while allowing for modernization and improved efficiencies within the Commonwealth's personnel systems." She said OA has implemented a variety of initiatives in recent years to address the changes in the human resources field and align with best practices including the creation of a Next Generation Task Force to receive input on recruitment, retention and branding as well as the creation of a new internship program to allow an intern to be directly hired at the end of their internship. Other initiatives involve implementing vacancy-based postings for non-civil service jobs, launching a modern employment website, adding a "ban the box" policy to remove criminal history from job applications and consolidating all agency human resource offices into a unified office within the OA, she noted.

Sec. Minnich explained that the changes required by Acts 69 and 167 of 2016 were met with resistance by the State Civil Service Commission on topics such as agency exam selection, posting of job vacancies and the Rule of Three. She said the Commission withdrew proposed regulations and agreed to the conversion of written examinations to experience and training and the expansion of the Rule of Three upon the publication of the co-sponsorship memo for SB 1037. However, she stated the Commonwealth still has two personnel systems with duplication. This means there are two websites for interested applicants to view, two groups reviewing applications and completing background checks and two groups providing applicants to hiring managers for interviews, she explained. Additionally, Sec. Minnich addressed SB 1037's impact on merit hiring and said the bill does not change merit hiring principles, only who administers them. "The enactment of SB 1037 will allow us to be more transparent and more responsive," she said.

[David DeNotaris](#), executive director, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) said OVR experiences several difficulties working within the current state hiring processes, including the accessibility of applications. He noted that if tests are inaccessible it leads to many qualified applicants never being considered by state agencies as well as "significant delays in the identification and hiring of some qualified applicants." He added that the current testing requirement at designated locations discourages rural and other applicants who must travel. He expressed support for SB 1037 and said OVR has partnered with the Office of Administration to create an assistive technology learning community. The partnership led to the creation of an online assistive technology learning community listserv that allows state agencies to ask questions, resolve issues and collaborate on various digital matters, he noted. DeNotaris said SB 1037 is "consistent with OVR's mission of providing employment-related skills, services, and opportunities and otherwise leveling the playing field for individuals with

a disability.” He stated that many stakeholder groups have contacted OVR in support of developing an examination process that would improve opportunities for those with disabilities.

[General Eric Weller](#), deputy adjutant general, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), spoke on behalf of Adjutant General Anthony Carrelli and offered the DMVA's support for SB 1037. He noted that the most significant change within the bill is the transfer of the employment process, recruitment and retention to OA. He added that a more modern hiring process is necessary for DMVA to be more competitive especially in the hiring of nursing administrators, volunteer resource coordinators and registered nurses. He expressed concerns that the Commission will revert back to a lack of responsiveness in regards to modernizing the hiring process without the threat of legislation.

Chairman Folmer wanted to know how the proposed changes contained in the legislation are similar or not similar to the recent consolidation of information technology (IT) and human resources (HR) services of state agencies. Sec. Minnich said she believes the proposed changes align with what OA is doing with HR shared service initiative. She said SB 1037 allows OA to maintain merit-based hiring and maintain veterans' preference but still move into a shared service environment for recruit to hire so they can better serve the agencies and better serve the applicants. Chairman Folmer asked if SB 1037 becomes law does OA anticipate the timeline for hiring Commonwealth employees becoming longer or shorter. Sec. Minnich explained that the goal is to continue to drive the timeline down. She pointed out they have seen that on the non-civil service side. Chairman Folmer asked if OA would need to increase its number of employees to absorb the Commission's hiring responsibilities. Sec. Minnich responded that she does not believe there would be a need to increase the number of employees but they would absorb those individuals into a merit-based office.

Chairman Folmer then asked about the impact of the legislation on the OA budget. Sec. Minnich said OA is currently looking at their billing model so from a billing perspective they would have to compare OA's billing model with the Commission's model. Chairman Folmer asked how the legislation affects independent agencies that don't fall under the Governor's jurisdiction but have civil service employees among their hires. Sec. Minnich explained that right now OA currently serves independent boards and commissions for a variety of different functions and the legislation would not change that. Chairman Folmer asked what measures OA has implemented to gauge customers' wants, needs and expectations. According to Sec. Minnich, they have a variety of ways of getting feedback from their customers, including surveys.

Chairman Folmer wanted to know what will happen to the seven current exam centers if the legislation is enacted. Sec. Minnich responded that OA would have to look at it strategically from what sort of exams they have in the future. Chairman Folmer asked if there would be any cost savings if the bill is enacted. Sec. Minnich said that OA is constantly looking at ways to drive down costs but still produce the services the agencies and the applicants need. Chairman Folmer asked if OA anticipates their technology costs to increase if SB 1037 becomes law. Sec. Minnich said, “No.” Chairman Folmer wanted to know what changes in hiring would be implemented. Sec. Minnich explained that they would make sure there is no impact on the merit hiring processes.

Chairman Folmer asked how long under the current system it takes to hire a veteran from the date they apply for Commonwealth employment to the date they begin their Commonwealth employment. Weller responded that it depends on the position but it could take up to four or five months.

Chairman Folmer noted that in his testimony DeNotaris mentioned OVR has been contacted by several stakeholder groups in support of developing a flexible, responsive and accessible examination process. He wanted to know what steps OVR has taken in this regard. DeNotaris discussed how OVR has worked with OA and the State Civil Service Commission in the exam process. He noted that accessibility can be challenging.

[Keith Beebe](#), vice president, Pennsylvania War Veterans Council, said the council believes in its current form SB 1037 threatens the hiring process for veterans by reopening the door to the “patronage, cronyism and nepotism which once prevailed in state government employment.” He added that the bill would “rob” the Civil Service Commission of its testing, certification, compliance and enforcement functions. He said the OA is seeking to eliminate testing requirements and replace them with resumes, but noted that testing requirements allow the common person a chance to compete fairly for all positions. Additionally, he expressed concerns that the OA would have the power to develop temporary regulations for a period of three years without Commission review putting the implementation of veterans' preference at risk. Beebe stated that 70 percent of state government employees under the Governor's control are civil service employees and therefore, asserted that control

of personnel management should be returned to the Civil Service Commission. [Rich Hudzinski](#), member, Pennsylvania War Veterans Council, provided the committee with a copy of the council's review of the legislation.

Chairman Folmer commented that he did not recall the council having a problem with the 1998 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee study and the changes made in 2016. He wanted to know why the committee is being notified of their concerns now. Hudzinski explained that the council is not negative to the 1998 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee study. He said the council does not agree with providing merit-service to the Office of Administration. Hudzinski suggested there is a need for a step back and decide whether they want a merit service system or a non-merit service system. Chairman Folmer asked how the council and other veterans interface with the Commission and if they have similar interactions with OA. Hudzinski commented that the council was drawn into the discussion because of the issue of veterans' preference.

[Adelaide Grace](#), administrator, Monroe County Children and Youth Services, discussed her concerns with the State Civil Service Commission (SCSC) testing. She testified, "SCSC has provided us with a merit-based system of hiring that has been, at times, cumbersome and frustrating, but has also given participating counties the ability to hire merit-qualified employees without regard for outside pressures." Grace related some of her experiences and frustrations with the current system.

[Tiffany Bloyer](#), Human Resources Director, Franklin County, discussed her county's move from the SCSC to a Merit Hire System. She testified that since its implementation in July, 2015, the county has seen a significantly higher number of applicants which are of a much higher caliber and have a broader range of experience and diversity. Bloyer said, "Since moving to Merit Hire, we have had the opportunity to recruit from local colleges and universities and we have also had the opportunity to hire a more diverse workforce." She commented, "Moving to Merit Hire has been a great journey for Franklin County." Bloyer told lawmakers, "We have had the opportunity to make a difference in the community by having a more diverse workforce; provide a more realistic turnaround time, without losing great candidates due to the previous slow process of SCSC."

[George Hartwick](#) commissioner, Dauphin County, testified that Dauphin County was a civil service county until 2014 when it switched over to a merit-based system and they are now have the ability to hire individuals who are actually from their county. He discussed the positive impact of the switch has had on their hiring of employees.

Chairman Folmer asked Bloyer if SB 1037 would impact Franklin County if it was enacted. Bloyer responded, "I don't think so." Chairman Folmer then asked Grace if the incident last October she cited in her testimony was due to circumstances beyond the Commission's control. Grace said she did not know. Chairman Folmer asked the panel how they know civil service hiring would be better under OA instead of the SCSC. Grace commented they don't know it would be. She added that their needs are not currently being met and the current process is not user friendly or convenient and it is very burdensome.

Sen. Vulakovich asked if veterans' preference has been a problem in Dauphin and Franklin Counties under their current systems. Hartwick and Bloyer both said it has not been a problem.

The following submitted written comments to the committee:

- [County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania \(CCAP\)](#)
- [Pennsylvania Client Assistance Program](#)
- [Heidi Tuszynski](#)
- [Passle Helminski](#)

NEW LEGISLATION

HB 2227 Stephens, Todd (R)

(PN 3344) Amends Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in firearms and other dangerous articles, further providing for persons not to possess, use, manufacture, control, sell or transfer firearms; in community and municipal courts, further providing for masters; and adding provisions relating to extreme risk protection orders. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary

HB 2259 DeLuca, Anthony (D)

(PN 3345) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, further providing for fire and emergency evacuation drills to include school security drills on alternating months with fire drills. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 2260 Snyder, Pam (D)

(PN 3346) Amends the Health Care Facilities Act, in licensing of health care facilities, further providing for photo identification tag regulations by adding that the tag shall include the employee's first name. A notation, marker or indicator included on an identification badge that differentiates employees with the same first name is considered acceptable in lieu of displaying an employee's last name. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

HB 2261 Snyder, Pam (D)

(PN 3347) The Supplemental Homeowner Property Tax Relief Act provides for supplemental State-funded tax relief; establishes the Personal Income Tax Property Tax Reduction Fund; and provides for distributions from fund. The intent of the bill is to establish the Personal Income Tax Property Tax Reduction Fund (PITPTR) and a 0.83 percent personal income surtax to be used to fund the maximum homestead/farmstead exclusion. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced and referred to committee on House Finance

HB 2262 DeLuca, Anthony (D)

(PN 3348) Amends the Human Services Code providing for departmental powers and duties relating to small personal care homes. "Small personal care home" is defined as follows: (1) A premises where food, shelter and personal assistance or supervision are provided in exchange for compensation for a period exceeding 24 hours for three or less adults who meet the following criteria: (i) They are not relatives of the operator; (ii) They do not require the services of a licensed long-term care facility; (iii) They do require assistance or supervision in such matters as dressing, bathing, diet, financial management, evacuation of a residence in the event of an emergency or medication prescribed for self administration; and (2) The term does not include a personal care home as defined in section 1001. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

HB 2263 Topper, Jesse (R)

(PN 3349) Amends the Liquor Code, in Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, further providing for general powers of board. The intent of the bill is to eliminate flexible pricing. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced and referred to committee on House Liquor Control

HB 2264 Hanna, Mike (D)

(PN 3350) Act designating the portion of State Route 2024 and State Route 1016, also known as Monument Orviston Road, from the intersection of State Route 2024 and Main Street in Beech Creek Borough, Clinton County, to the intersection of State Route 1016 and Kato Orviston Road in Curtin Township, Centre County, as the CPL Milford H. Wensel Memorial Highway. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 2265 Maloney, David (R)

Amends the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, in subdivision and land development, providing for nonbuilding lots.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Filed

HB 2268 Mullery, Gerald (D)

Amends Title 18 (Crimes & Offense), in minors, expanding the offense of use of tobacco in schools.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Filed

HB 2269 Freeman, Robert (D)

Amends the Tax Reform Code, providing for tax credits for rehabilitation and reconstruction of certain factory and mill buildings and for a business tax credit.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Filed

HB 2271 Freeman, Robert (D)

Act providing for an annual revenue sharing program for municipalities relating to tax-exempt real property; est. the Tax-exempt Property Municipal Assistance Fund; imposing powers & duties on the Dept. of Community & Economic Development.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Filed

HB 2272 Barrar, Stephen (R)

Amends the Chiropractic Practice Act, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in licensure & regulation, providing for refusal, suspension or revocation of license; and providing for supportive personnel.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Filed

HR 750 Miller, Daniel (D)

(PN 3335) Resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the creation of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and honoring the IAFF and its membership on this momentous and important occasion.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Filed

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced as noncontroversial resolution

HR 827 Markosek, Joseph (D)

(PN 3336) Resolution congratulating the Notre Dame women's basketball team on winning the 2018 NCAA Division I women's basketball title.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced as noncontroversial resolution

HR 830 Heffley, Doyle (R)

(PN 3333) Resolution commemorating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Borough of Jim Thorpe, formerly known as Mauch Chunk.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced as noncontroversial resolution

HR 831 Toepel, Marcy (R)

(PN 3337) Resolution designating June 19, 2018, as "Rare Disease Day" in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced as noncontroversial resolution

HR 832 Keller, Fred (R)

(PN 3338) Resolution designating the month of May 2018 as "Necrotizing Fasciitis Awareness Month" and May 31, 2018, as "Necrotizing Fasciitis Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced as noncontroversial resolution

HR 833 Maloney, David (R)

(PN 3334) Resolution designating April 16, 2018, as "Pocono Raceway Day" in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced as noncontroversial resolution

HR 834 Krueger-Braneky, Leanne (D)

(PN 3339) Resolution designating the month of May 2018 as “Fibromuscular Dysplasia Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced as noncontroversial resolution

HR 835 Harris, Jordan (D)

(PN 3340) Resolution honoring the 40th anniversary of Cheyney University’s 1977-1978 men’s Division II National Championship Basketball Team.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced as noncontroversial resolution

HR 836 Gainey, Ed (D)

(PN 3341) Resolution recognizing the efforts and contributions that the architectural community and AIA Pennsylvania have made to celebrate and promote equity, diversity and inclusion within the profession of architecture and in workplaces throughout this Commonwealth.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Filed

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced as noncontroversial resolution

HR 837 Gainey, Ed (D)

(PN 3342) Resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee to conduct a study on gun violence as a public health crisis and issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Filed

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary

HR 838 Wheatley, Jake (D)

(PN 3343) Resolution celebrating and recognizing April 19, 2018, as the 50th anniversary of the A. Philip Randolph Institute of Pittsburgh.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Filed

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Introduced as noncontroversial resolution

HR 839 Carroll, Mike (D)

Resolution designating the week of May 6 through 12, 2018, as “Drinking Water Week” in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Filed

HR 840 Hill, Kristin (R)

Resolution designating the month of May 2018 as “Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Filed

HR 841 Klunk, Kate (R)

Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to pass, and the President of the United States to sign, legislation that will make apprenticeships more affordable for individuals seeing a skills-based education.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Filed

HR 842 Santora, James (R)

Resolution designating the week of April 23 through 27, 2018, as “Every Kid Healthy Week” in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Filed

HR 843 Ellis, Brian (R)

Resolution designating April 17, 2018, as “WEDnetPA Day” in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Filed

HR 844 Dean, Madeleine (D)

Resolution recognizing April 28, 2018, as “National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day” in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Filed

SB 1129 DiSanto, John (F) (R)

(PN 1647) Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations), in adoption, defining “denial of paternity”, “household” and “putative father”; and, in adoption, further providing for hearing, for grounds for involuntary termination and for petition for involuntary termination, providing for notice if identity or whereabouts of birth parent or putative father unknown, further providing for consents necessary to adoption and repealing provisions relating to consents not naming adopting parents. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Filed

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Judiciary

SB 1130 Gordner, John (R)

(PN 1648) Amends the Tuition Account Programs and College Savings Bond Act, in tuition account program, further providing for tuition account programs and funds and establishing the Keystone Scholars Grant Program and the Keystone Scholars Grant Program Account; and making editorial changes. The program provides for \$100 to be set aside within the Tuition Account Guaranteed Savings Program Fund, when the fund is in excess of five percent of the actuarially determined liabilities of the fund, for each child born in Pennsylvania to be used for qualified higher education expenses associated with the attendance at an eligible educational institution. Expires December 31, 2029. Subject to availability, the State Treasurer may establish an annual match of contributions made by a parent or guardian of an eligible child or may establish financial incentives for additional grants for an eligible child. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Filed

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1134 Schwank, Judy (D)

(PN 1649) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in sexual offenses, establishing the offense of sexual extortion. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Filed

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Judiciary

SR 313 Hughes, Vincent (D)

(PN 1651) Resolution recognizing the month of April 2018 as “Jazz Appreciation Month” in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Filed

SR 314 Eichelberger, John (R)

(PN 1652) Resolution recognizing the month of April 2018 as “School Library Month” in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Filed

SR 315 Scavello, Mario (R)

(PN 1653) Resolution designating April 16, 2018, as “Pocono Raceway Day” in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Filed

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

HB 25 Mackenzie, Ryan (R)

(PN 188) The CareerBound Act provides for the creation and implementation of up to seven school-to-work pilot programs in the Department of Labor and Industry, to be known as CareerBound, and provides a tax credit to businesses that participate in the program. A school-to-work pilot program shall expire at the end of the fourth school year of operation and the department shall issue a report on the programs following their expiration. Requires program partners to set objectives and measurable goals; requires Department of Labor and Industry to set outcome-based metrics used to evaluate all programs in annual and final reports; allows contributing businesses to designate which program their contributions would support; enumerates and allows Pennsylvania institutions of higher learning to participate in CareerBound; includes "soft skills" in curriculum requirements; gives priority to programs targeting middle school and early high school students; and clarifies that the Department of Labor and Industry and the Pennsylvania Department of Education must provide program partners with informational resources. Requires additional consideration be given to a pilot program which is integrated into a school partner's curriculum as a credit course. Effective Immediately.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid out for discussion

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Third consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Final Passage by a vote of 194 YEAS 1 NAYS

HB 163 Saccone, Rick (R)

(PN 3327) Amends Title 4 (Amusements), Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), Title 23 (Domestic Relations) and Title 75 (Vehicles) eliminating the driver's license suspension for multiple non-driving infractions. Effective in 180 days. (Prior Printer Number: 127, 3123)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid out for discussion

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Third consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Final Passage by a vote of 192 YEAS 3 NAYS

HB 209 Hill, Kristin (R)

(PN 3162) Amends the Regulatory Review Act adding language establishing the Independent Office of the Repealer within the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) and providing for its powers and duties. Requires a state agency that promulgates a new regulation to identify at least two existing regulations for repeal. Also establishes the Selection and Organization Committee in the Office. Provides the committee shall consist of one member appointed by the Governor; one member appointed by the Senate President Pro Tempore in consultation with the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders; one member appointed by the Speaker of the House in consultation with the House Majority and Minority Leaders. Further provides for the selection of a director of the Office by the committee. The Office expires June 30, 2024. Effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 176)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 289 Toohil, Tarah (R)

(PN 283) Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations), in adoption, further providing for home study and preplacement report and for report of intention to adopt, repealing provisions relating to report of intermediary and exhibits, further providing for investigation, for contents of petition for adoption and for exhibits, providing for permissible reimbursement of expenses and further providing for time of entry of decree of adoption. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Second consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

HB 504 Charlton, Alexander (F) (R)

(PN 3297) Amends the Insurance Department Act providing for self-service storage facility insurance. Allows the Insurance Department to issue a self-service storage producer license to an owner that has complied with the requirements of the bill authorizing the owner to offer or to sell the kinds of insurance prescribed in connection with and incidental to the rental of space at a self-service storage facility. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 530)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Second consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Rereferred to House Appropriations

HB 564 Boback, Karen (R)

(PN 3298) Amends the Public School Code adding a new section providing for assessment of civic knowledge. Requires each school entity, beginning with the 2020-21 school year to administer at least once to each student during grades seven through twelve a locally developed assessment of United States history, government and civics. Provides the school entity shall determine the form of the assessment and the manner in which the assessment shall be administered and may administer at the conclusion of the course of study required under section 1605 (a) or at the conclusion of another related course or instructional unit. Allows a school entity to use the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services test to satisfy this requirement. Requires the Department of Education to post website links to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services test and any related resources offered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services plus any additional materials the department deems useful to school entities in complying with the requirements. Also requires the department to conduct an electronic survey of each school entity at the conclusion of the 2020-21 school year. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 589)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid out for discussion

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Third consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Final Passage by a vote of 191 YEAS 4 NAYS

HB 638 Simmons, Justin (R)

(PN 3164) Amends the Pennsylvania Election Code, in district election officers, further providing for election officers to be sworn; in dates of elections and primaries and special elections, further providing for affidavits of candidates; in nomination of candidates, further providing for petition may consist of several sheets and affidavit of circulator, for affidavits of candidates, for examination of nomination petitions, certificates and papers and return of rejected nomination petitions, certificates and papers, for vacancy in party nomination by failure to pay filing fee or for failure to file loyalty oath, for affidavits of candidates, for filling of certain vacancies in public office by means of nomination certificates and nomination papers and for substituted nominations to fill certain vacancies for a November election; in ballots, further providing for form and printing of ballots; in returns of primaries and elections, further providing for manner of computing irregular ballots; and replacing references to "justice of the peace" with "magisterial district judge." The bill's stated intent is to remove the ability of candidates for school board to cross-file nomination petitions. Also removes references to the "traffic court of Philadelphia". Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 675)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 645 O'Neill, Bernie (R)

(PN 1695) Amends the Tax Reform Code, in neighborhood assistance tax credit, further providing for tax credit and for grant of tax credit and providing for reporting. The bill changes the dollar limit of tax credit granted for programs approved under the act from \$18 million to \$36 million and establishes that on the effective date of the subsection, no additional tax credits shall be granted under the article. The Department Of Community and Economic Development shall issue a report within 12 months of the effective date and each five years thereafter including a funding evaluation of the neighborhood assistance program and recommendations for the tax credit, submitted to each Finance committee. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 688)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid out for discussion

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Third consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Final Passage by a vote of 188 YEAS 7 NAYS

HB 653 Masser, Kurt (R)

(PN 692) Amends Title 68 (Real and Personal Property), in real property, providing for real estate foreclosure of vacant and abandoned property and for sheriff's commission and credit or attorney fees. The bill states that after a creditor gives notice to an obligor of a delinquency or other default with respect to an obligation secured by a mortgage or initiates a foreclosure action or action for possession or to quiet title, a mortgaged property for which the notice is given or proceedings are initiated shall be certified as vacant and abandoned if it meets requirements established in the bill. The stated intent is to limit the use of the expedited foreclosure process to vacant and abandoned properties. Chapter 23 is effective in 60 days; the remainder is effective immediately.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Laid on the table

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Removed from the table

HB 863 Rothman, Greg (R)

(PN 1930) Amends the Real Estate Licensing and Registration Act, in definitions, further providing for definitions; in qualifications and applications for licenses and registration certificates, further providing for qualifications for license; in duties of licensees, further providing for comparative market analysis disclosure and providing extensively for broker price opinion; and making related repeals. Applicants for a license shall complete 75 (increased from 60) hours in real estate instruction. Further, an applicant shall be a high school graduate or equivalent. Any fees charged for a comparative market analysis shall be paid to the broker. A broker price opinion (BPO) must contain a conspicuously displayed statement and be prepared in accordance with the bill. The Real Estate Recovery Fund shall not apply to claims related to BPOs. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 969)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Second consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

HB 866 Dunbar, George (R)

(PN 972) Amends the Local Tax Enabling Act, in local taxes, further providing for definitions, for payroll tax and for payment of tax to other political subdivisions or states as credit or deduction and withholding tax; in consolidated collection of local income taxes, further providing for definitions, for declaration and payment of income taxes, for tax collection committees, for powers and duties of department, for powers and duties of tax officer and for withholding and remittance; and, in collection of delinquent taxes, further providing for penalties and for costs of collection of delinquent per capita, occupation, occupational privilege, emergency and municipal services, local services and income taxes. The stated intent of the bill is to provide clarification that taxpayers with no income will not be required to file a local return, to insert clear and concise safe harbor language for estimated taxes, provide oversight of the local Tax Collection Committee, clarify tax withholdings for temporary job assignments, provide W2 reporting requirements, define non-resident, and provide that audits of taxes received and disbursed shall be on a calendar year basis only. Provides that beginning January 1, 2020, no political subdivision, tax collection committee or tax officer in administering this act may use any form other than that which is promulgated by the department. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Reported as committed from Senate Appropriations

HB 921 Barrar, Stephen (R)

(PN 1813) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and for cardiopulmonary resuscitation in schools. The bill requires the further development of academic standards for cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction in high schools and outlines criteria that must be included in the standards. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Press conference held

HB 1066 (Withdrawn) ()

(PN 1257) Amends the Apprenticeship and Training Act further providing for administration; providing for supervision; and abrogating a regulation. Provides regulations may not require more than one supervisor for each apprentice or trainee. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Corrective reprint, Printer's No. 3332

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Prime sponsor withdrew

HB 1089 Grove, Seth (R)

(PN 1285) Amends the Pharmacy Act further providing for authority to administer injectable medications, biologicals and immunizations by requiring the board to establish standards for pharmacists to administer injectable medications, biologicals and immunizations to persons who are more than nine years of age (decreased from 18) by injectable or needle-free delivery methods. The board also shall accept as proof of education and training standards the immunization credentials or a license of an individual who, at the time of filing an application is licensed as a pharmacist and has immunization credentials or a license, if applicable, in another state or territory of the United States. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Press conference held

HB 1142 Briggs, Tim (D)

(PN 1365) Amends the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act, in standards for municipal pension systems, further providing for definitions and providing for special procedures for certain professional services contracts by requiring the governing body of each municipal pension plan system having less than 100 active members to select the most qualified person to enter into a contract to administer, manage or service the municipal pension plan. The governing body shall announce at two consecutive regularly scheduled public meetings the availability of the contract and post the availability of the contract on the official Internet website of the municipality for at least two weeks. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid on the table

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 1216 Farry, Frank (R)

(PN 2203) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in particular rights and immunities, providing for rescue from motor vehicle, waiving liability for a good-faith rescue of a dog or cat from a motor vehicle if the animal is believed to be in imminent danger. The rescuer must make an effort to locate the driver and contact emergency response. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1444, 2166)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Press conference held

HB 1228 English, Hal (R)

(PN 3299) Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, providing for sun protection of students, including the application of nonprescription sunscreen. Each school entity shall allow the following during school hours, at a school-sponsored activity or while under the supervision of school personnel: (1) The outdoor use by students of sun-protective clothing, including, but not limited to, a hat; and (2) The possession, application and use by a student of a nonaerosol topical sunscreen product without a physician's note or prescription if the Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter use for the purpose of limiting ultraviolet light-induced skin damage and the parent and guardian of the student submits a form provided by the school entity to the appropriate school personnel. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1455)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid out for discussion

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Third consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Final Passage by a vote of 195 YEAS 0 NAYS

HB 1237 Keefer, Dawn (F) (R)

(PN 2996) Amends the Regulatory Review Act adding language providing if the Independent Regulatory Review Commission issues an order to approve a final-form regulation or final-omitted regulation that is an economically significant regulation or if the agency decides to proceed with a regulation the commission disapproved, the agency shall submit a copy of the order and, if applicable, the agency response to the Senate and the House and shall request a concurrent resolution approving the order. The House and the Senate shall each have 30 calendar days or ten legislative days, whichever is longer, to adopt the concurrent resolution. Requires the Regulatory Analysis Form to include the specific statutory citation indicating the provision of law that authorizes the agency to promulgate the regulation for that purpose; requires the concurrent resolution to be referred to the committee before being referred to the full House or Senate and requires the House and Senate to consider the concurrent resolution; and ensures the committee review process for a regulation and House and Senate consideration of a concurrent resolution shall include both calendar days and legislative days. If the General Assembly does not adopt the concurrent resolution in the time prescribed, the regulation shall be deemed not approved and the regulation shall not take effect. An economically significant regulation is defined as a regulation that, if implemented, may reasonably be expected to result in the direct or indirect cost to the Commonwealth, its political subdivisions and to the private sector in excess of \$1 million on an annual basis. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1464)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 1240 Marshall, Jim (R)

(PN 3329) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) in certificate of title and security interests, further providing for content and effect of certificate of title and for theft vehicles, and making and editorial change. Establishes a threshold that triggers the need to retitle and establishes provisions for self-insurers. Also provides for theft vehicles, establishing that if the cost of repairs exceeds the replacement value of the vehicle, the theft-branded certificate of salvage shall serve as an ownership document. If the vehicle thereafter passes the reconstructed salvage vehicle inspection requirements, it shall receive a certificate of title branded reconstructed and recovered-theft vehicle. Effective in 180 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1474, 3124)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid out for discussion

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Third consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Final Passage by a vote of 195 YEAS 0 NAYS

HB 1341 Pyle, Jeff (R)

(PN 2065) Amends the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act adding language allowing a mine operator to have an emergency medical responder (EMR), an emergency medical technician (EMT), or an advanced emergency medical technician on duty in an underground coal mine. Requires an EMR, as defined in the bill, employed in underground mining to complete three additional courses from the EMT certification that have applicability to mining emergencies. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1660)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Laid out for discussion

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Third consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Final Passage by a vote of 50 YEAS 0 NAYS

HB 1414 Barrar, Stephen (R)

(PN 3204) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in general provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in other required equipment, further providing for visual and audible signals on emergency vehicles and for visual signals on authorized vehicles and providing for flashing or revolving yellow and white lights and for solid waste collection vehicles. "Emergency vehicle" is redefined to include a vehicle owned by a city of the first class (Philadelphia) and operated by first judicial district certified armed probation officers. Further, the department may not prohibit the use of flashing or revolving blue lights mounted internally in the passenger compartment of a privately-owned vehicle used in answering an emergency call that otherwise complies with the department's regulations. Tow trucks may be equipped with one or more flashing or revolving yellow lights and one or more flashing or revolving white lights. The manner in which the light or lights shall be displayed shall be determined by regulation and the bill outlines limitations on the use of the lights on tow trucks. Lastly, the bill stipulates that upon approaching and passing a stationary solid waste collection vehicle that is giving a visual signal by means of bright yellow strobe light, the driver of an approaching vehicle shall make a lane change if possible or, if not, reduce the speed to a reasonable and proper speed, which shall be less than the posted speed limit, and be prepared to stop. Solid waste collection vehicles shall be equipped with a bright yellow strobe light and the strobe light shall be active while stopped upon a street and while engaged in the collection of garbage, solid wastes, recyclables and refuse or while moving between stops at a speed not greater than 10 miles per hour. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1779, 2799, 2920)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Second consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

HB 1539 Pashinski, Eddie Day (D)

(PN 3311) Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations), in standby guardianship, further providing for definitions and for scope and providing for temporary guardianship. Also in child protective services, further providing for release of information in confidential reports. Establishes temporary guardianship appointed when an individual who is a parent of a minor has entered a rehabilitation facility for treatment of a drug or alcohol addiction and is limited to no more than 60 days from the entry of the order. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1996)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid out for discussion

Apr 16, 2018 - H-1 Floor amendment(s) adopted

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Second consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Over in House

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Rereferred to House Appropriations

HB 1550 Klunk, Kate (R)

(PN 2070) Amends the Agricultural Area Security Law further providing for purchase of agricultural conservation easements by establishing an easement shall not prevent construction and use of structures on the subject land for the purpose of a residence of the landowner, and immediate family member or an employee. Further provides that the owner of the land may relinquish and extinguish the right of construction and use of structures conferred. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 2024)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Second consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

HB 1553 Baker, Matt (Res. 2/19/18) (R)

(PN 2803) The Surprise Balance Bill Protection Act provides for the protection of consumers of health care coverage against surprise balance bills for emergency health care services or for other covered health care services when health care services are sought from in-network providers. Portions are effective immediately and the remainder is effective in 180 days. (Prior Printer Number: 2033)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid on the table

HB 1659 Tobash, Mike (R)

(PN 2227) Amends the Human Services Code, in general powers and duties, providing for work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by establishing the department may not apply for, accept, or renew a waiver of requirements established under section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 without prior approval of the General Assembly and requiring adult recipients to comply with and submit proof of compliance with various work requirements as a condition of participation and continuing eligibility for food assistance. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as amended House Health

Apr 16, 2018 - H-First consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid on the table

HB 1781 Keller, Fred (R)

(PN 2408) Amends the Workers' Compensation Act, in liability and compensation, providing for registration of status as independent contractor by adding that a person may file a registration with the department regarding the status of an individual who is classified for Federal income tax purposes as an independent contractor of the person. The bill provides for contents of the registration and states that a person who registers an individual as an independent contractor shall not be liable to the individual for benefits under this act and shall not be required to provide insurance coverage or self-insure under this act regarding the individual. The bill provides for revocation of the registration and stipulates that a person may not offer or provide an incentive, pecuniary or otherwise, for an individual to complete the waiver and affidavit or refrain from filing a request for revocation. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Public hearing held in committee House Labor and Industry

HB 1792 Benninghoff, Kerry (R)

(PN 3168) Amends the Regulatory Review Act further providing for procedures for subsequent review of disapproved final-form or final-omitted regulations and gives the General Assembly the ability to initiate the repeal of any regulation in effect in Pennsylvania, by a concurrent resolution. The bill establishes that an agency is prohibited from reissuing the same regulation in the future, or promulgating a regulation that is substantially similar, unless the new or revised regulation is specifically authorized by a law enacted after the date of the concurrent resolution disapproving the original review. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 2434 3087)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 1793 Charlton, Alexander (F) (R)

(PN 2594) The Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act establishes the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission and provides for its powers and duties. The commission is established to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania's integral role in that event and the impact of its people on the nation's past, present and future. The commission shall terminate on December 31, 2027. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 2435)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Second consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

HB 1800 Nelson, Eric (R)

(PN 3224) Amends Title 40 (Insurance), in regulation of insurers and related persons generally, providing for medication synchronization. The bill establishes no individual or group health insurance plan providing prescription drug coverage shall deny coverage for the dispensing of a medication that is dispensed by a network pharmacy on the basis that the dispensing is for a partial supply if the prescriber or pharmacist determines the fill or refill to be in the best interest of the patient and the patient requests or agrees to a partial supply for the purpose of medication synchronization. Effective in 365 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Insurance

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Insurance

Apr 16, 2018 - H-First consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid on the table

HB 1869 Mackenzie, Ryan (R)

(PN 2592) The Maternal Mortality Review Act establishes the Maternal Mortality Review Committee to conduct a multidisciplinary review of maternal deaths and develop recommendations for the prevention of future maternal deaths and provides for its powers and duties; provides for duties of the Department of Health; and imposes a penalty. Effective in 90 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Reported as committed from Senate Appropriations

HB 1959 Rothman, Greg (R)

(PN 3163) The Permit Administration Act provides for the administration of permits by state agencies, for a tracking system for permit applications, for the establishment of permit programs and for annual reports. The bill requires state agencies to establish, maintain and make available a secure tracking system for applicants to track the status of applications on their websites. Delineates the types of categories that are required for reporting to the General Assembly. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 2856)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 1960 Ellis, Brian (R)

(PN 2861) The State Agency Regulatory Compliance Officer Act requires each state agency to designate an employee as the agency's regulatory compliance officer. Provides for the powers and duties of the regulatory compliance officer. Requires each agency to submit an annual report to the General Assembly detailing the progress made by each agency and the regulatory compliance officer in the preceding calendar year towards compliance with this act. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 1997 Bernstine, Aaron (F) (R)

(PN 2864) Amends the Human Services Code adding a new section requiring the Department of Human Services to establish a deemed eligibility program for in-patient behavioral health services. Also requires the department to issue a medical assistance bulletin which contains the Commonwealth policies and procedures necessary to implement this new section; to apply for any necessary Federal waivers and maximize the use of Federal money for the purposes to implementing the program; and issue an annual report to the General Assembly. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as amended House Health

Apr 16, 2018 - H-First consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid on the table

HB 2030 Bernstine, Aaron (F) (R)

(PN 3009) Amends Title 8 (Boroughs & Incorporated Towns), in manufacture and supply of electricity, further providing for specific powers and providing for security deposits, for payment agreements and for restrictions on termination; and making an editorial change. The bill establishes that a borough, through its governing body, shall have the power to regulate the use of and the charge for electricity furnished by the borough, if situate in more than one county, for use by residents in those counties. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid out for discussion

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Third consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Over in House

HB 2050 Turzai, Mike (R)

(PN 3034) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in abortion, defining "Down syndrome" and further providing for medical consultation and judgment by stipulating that no abortion shall be deemed necessary if sought exclusively for either or both of the following reasons: (1) The sex of the unborn child; and (2) A prenatal diagnosis of, or belief that the unborn child has, Down syndrome. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid out for discussion

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Third consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-House Frankel raises the question of constitutionality of HB 2050 - Declared Constitutional by a vote of 135 YEAS 60 NAYS Apr 16, 2018 - H-Final Passage by a vote of 139 YEAS 56 NAYS

HB 2078 Markosek, Joseph (D)

(PN 3141) Act appropriating \$47,278,000 from the Professional Licensure Augmentation Account to the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, including the State Board of Auctioneer Examiners. Appropriates \$8,460,000 from the restricted receipts account of the State Board of Medicine for the operation of the board for fiscal year 2018-19. Appropriates \$2,283,000 from the restricted receipts account of the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine for the operation of the board for fiscal year 2018-19. Appropriations \$284,000 from the restricted receipts account of the State Board of Podiatry for the operation of the board for fiscal year 2018-19. Appropriates \$647,000 from the Athletic Commission Augmentation Account for the State Athletics Commission for its operation for fiscal year 2018-19. Effective July 1, 2018, or immediately, whichever is later.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 2079 Markosek, Joseph (D)

(PN 3142) Act appropriating \$71,215,000 from the Workmen's Compensation Administration Fund to the Department of Labor and Industry to provide for the payment of expenses of the Workers' Compensation Act and the Pennsylvania Occupational Disease Act. Appropriates \$275,000 from the restricted revenue account within the Workmen's Compensation Administration Fund to the Office of Small Business Advocate for the operation of that office for fiscal year 2018-19. Effective July 1, 2018 or immediately, whichever is later.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 2080 Markosek, Joseph (D)

(PN 3143) Act appropriating \$1,855,000 from the restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Small Business Advocate in the Department of Community and Economic Development to provide for its operation for fiscal year 2018-19. Effective July 1, 2018 or immediately, whichever is later.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 2081 Markosek, Joseph (D)

(PN 3144) Act appropriating from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund \$5,850,000 to the Office of Consumer Advocate in the Office of Attorney General. Effective July 1, 2018, or immediately, whichever is later.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 2082 Markosek, Joseph (D)

(PN 3325) Act appropriating \$51,637,000 from the Public School Employees' Retirement Fund and \$4,950,000 from the PSERS Defined Contribution Fund to provide for expenses of the Public School Employees' Retirement Board including all salaries, wages and other compensation and travel expenses of the employees and the members of the board for the fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. Effective July 1, 2018, or immediately, whichever is later. (Prior Printer Number: 3145)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 2083 Markosek, Joseph (D)

(PN 3146) Act appropriating \$30,766,000 from the State Employees' Retirement Fund and \$4,901,000 from the SERS Defined Contribution Fund to provide for expenses of the State Employees' Retirement Board for the fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. Effective July 1, 2018, or immediately, whichever is later.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 2084 Markosek, Joseph (D)

(PN 3147) Act appropriating \$2,935,000 from the Philadelphia Taxicab and Limousine Regulatory Fund and \$200,000 from the Philadelphia Taxicab Medallion Fund to the Philadelphia Parking Authority for fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019. Effective July 1, 2018, or immediately, whichever is later.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 2085 Markosek, Joseph (D)

(PN 3148) Act appropriating \$74,185,000 from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund and from Federal augmentation funds to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for the fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019. \$3,977,000 from the federal appropriation is allocated for natural gas pipeline safety and \$2,090,000 from the federal appropriation is allocated for motor carrier safety. Effective July 1, 2018, or immediately, whichever is later.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 2086 Markosek, Joseph (D)

(PN 3326) The Gaming Control Appropriation Act of 2018 makes the following appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018: (1) From the State Gaming Fund: \$1,340,000 to the Attorney General; \$8,267,000 to the Department of Revenue; \$28,115,000 to the Pennsylvania State Police; and \$46,153,000 to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board; (2) From the Fantast Contest Fund restricted revenue accounts: \$400,000 to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board; and \$1,459,000 to the Department of Revenue; and (3) From the Video Gaming Fund: \$2,000,000 to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board; and \$3,014,000 to the Department of Revenue. There is no authority for the State Treasurer, the Secretary of the Budget, the Secretary of Revenue or the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to transfer any money within or between the appropriations. Effective July 1, 2018, or immediately, whichever is later. (Prior Printer Number: 3149)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 2133 Watson, Katharine (R)

(PN 3107) The Kinship Caregiver Navigator Program Act establishes the Kinship Caregiver Navigator Program in the Department of Human Services; and provides for creation of the kinship caregiver navigator website to provide information on support and services available to current kinship caregivers and prospective kinship caregivers. A kinship caregiver navigator shall: (1) Assist kinship caregivers with finding information for relevant Federal and State benefits, local supports and services; (2) Mediate with State agency staff or service providers and, when necessary, assist in establishing relationships between kinship caregivers and relevant Federal and State agency staff; (3) Work with the local area agency on aging and county agency to identify and provide outreach to kinship caregivers in need of additional services; and (4) Refer kinship caregivers to the appropriate county agency contact. Effective in 180 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Second consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Rereferred to House Appropriations

HB 2138 Dowling, Matthew (F) (R)

(PN 3328) Amends the Human Services Code, in public assistance, providing for work requirements. The bill requires the secretary to apply to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a demonstration program under section 1115 of the Social Security Act in order to institute a work requirement for a Medicaid enrollee who meets certain criteria. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 3158)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Discussed during conference call

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid out for discussion

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Third consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Over in House

HB 2155 Bloom, Stephen (R)

(PN 3276) Amends the Public School Code further providing for vocational instructional certificate. Adds language directing the State Board of Education to require an applicant for a vocational instructional certificate to present evidence of at least four years of wage-earning experience in the occupation to be taught in order for the Secretary of Education to grant the applicant the certificate. Further provides the board shall not require an applicant to have completed more than 18 credit hours in an approved program of vocational teacher education in order for the secretary to grant the applicant a certificate which shall entitle the individual to teach for eight annual school terms. Also provides the board shall not require an applicant to have completed more than 60 total credit hours in an approved program of vocational teacher education to be granted a Vocational Instructional II Certificate. Requires the Department of Education to form a professional advisory committee to review vocational instructional certification program guidelines every five years. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-First consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid on the table

HB 2156 Tobash, Mike (R)

(PN 3277) Amends the Public School Code adding a new article establishing the Career and Technical Education Partnership Tax Credit Program to expand access to high-career and technical education by encouraging private investment in education, career and technical education programs and the repair, upkeep, replacement and upgrading of industry-grade materials and instructional equipment. Provides for qualification and application by organizations; application by business firms; tax credits; limitations; lists; guidelines; school participation in program; scholarships; carryover, carryback, refund and assignment; and original jurisdiction. Further provides the total aggregate amount of all approved tax credits for contributions from business firms shall not exceed \$15 million in a fiscal year. Requires the Department of Community and Economic Development to submit an annual report summarizing the effectiveness of the tax credit to the chairs and minority chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations and Education Committees. Also provides the new article shall apply to taxable years commencing December, 31, 2018. Effective immediately.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-First consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid on the table

HB 2157 Grove, Seth (R)

(PN 3278) Amends the Public School Code adding language requiring the Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence to issue guidelines and update the guidelines every five years to identify the circumstances when a student who successfully completes an academic course, program or activity for credit may apply the credit toward completion of an agriculture education program. Requires the Department of Education to issue guidelines and update the guidelines every five years to identify the circumstances when a student who successfully completes a course, program or activity in science, technology, engineering or mathematics for credit may apply the credit toward the completion of a course, program or activity offered by any area vocational-technical school, technical institute or vocational school or department. Also requires the department to establish a standard application form for a public school entity seeking approval to establish or renew a classification of program code. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-First consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid on the table

HB 2158 Mako, Zachary (F) (R)

(PN 3285) Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for career information and recruitment. The bill establishes that school entities shall seek participation of representatives of skilled trades, area career and technical education schools, institutions of higher education, business, industry, charitable institutions or other employers regarding employment, employment training or education opportunities. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-First consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid on the table

HB 2159 Staats, Craig (R)

(PN 3279) Amends the Public School Code adding language requiring all public schools, the Rural Regional College, state-related institutions, and the Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology to submit their articulation agreements to the Department of Education to be included in the department's electronic database and portal that displays articulation agreements entered into by community colleges, the institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and institutions that elect to participate. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-First consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid on the table

HB 2203 Harkins, Patrick (D)

(PN 3286) Amends the Public School Code, in vocational education, providing for an online career resource center. The bill requires the Department of Education to establish a central online clearinghouse which shall at a minimum include an online database of the following: postsecondary pathways and options; career and technical education and workforce; career pathways; data and statistics on employment opportunities and compensation; statewide and regional articulation agreements; and other relevant career resources. Effective immediately.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-First consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid on the table

HB 2204 Mullery, Gerald (D)

(PN 3252) Amends the Public School Code adding a new section requiring the Department of Education, no later than January 1, 2019, in consultation with the Department of Labor and Industry, to conduct an inventory to determine the number and types of workforce development programs offered at secondary and postsecondary institutions. Allows the department to compile a clearinghouse of model programs discovered during the inventory. Provides the department shall encourage the use of the model programs by secondary career and technical education programs, postsecondary programs and business and industry. Also requires the department to report its findings and actions to the chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations and Education Committees. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-First consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid on the table

HB 2205 Roebuck, James (D)

(PN 3330) Amends the Public School Code, in vocational education, further providing for advisory committees by requiring that an occupational advisory committee be established for each career and technical education program or cluster of related career and technical education programs offered by an area vocational-technical school or school district. The occupational advisory committee shall be appointed by the board of directors of the area vocational-technical school or school district, as applicable. A majority of the members of the occupational advisory committee shall be employees and employers in the occupation for which the career and technical education program is provided. Each occupational advisory committee shall meet at least twice each year to: (1) advise the board of directors, administrators and staff on curriculum, equipment, instructional materials, safety requirements, program evaluation and other related matters; and (2) verify that the programs meet industry standards and, if appropriate, licensing board criteria, and that the programs prepare students with occupation-related competencies. To increase employer participation in an occupational advisory committee, the boards of directors of multiple area vocational-technical schools or school districts operating career and technical education programs may agree to establish a shared occupational advisory committee to serve all agreeing area vocational-technical schools or school districts, provided that all agreeing area vocational-technical schools or school districts are located within the same intermediate unit. If a shared occupational advisory committee is formed, the occupational advisory committee shall be designed to provide equal opportunities for all agreeing area vocational-technical schools or school districts to participate, including scheduling meetings at each area vocational-technical school or school district on a rotating basis. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-First consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid on the table

HB 2206 Roebuck, James (D)

(PN 3331) Amends the Workforce development Act, in local workforce investment areas and boards, adding that membership shall include at least one local administrator of a career and technical center. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Voted favorably from committee on House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Reported as committed from House Education

Apr 16, 2018 - H-First consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid on the table

HB 2242 Saylor, Stanley (R)

(PN 3291) Supplement to the act to accept grant of Public Lands, by the US, to several states, for endowment of Agricultural Colleges making appropriations for carrying the same into effect; providing for a basis for payments of such appropriations, for a method of accounting for the funds appropriated and for certain fiscal information disclosure; and making an appropriation from a restricted account within the Agricultural College Land Scrip Fund. The bill appropriates \$230,436,000 for general support and \$22,074,000 for Pennsylvania College of Technology. Effective July 1, 2018, or immediately, whichever is later.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 2243 Saylor, Stanley (R)

(PN 3292) Supplement to an act providing for the establishment and operation of the University of Pittsburgh as an instrumentality of the Commonwealth to serve as a State-related university in the higher education system of the Commonwealth; providing for change of name; providing for the composition of the board of trustees; terms of trustees, and the power and duties of such trustees; authorizing appropriations in amounts to be fixed annually by the General Assembly; providing for the auditing of accounts of expenditures from said appropriations; providing for public support and capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of bonds exempt from taxation within the Commonwealth; requiring the chancellor to make an annual report of the operations of the University of Pittsburgh," making appropriations for carrying the same into effect; and providing for a basis for payments of such appropriations, for a method of accounting for the funds appropriated and for certain fiscal information disclosure. The bill appropriates \$144,210,000 for general support and \$2,763,000 for rural education outreach to the Trustees of the University of Pittsburgh for the fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019. Effective July 1, 2018, or immediately, whichever is later.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 2244 Saylor, Stanley (R)

(PN 3293) Supplement to an act providing for the establishment and operation of Temple University as an instrumentality of the Commonwealth to serve as a State-related university in the higher education system of the Commonwealth; providing for change of name; providing for the composition of the board of trustees; terms of trustees, and the power and duties of such trustees; providing for preference to Pennsylvania residents in tuition; providing for public support and capital improvements; authorizing appropriations in amounts to be fixed annually by the General Assembly; providing for the auditing of accounts of expenditures from said appropriations; authorizing the issuance of bonds exempt from taxation within the Commonwealth; requiring the President to make an annual report of the operations of Temple University," making an appropriation for carrying the same into effect; providing for a basis for payments of such appropriation; and providing a method of accounting for the funds appropriated and for certain fiscal information disclosure. The bill appropriates \$150,586,000 to the Trustees of Temple University for the fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019. Effective July 1, 2018, or immediately, whichever is later.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 2245 Saylor, Stanley (R)

(PN 3294) Supplement to an act providing for the establishment and operation of Lincoln University as an instrumentality of the Commonwealth to serve as a State-related institution in the higher education system of the Commonwealth; providing for change of name; providing for the composition of the board of trustees; terms of trustees, and the power and duties of such trustees; providing for preference to Pennsylvania residents in tuition; authorizing appropriations in amounts to be fixed annually by the General Assembly; providing for the auditing of accounts of expenditures from said appropriations; providing for public support and capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of bonds exempt from taxation within the Commonwealth; requiring the President to make an annual report of the operations of Lincoln University," making an appropriation for carrying the same into effect; providing for a basis for payments of the appropriation; and providing a method of accounting for the funds appropriated and for certain fiscal information disclosure. The bill appropriates \$14,436,000 to the Trustees of Lincoln University, Chester County, for the fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, for general support. Effective July 1, 2018, or immediately, whichever is later.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HB 2246 Saylor, Stanley (R)

(PN 3295) Act making appropriations to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania. The bill appropriates \$30,135,000 for veterinary activities and \$281,000 for the Center for Infectious Diseases to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania for the fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019. Effective July 1, 2018, or immediately, whichever is later.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HR 284 Moul, Dan (R)

(PN 1556) Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to repeal the Environmental Protection Agency's MS4 program.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid on the table

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

HR 680 Rothman, Greg (R)

(PN 2982) Resolution recognizing the 200th anniversary of Hope United Methodist Church, formerly known as Salem Chapel.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Adopted by a vote of 193 YEAS 0 NAYS

HR 696 Readshaw, Harry (D)

(PN 3030) Resolution recognizing April 17, 2018, as "Architects Day" in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Adopted by a vote of 193 YEAS 0 NAYS

HR 714 Murt, Thomas (R)

(PN 3067) Resolution recognizing April 15, 2018, as a day to honor the lifetime achievements and lasting influences of Jackie Robinson in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Adopted by a vote of 193 YEAS 0 NAYS

HR 812 McClinton, Joanna (D)

(PN 3270) Resolution recognizing April 19, 2018, as "National D.A.R.E. Day" in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Adopted by a vote of 193 YEAS 0 NAYS

HR 821 Toohil, Tarah (R)

(PN 3301) Resolution recognizing the month of April 2018 as "National Donate Life Month" in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Adopted by a vote of 193 YEAS 0 NAYS

HR 830 Heffley, Doyle (R)

(PN 3333) Resolution commemorating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Borough of Jim Thorpe, formerly known as Mauch Chunk.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Adopted by a vote of 193 YEAS 0 NAYS

HR 833 Maloney, David (R)

(PN 3334) Resolution designating April 16, 2018, as "Pocono Raceway Day" in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Adopted by a vote of 193 YEAS 0 NAYS

SB 384 Farnese, Lawrence (D)

(PN 384) Amends the Assessors Certification Act repealing provisions relating to nonapplicability for first class counties (Philadelphia); and providing for assessors in counties of the first class by granting them three years from the effective date of the section to become certified. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Second consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

SB 403 Brewster, Jim (D)

(PN 1228) Amends Title 53 (Municipalities Generally), in employees, further providing for commission members by replacing the governor's FBI special agency in charge appointee and replacing it with a member of the Pennsylvania Lodge Fraternal Order of Police, to be appointed by the governor. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 401)

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid on the table

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Removed from the table

SB 435 Boscola, Lisa (D)

(PN 612) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in miscellaneous provisions, requiring a driver to make a reasonable effort to remove snow or ice from the vehicle within 24 hours of the cessation of the falling snow or ice. The bill provides for exceptions and penalties. Provides this amendatory act shall be known as "Christine's Law." Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 426)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Reported as committed from Senate Appropriations

SB 480 Dinniman, Andrew (D)

(PN 1550) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in offenses against public order and decency, establishing the offense of attack on animal belonging to certain protected persons. A person commits an offense if the person kills, maims, disfigures, tortures or administers poison or exposes a poisonous substance with intent to administer the poison or poisonous substance to various types of animals owned by or residing with a person protected by an order issued under 23 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61 (relating to protection from abuse) or 42 Pa.C.S. C. 62A (relating to protection of victims of sexual violence or intimidation) and the person is the subject of the order. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 469)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Press conference held

SB 521 Killion, Thomas (R)

(PN 1040) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and for cardiopulmonary resuscitation in schools. The bill requires the State Board of Education and the Department of Education to work in consultation with the American Heart Association and American Red Cross to further develop the existing academic standards for cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction for students in grades nine through 12. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Press conference held

SB 626 McGarrigle, Thomas (R)

(PN 713) Amends the Pharmacy Act requiring the board to implement regulations providing for authority to administer injectable medications, biologicals and immunizations to persons who are more than nine years of age by injectable or needle-free delivery methods. Further, the board shall accept as proof of education and training the immunization credentials or a license of an individual who, at the time of filing an application is licensed as a pharmacist and has immunization credentials or a license, if applicable, in another state, territory or possession of the United States. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Press conference held

SB 636 Dinniman, Andrew (D)

(PN 715) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to apply a summary offense to any motor vehicle owner or operator who confines a dog or a cat in an unattended vehicle subject to extreme heat, endangering the animal's health and well-being; enabling witnesses of such an event to contact emergency responders who may break into the vehicle to rescue the animal provided that a reasonable search is made for the owner or operator of the vehicle; making such a responder not liable for any damages resultant from such a breaking in; and providing for information to be distributed to owner and for health treatment for animal. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Press conference held

SB 742 Greenleaf, Stewart (R)

(PN 1162) Amends the Sexual Assault Testing and Evidence Collection Act further providing for rights of sexual assault victims. The bill establishes the right not to be prevented from, or charged for, receiving a medical forensic examination. It also defines "sexual assault counselor." Requires the appropriate official with custody of the collection kit to collaborate with a sexual assault counselor to employ best practices when notifying a victim of information pertinent to the victim. Also requires the Attorney General, in consultation with the Office of Victim Advocate, the State Police and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, to develop a standard protocol for notifying victims. The Attorney General, State Police and Office of Victim Advocate shall post the standard protocol on the internet. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 909)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Reported as committed from Senate Appropriations

SB 837 Ward, Kim (R)

(PN 1528) Act designating a portion of State Route 981 in Smithton Borough and South Huntingdon Township, Westmoreland County, as the Specialist 4 William J. Kolenc Memorial Highway. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1099)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Received as amended in Senate and rereferred SRULES

SB 844 White, Donald (R)

(PN 1531) Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations), in child custody, allowing individuals to file for physical or legal custody if no biological or adoptive parents have custody of a child and the individual assumes or is willing to assume responsibility further providing for standing for any form of physical custody or legal custody, has a sustained, substantial and sincere interest in the welfare of the child. The bill provides for exceptions and for standing or partial physical custody and supervised physical custody relating to grandparents. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1133, 1375)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Received as amended in Senate and rereferred SRULES

SB 859 Greenleaf, Stewart (R)

(PN 1123) Amends the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law further providing for the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency; and establishing the Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee and the Mental Health and Justice Grant Program. The bill establishes the Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee and adds the chairman of that commission as a member of the Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The new commission shall award grants to assist in planning, implementing or expanding initiatives that increase public safety, avert increased spending on criminal justice and improve the effectiveness of treatment services for individuals with mental illnesses, substance abuse disorders or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders who are involved or at risk of involvement with the criminal justice system. Effective in 90 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Second consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

SB 860 Greenleaf, Stewart (R)

(PN 1124) The Criminal Justice and Addiction Treatment Act provides for duties of the Department of Corrections and the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, for educating and training of government-funded professionals who come into contact with individuals engaged in risky substance use and for training programs to educate physicians and nonphysicians in addressing risky substance use and addiction; developing screening and assessment instruments for addictive substances; requiring treatment programs and providers to utilize evidence-based prevention and treatment approaches; and providing for screening at the time of arraignment. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Second consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

SB 877 White, Donald (R)

(PN 1458) Amends the Insurance Department Act allowing insurance providers to offer or give to an insured or prospective insured money or any favor, advantage, object, valuable consideration or anything other than money which has a cost or redeemable value of \$100 or less, which is not specified in the contract of insurance. The amount may be increased by the insurance commissioner. Further provides an insurance producer may not make receipt of anything or value contingent on the purchase of insurance. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1135)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Received as amended in Senate and rereferred SRULES

SB 878 White, Donald (R)

(PN 1459) Amends the Insurance Company Law allowing insurance providers to offer or give to an insured or prospective insured money or any favor, advantage, object, valuable consideration or anything other than money which has a cost or redeemable value of \$100 or less, which is not specified in the contract of insurance. The amount may be increased by the insurance commissioner. Further provides an insurance producer may not make receipt of anything or value contingent on the purchase of insurance. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1136)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Received as amended in Senate and rereferred SRULES

SB 880 Langerholc, Wayne (F) (R)

(PN 1431) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in size, weight and load, further providing for operation of certain combinations on interstate and certain other highways, repealing provisions relating to operation of motor homes on interstate and certain other highways and further providing for width of vehicles and for length of vehicles. The stated intent of the bill is to allow 102-inch wide trailers on all Pennsylvania highways, while still allowing the department and municipalities the ability to restrict these vehicles where necessary on specific roadways. Certain provisions of the bill are effective in 180 days and the remainder is effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 1138)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Laid out for discussion

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Third consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Final Passage by a vote of 50 YEAS 0 NAYS

SB 884 Greenleaf, Stewart (R)

(PN 1147) Amends Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries), in orphans' court divisions, further providing for appointment and purpose and for compensation; and, in incapacitated persons, providing for venue and for confidentiality and disclosure of information, further providing for petition and hearing and independent evaluation, repealing provisions relating to county of appointment and qualifications, further providing for review hearing, providing for affidavit in uncontested termination matters and for counsel, further providing for emergency guardian, repealing provisions relating to provisions similar to other estates, providing for removal and discharge of guardian, for appointment of guardian in conveyance and for bond, further providing for evidence of incapacity, for cross-examination of witnesses and for provisions concerning powers, duties and liabilities, providing for protection of person dealing with guardian, and further providing for when accounting filed, for distributions of income and principal during incapacity and for guardianship services. The bill makes extensive changes to the venue for a guardianship proceeding, the petition and hearing for the appointment of a guardian, who may be appointed a guardian, the removal and discharge of a guardian, and the powers and duties of a guardian. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Second consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

SB 915 Greenleaf, Stewart (R)

(PN 1534) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary) adding a new subchapter relating to Victim and Witness Outreach. Also amends section 9545 relating to jurisdiction and proceedings extending the time period from 60 days to one year for a person bringing a petition for a post-conviction relief action. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Reported as committed from Senate Appropriations

SB 916 Greenleaf, Stewart (R)

(PN 1535) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in post-trial matters, further providing for postconviction DNA testing. The stated intent is to update the law by removing the supervision requirement, allowing those who plead guilty to access testing, requiring the Commonwealth to identify all physical evidence in a case, allowing testing when new DNA testing technology becomes available, and matching with DNA profiles the FBI's DNA database. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Reported as committed from Senate Appropriations

SB 936 White, Donald (R)

(PN 1281) Amends the Workers' Compensation Act, in liability and compensation, further providing for prescription drugs and the treatment of work-related injuries; and, in procedure, further providing for peer review. The bill requires the department to select a nationally recognized, evidence-based prescription drug formulary appropriate for resolving issues related to drugs prescribed for or related to the treatment of work-related injuries and establishes requirements related to the formulary for comment periods, selection factors, costs, annual review, online availability, savings calculations, and utilization review. The bill also places requirements on utilization review organizations and peer review organizations for certification. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - H-Laid out for discussion

Apr 16, 2018 - H-House Kauffman/Mackenzie motion to reconsider vote by which SB 936 was defeated by a vote of 98 YEAS 96 NAYS Apr 16, 2018 - H-Final Passage by a vote of 101 YEAS 92 NAYS

SB 1037 Folmer, Mike (R)

(PN 1473) Amends Title 71 (State Government) consolidating the Civil Service Act and providing for civil service reform in the areas of merit-based hiring, civil service applications, certification, examinations and promotions; and making related repeals. The addition of the sections relating to temporary regulations and transfer of records shall take effect immediately. The remainder shall take effect in nine months.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Public hearing held in committee Senate State Government

SB 1041 Bartolotta, Camera (R)

(PN 1484) Amends Title 51 (Military Affairs), in veteran-owned small businesses, requiring the department to design two official logotypes for use by veteran-owned small businesses and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Reported as committed from Senate Appropriations

SB 1070 Greenleaf, Stewart (R)

(PN 1554) Amends the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law establishing the County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee; providing for justice reinvestment grants, phase 2 and for continuing county probation and parole grants; making an appropriation; and making a related repeal. The Justice Reinvestment Fund will be utilized to support programs and activities to improve the delivery of criminal justice services and for fiscal years 2019-2023 the Office of the Budget shall develop a formula to calculate the amount of savings to the Department of Corrections in the prior fiscal year. The calculation shall include: (1) implementation of short sentence parole under 61 Pa.C.S. 6137.5 (relating to short sentence parole); (2) increased use of the state drug treatment program under 61 Pa.C.S. Ch. 41 (relating to state drug treatment program); or (3) use of sanctions for technical parole violations under 61 Pa.C.S. 6138(C)(8) (relating to violation of terms of parole). The following amounts shall be deposited into the Justice Reinvestment Fund: (1) In fiscal year 2018-2019, an amount of \$3,700,000; (2) In fiscal year 2019-2020, an amount not to exceed the greater of \$3,700,000 or 100 percent of the amount determined to be savings in the prior fiscal year; (3) In fiscal year 2020-2021, an amount not to exceed the greater of \$10,250,000 or 50 percent of the amount determined to be savings in the prior fiscal year; and (4) In fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, an amount in each year not to exceed the greater of \$20,250,000 or 50 percent of

the amount determined to be savings in the prior fiscal year. For fiscal years 2018-2023, \$250,000 shall be distributed to the commission for the purpose of crime victim compensation and \$500,000 shall be distributed to the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing to implement risk assessment and justice reinvestment sentencing features. The remaining deposits shall be distributed to the commission for formula funding to county probation and parole departments, as advised by the County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee. For fiscal years 2017-2023, \$16,222,000 shall be appropriated to the commission for the purpose of formula funding to county probation and parole departments, as advised by the County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee; for fiscal year 2023-2024, that figure is increased to \$35,722,000; and thereafter it shall be adjusted according to the CPI. This bill is part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1525)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Reported as committed from Senate Appropriations

SB 1071 Greenleaf, Stewart (R)

(PN 1555) Amends Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 61 (Prisons and Parole), in judicial boards and commissions, further providing for powers and duties, for adoption of guidelines for sentencing, for adoption of guidelines for county intermediate punishment, for adoption of guidelines for State intermediate punishment and for adoption of risk assessment instrument; in sentencing, further providing for sentencing generally, for order of probation, for sentence of partial confinement, for sentence of total confinement, for sentence of county intermediate punishment, for information required upon commitment and subsequent disposition, for modification or revocation of order of probation, for court-imposed sanctions for offenders violating probation, for modification or revocation of county intermediate punishment sentence and for revocation of State intermediate punishment sentence; in county intermediate punishment, further providing for county intermediate punishment programs and for continued eligibility; in motivational boot camp, further providing for definitions, for selection of inmate participants and for motivational boot camp program; in State intermediate punishment, further providing scope of chapter, for definitions, for referral to State intermediate punishment program, for drug offender treatment program and for reports; in recidivism risk reduction incentive, further providing for definitions, for evaluation and for reports; in Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, further providing for definitions, for advisory committee, for general powers of board, for probation services, for parole power, providing for short sentence parole, further providing for violation of terms of parole and for parole procedure; and making conforming amendments. This bill is part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Portions are effective in 60 days, portions are effective in 120 days and the remainder is effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 1526)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Reported as committed from Senate Appropriations

SB 1072 Greenleaf, Stewart (R)

(PN 1586) Amends the Crime Victims Act, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in crime victims, further providing for rights, for responsibilities of victims of crime under basic bill of rights, for responsibilities of State and local law enforcement agencies and for responsibilities of prosecutor's office; in administration, further providing for office, for powers and duties of victim advocate and for powers and duties of Office of Victims' Services; in compensation, further providing for persons eligible for compensation, for filing of claims for compensation, for minimum allowable claim, for determination of claims, for emergency awards, for awards and for confidentiality of records; in services, further providing for eligibility of victims; in financial matters, further providing for costs and for costs for offender supervision programs; and, in enforcement, further providing for subrogation. This bill is part of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1527)

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Reported as amended Senate Appropriations

SB 1078 Tomlinson, Robert (R)

(PN 1560) Amends Title 65 (Public Officers), in open meetings, adding that an executive session may be held to discuss, plan or review matters and records that are deemed necessary for emergency preparedness, protection of public safety and security of all property in a manner that if disclosed would be reasonably likely to jeopardize or threaten public safety or preparedness or public protection. Effective in 60 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Second consideration

SB 1090 Corman, Jake (R)

(PN 1583) Amends Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), in offenses involving danger to the person, providing for antihazing and prescribing penalties; in forfeiture of assets, further providing for asset forfeiture; and making a related repeal. The bill adds a chapter to Title 18 on antihazing, defines the offense of hazing, and provides for aggravated hazing, organizational hazing, and institutional hazing. Institutions and secondary schools shall adopt policies against hazing and appropriate penalties for hazing. Title 42 is amended to provide for asset forfeiture for aggravated hazing. Effective in 30 days.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Second consideration

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Reported as committed from Senate Appropriations

SR 258 Williams, Anthony (D)

(PN 1439) Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to amend the Controlled Substances Act to remove marijuana as a Schedule I controlled substance and to recognize the proven medical purposes of marijuana.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Laid on the table

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Removed from the table

SR 260 Vulakovich, Randy (R)

(PN 1440) Concurrent Resolution extending the due date for a report of a special bipartisan, bicameral legislative commission on improving the delivery of emergency services to November 30, 2018.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Laid out for discussion

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Adopted by a vote of 50 YEAS 0 NAYS

SR 313 Hughes, Vincent (D)

(PN 1651) Resolution recognizing the month of April 2018 as "Jazz Appreciation Month" in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Introduced and adopted

SR 314 Eichelberger, John (R)

(PN 1652) Resolution recognizing the month of April 2018 as "School Library Month" in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Introduced and adopted

SR 315 Scavello, Mario (R)

(PN 1653) Resolution designating April 16, 2018, as "Pocono Raceway Day" in Pennsylvania.

Apr 16, 2018 - S-Introduced and adopted

EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

HB 1845 Reed, Dave (R)

(PN 2584) Act designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 2026 over the North Branch Blacklick Creek, Buffington Township, Indiana County, as First Lieutenant Theodore P. Pytash Bridge. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 2541)

Apr 16, 2018 Approved by the Governor - Act: 12 Jun 15, 2018 - H-Earliest effective date

HB 1854 Keller, Fred (R)

(PN 2585) Act designating a portion of U.S. Route 522 in Snyder County as the Staff Sgt. Stanley R. Saylor Memorial Highway. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 2555)

Apr 16, 2018 Approved by the Governor - Act: 13 Jun 15, 2018 - H-Earliest effective date

SB 449 Bartolotta, Camera (R)

(PN 1424) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in assault, further providing for probable cause arrests in domestic violence cases by adding that in determining whether to admit the defendant to bail, the issuing authority may use a risk assessment tool adopted. A court of common pleas may adopt a pre-trial risk assessment tool to aid in evaluating whether the defendant poses a threat of danger to the victim, however, the pretrial risk assessment tool may not be the only means of determining whether to admit the defendant to bail. Also requires the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing to develop a model pretrial risk assessment tool and publish a report of validation, with updates every two years. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 439)

Apr 16, 2018 Approved by the Governor - Act: 14 Jun 15, 2018 - S-Earliest effective date

UPCOMING MEETINGS**TUESDAY - 4/17/18****House Judiciary (Note time change from 9:30 a.m.)**

9:00 a.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Public hearing on public safety, gun laws and violence

House Finance

9:30 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

To consider: [HB 415](#) Murt, Thomas Amends Tax Reform Code re inheritance tax [HB 2040](#) Hennessey, Tim Act re senior tax reduction [HB 1925](#) Peifer, Michael Act re senior citizen tax reduction

House Children and Youth

10:00 a.m., Room 60, East Wing

To consider: [HB 2213](#) Moul, Dan Amends Human Services Code re adoption subsidy

House State Government

10:00 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

To consider: [HB 466](#) Marshall, Jim Amends Title 42 re Deputy Sheriffs [HB 1642](#) Hill, Kristin Act re State-owned communications assets [HB 1843](#) Grove, Seth Amends Title 72 re Financial Watch Program

Senate Labor and Industry

10:00 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

Public hearing on: [SB 479](#) Dinniman, Andrew Act re family & medical leave

*****Senate Judiciary (New)**

11:30 a.m., Room 8E-B, East Wing

To consider: [SB 189](#) McGarrigle, Thom Amends the Crime Victims Act re victim rights [SB 1036](#) Greenleaf, Stewa Amends Titles 42 and 75 re fines [SB 1092](#) Mensch, Bob Amends Title 18 re violence in front of child [SB 1126](#) Reschenthaler, G Amends Title 42 re training [SB 1132](#) Greenleaf, Stewa Amends Title 44 re Alternative Dispute [SB 1133](#) Greenleaf, Stewa Amends Title 42 re Grand Jury Reforms [SR 312](#) Greenleaf, Stewa Resolution re Brady violations

*****Senate State Government (New)**

12:00 p.m., Room 8E-A, East Wing

To consider: [SB 299](#) Alloway, Richard Amends PA Election Code re nom. petitions [SB 595](#) Folmer, Mike Amends Title 57 re electronic notarization [SB 1038](#) Costa, Jay Amends PA Election Code re funds

House Appropriations

Off the Floor, Room 140 Main Capitol

Agenda TBA

*****Senate Finance (New)**

Off the Floor, Rules Committee Conference Room

To consider: [SB 1056](#) Brooks, Michele Amends Tax Reform Code re net income tax

Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness

Off the Floor, Rules Committee Conference Room

To consider: [SB 1073](#) Vulakovich, Rand Amends Enforcement Officer Disability Law

WEDNESDAY - 4/18/18

House Judiciary

9:00 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

Public hearing on public safety, gun laws and violence

House Professional Licensure

9:00 a.m., Room B31, Main Capitol

Public hearing on: [HB 789](#) Christiana, Jim Amends Medical Practice Act re Anesthesia

House Commerce

9:00 a.m., Harrisburg University, 14th Floor Auditorium, 326 Market St., Harrisburg (Note time change from 9:15 a.m.)

Public hearing on: [SB 234](#) Blake, John Amends Title 12 re energy improvements

House Aging and Older Adult Services

9:30 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

Informational meeting on budget overview for aging-related services and supports

House Human Services

10:00 a.m., Room 60, East Wing

To consider: [HB 1535](#) Ward, Judith Amends Human Services Code re payment rates [HB 2069](#) Miller, Daniel Amends Independent Living Services Act [HB 2126](#) Ortitay, Jason Amends act allowing minors to consent to care [HR 760](#) Cruz, Angel Concurrent Resolution re tech. & info. access

House Appropriations

Off the Floor, Room 140 Main Capitol

Agenda TBA

THURSDAY - 4/19/18

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

10:00 a.m., 14th Floor Conference Room, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg

To consider the following regulations: 3148 State Board of Physical Therapy #16A-6517 Post-Act Revisions 3138 Environmental Quality Board #7-522: Handling and Use of Explosives

Senate Democratic Policy Committee

11:00 a.m., Penn State Worthington Scranton Campus, 120 Ridge View Drive, Dunmore

Public hearing on "Our Students, Our Workforce, and the Jobs of Tomorrow"

FRIDAY - 4/20/18

House Transportation and House Judiciary

10:00 a.m., Philadelphia City Hall, Room 676, 1401 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Philadelphia

Joint public hearing to evaluate the effects of DUI and drugged driving laws and programs

*****Senate Education (New)**

1:00 p.m., Bedford County Courthouse, 200 S. Julianna Street, Bedford

Public hearing on issues and potential alternatives to the current Act 88 collective bargaining process and teacher strikes

TUESDAY - 4/24/18

House Labor and Industry

10:00 a.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

Public hearing on harassment and sexual misconduct in the workplace

Senate State Government

10:00 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

Second public hearing on redistricting legislation

House Democratic Policy Committee

2:00 p.m., Northeast Baptist Church, 4744 Tackawanna Street, Philadelphia Public hearing with Rep.

Jason Dawkins on gun violence and domestic abuse issues

WEDNESDAY - 4/25/18

House Democratic Policy Committee

2:00 p.m., Overbrook Park Library, 7422 Haverford Avenue, Philadelphia

Public hearing with Rep. Morgan Cephas on: [HB 2210](#) Cephas, Morgan (Amends Public School Code re offenses

THURSDAY - 4/26/18

House Democratic Policy Committee

10:00 a.m., Temple University, Shusterman Hall, 1834 Liacouras Walk, Philadelphia

Public hearing with Rep. Emilio Vazquez on alcohol poisoning prevention and education

FRIDAY - 4/27/18

House Democratic Policy Committee

10:00 a.m., Kimmel Center, Hamilton Gardens, 300 Broad Street, Philadelphia

Public hearing with Rep. Brian Sims on: [HB 1243](#) Sims, Brian Amends Equal Pay Law re Unpaid Wages

MONDAY - 4/30/18

House Consumer Affairs

10:00 a.m., Room B31 Main Capitol

Public hearing on: [HB 2113](#) Oberlander, Donn Amends Unfair Insurance Practices Act

House Democratic Policy Committee

10:00 a.m., Room 418 Main Capitol

Public hearing on food banks

Senate and House Education

11:00 a.m., Rooms 8E-A & B, East Wing

Joint public hearing on the RAND Corporation Study of the PASSHE System

THURSDAY - 5/24/18

House Labor and Industry

10:00 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

Public hearing on: [HB 861](#) Grove, Seth Amends Title 53 re Local Labor Mandates

THURSDAY - 6/7/18

House Game and Fisheries

10:00 a.m., Room 60, East Wing

Public hearing on chronic wasting disease



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