
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: October 8, 2008
TO: All Senate Republicans
FROM: Senator Dominic Pileggi
SUBJECT: Fall 2008 Legislative Accomplishments

The Senate has had an extremely productive fall session. Attached for your reference is a document listing every bill the Senate considered in September and October.

More than 60 bills were considered by the Senate in these two months. (That is on top of the approximately 425 bills which the Senate had considered in the 2007-08 session through July. A document listing every bill the Senate considered through July is also attached.)

Some of the highlights of the Senate's fall activity include:

- Energy conservation and procurement issues. (HB 2200, which is expected to go to the governor for his signature.)
- Establishing a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years for shooting at a police officer. (HB 1845, which is expected to go to the governor for his signature.)
- Making changes to Pennsylvania's gun laws, including increasing penalties for possessing a firearm with an altered serial number, increasing penalties for lying to the police about the theft or loss of a firearm, establishing the Straw Purchase Prevention Education Program in the Attorney General's office, ensuring that weapons cannot be confiscated simply because of a declared emergency, and more. (HB 1845, which is expected to go to the governor for his signature.)
- Strengthening Pennsylvania's Dog Law. (HB 2525, which is expected to go to the governor for his signature.)
- Creating a mini-COBRA plan (SB 1422) and allowing parents to keep children on their insurance plans until age 30 (SB 1453). Both of these bills were sent to the House for its consideration.
- Requiring the registration of, and regulating, certain home improvement contractors. (SB 100, which is expected to go to the governor for his signature.)
- Prohibiting spot reassessments. (SB 1258, which is expected to go to the governor for his signature.)
- Creating a statewide mutual aid agreement system. (SB 1225, which is expected to go to the governor for his signature.)

- Extending the wiretap law and making changes related to obtaining telephone records. (HB 1664, which is expected to go to the governor for his signature.)
- Establishing the Public Health Child Death Review Act. (SB 684, which is expected to go to the governor for his signature.)
- Prohibiting mandatory nurse overtime. (HB 834, which is expected to go to the governor for his signature.)
- Adopting highway (SB 1504) and bridge (SB 1503) capital project itemizations. Both bills are expected to go to the governor for his signature.
- Updating our auctioneer and auction licensing law regarding certain sales on eBay. (SB 708, which is expected to go to the governor for his signature.)
- Creating a Housing Trust Fund. (SB 1400, which was sent to the House for its consideration.)
- Amending the Adam Walsh Act (relating to sexual predators), and adding new Common Pleas judges. (HB 301, which was sent back to the House for its consideration.)
- Increasing penalties for willful failure to pay support orders. (HB 1027, which is expected to go to the governor for his signature.)
- Making it easier for foster parents to participate in permanency hearings. (HB 1511, which is expected to go to the governor for his signature.)
- Enacting the Abandoned and Blighted Property Conservatorship Act. (HB 2188, which is expected to go to the governor for his signature.)
- Regulating small residential hospices. (HB 2629, which is expected to go to the governor for his signature.)