

Senate Labor and Industry Committee

06/02/2026, 12:30 p.m., Room 8E-B, East Wing

By Dominic Kenny, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider several bills.

SB 142, Prime Sponsor: Sen. Camera Bartolotta (R-Beaver) – (PN 87) The Broadcast Freemarket Agreement Act prohibits enforcement of covenants not to compete in broadcast employment agreements. Provides several definitions. Provides prohibitions and nonwaiver. Requires nothing in the act to be construed to limit the period of time for which a party may agree to maintain information as confidential or as a trade secret and limit the geographic area within which the information must be kept confidential as a trade secret. Effective in 60 days. The bill was reported as committed, with Sen. Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne) voting in the negative.

Sen. Bartolotta said non-compete provisions force employees to choose between a lower paying job to stay with their current employer or moving outside of the area they're currently working to further their career. She said the bill would allow those in the broadcast industry to remain within their community while seeking the best opportunity possible.

Sen. Dan Laughlin (R-Erie) asked if the bill applied to workers behind the scenes such as cameramen. Sen. Bartolotta said on-air personalities are usually the ones with non-compete clauses.

SB 908, Prime Sponsor: Sen. Frank Farry (R-Bucks) – (PN 1033) Amends the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act, further providing for definitions, for specifications, for prevailing wage and for duty of secretary. Adds custom fabrication and other maintenance work, with the exception reserved for HVAC cleaning, to the definition of “public work.” Includes laborers, mechanics, skilled and semi-skilled laborers, apprentices and other persons employed by any contractor or subcontractor to perform custom fabrication of nonstandard goods or materials to the definition of “workman” and adds a definition for “custom fabrication.” Provides that the minimum wage for custom fabrication work shall be the same as the wage paid for project work in accordance with each applicable trade or classification. Effective in 60 days. The bill was unanimously reported as committed.

Sen. Farry said the bill closes a loophole in the Prevailing Wage Act on public projects by prohibiting the fabrication of components at non-prevailing wages. He said this issue has been ongoing for several years and disagreed with the notion that these components will ultimately end up in a taxpayer-funded job despite manufacturers not paying the proper wages.

Sen. Christine Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia), a co-sponsor of the bill, said the current status quo is not within the spirit of the Prevailing Wage Act. “It’s time when prevailing wage law conforms to the realities of modern construction,” she said. She noted the bill also ends the practice of “split rates,” which allows contractors to pay workers two different wages for the same job.

Minority Chair John Kane (D-Delaware) said the issue of off-site fabrication has become worse over the past decade. He recalled his origins in the plumbing industry and voiced his support for the bill.

Sen. Laughlin said he plans to update the threshold for prevailing wage in an upcoming bill.

Chair Devlin Robinson (R-Allegheny) acknowledged existing stakeholder concerns but felt that voting the bill out of committee would allow for further negotiations.

SB 1269, Prime Sponsor: Sen. Joe Picozzi (R-Philadelphia) – (PN 1582) The Commercial and Nonresidential Products and Property Protection Act provides for the installation of electrified security systems on commercial entities’ property and property of exclusively nonresidential use. Provides definitions. Provides electrified security system requirements, including installation and compliance. Allows municipalities to require registration of an alarm system and to prohibit an electrified security system that does not meet the requirements. Stipulates that nothing in the act shall be construed to apply to security alarm systems that do not attach to a security system capable of delivering an electric pulse. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously reported as committed.

Sen. Picozzi said his bill allows private businesses to install certain kinds of electric defenses, allowing for heightened security.