

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

# Legislative Journal

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2009

SESSION OF 2009 193RD OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 21

## SENATE

WEDNESDAY, March 25, 2009

The Senate met at 11 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Joseph B. Scarnati III) in the Chair.

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend MICAH McMILLEN, Pastor of Old Mahoning Baptist Church, Home, offered the following prayer:

Let us bow in prayer.

Heavenly Father, as we thank You for another day, we rejoice in the sunshine. We are looking forward to the springtime, as it brings signs of new life. We thank You for the privilege to live in the United States of America and to be residents of this great State. We ask You for wisdom for these Senators as they represent us, as they formulate and pass legislation that is important to our State. We ask You to grant them discernment and help them to be courageous when they face opposition. Help them to be fearless in the face of opponents. We ask You to give them strength, encourage their hearts, and bless their families. Thank You for another opportunity to gather. Keep us safe as we go our separate ways. These things we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend McMillen, who is the guest today of Senator Don White.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled.)

## HOUSE MESSAGE

### HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in the resolution from the Senate, entitled:

Weekly recess.

## RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following Senate Resolution numbered, entitled, and referred as follows, which was read by the Clerk:

March 25, 2009

Senators HUGHES, WASHINGTON, STOUT, TARTAGLIONE, BAKER, FERLO, MELLOW, GREENLEAF, ERICKSON, BOSCOLA and STACK presented to the Chair **SR 57**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of March 22 through 28, 2009, as "Cover the Uninsured Week" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on BANKING AND INSURANCE, March 25, 2009.

## APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the President pro tempore has made the following appointments:

Senator David G. Argall as a member of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee.

Senator Jane M. Earll as a member of the Advisory Council for the Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home.

Senator John H. Eichelberger, Jr., as a member of the Advisory Council for the Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home.

Senator John R. Gordner as a member of the Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board.

Senator Charles T. McIlhinney, Jr., as a member of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Senator Robert J. Mellow as a member of the Advisory Council for the Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center.

Senator John R. Pippy as a member of the Pennsylvania Housing Advisory Committee and as a member of the Film Advisory Board.

Senator Robert M. Tomlinson as a member of the Advisory Council for the Delaware Valley Veterans' Home.

Senator Donald C. White as a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority.

Senator Robert C. Wonderling as a member of the Pennsylvania Public Television Network Commission.

Senator Gene Yaw as a member of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee.

Mr. Troy J. Harper, Esquire, as a member of the Small Business Council.

Mr. Jonathan Peri as a member of Tuition Account Programs Advisory Board.

Mr. Frederick C. Tecce, Esquire, as a member of the Tobacco Settlement Investment Board.

**BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES**

Senator EICHELBERGER, from the Committee on Local Government, reported the following bills:

**SB 168 (Pr. No. 138)**

An Act amending the act of February 1, 1966 (1965 P.L.1656, No.581), known as The Borough Code, further providing for regulation of contracts; and providing for additional contracting authority for electric power and energy.

**SB 317 (Pr. No. 315)**

An Act amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code, further providing for commissioners sole contractors for county, for contract procedures, terms and bonds and advertising for bids and for evasion of advertising requirements.

**SB 318 (Pr. No. 316)**

An Act amending the act of June 23, 1931 (P.L.932, No.317), known as The Third Class City Code, further regulating contracts as to purchasing and advertising requirements.

**SB 319 (Pr. No. 317)**

An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.103, No.69), known as The Second Class Township Code, further providing for competitive bidding of contracts.

**SB 320 (Pr. No. 318)**

An Act amending the act of June 24, 1931 (P.L.1206, No.331), known as The First Class Township Code, further providing for contracts and acquisition of property and for general regulations concerning contracts.

**SB 321 (Pr. No. 319)**

An Act amending the act of February 1, 1966 (1965 P.L.1656, No.581), known as The Borough Code, further providing for regulation of contracts, for evasion of advertising requirements and for certain purchase contracts.

**SB 322 (Pr. No. 320)**

An Act amending the act of May 27, 1953 (P.L.244, No.34), entitled "An act relating to and regulating the contracts of incorporated towns and providing penalties," further providing for regulation of contracts; providing for annual adjustment; further providing for evasion of advertising requirements, for contracts between \$750 and \$10,000 and for separate bids for plumbing, heating, ventilating and electrical work.

**SB 323 (Pr. No. 321)**

An Act amending Titles 53 (Municipalities Generally) and 74 (Transportation) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for competitive bidding of contracts by intergovernmental units, by parking authorities, by municipal authorities and by metropolitan transportation authorities.

**SB 324 (Pr. No. 322)**

An Act amending the act of July 28, 1953 (P.L.723, No.230), known as the Second Class County Code, further regulating contracts and purchases.

**SB 325 (Pr. No. 323)**

An Act amending the act of August 6, 1936 (Sp.Sess., P.L.95, No.38 1/2), entitled "An act to authorize and empower cities, boroughs, towns, and townships, separately or jointly, to provide for protection against floods by erecting and constructing certain works and improvements, located within or without their territorial limits, and within or without the county in which situate; and to expend moneys and incur indebtedness; to assess benefits against property benefited; to issue improvement bonds imposing no municipal liability; and to acquire, take, injure or destroy property for such purposes," further providing for competitive bidding of contracts.

**SB 326 (Pr. No. 324)**

An Act amending the act of April 29, 1937 (P.L.526, No.118), referred to as the Political Subdivision Joint Purchases Law, increasing the amount of purchases that may be made subject to certain conditions.

**SB 327 (Pr. No. 325)**

An Act amending the act of July 29, 1953 (P.L.1034, No.270), known as the Public Auditorium Authorities Law, increasing the dollar amount of supplies and materials which may be purchased without advertising.

**SB 419 (Pr. No. 420)**

An Act amending Title 45 (Legal Notices) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for additional publication in legal journals; and providing for electronic publication of legal advertising.

Senator ERICKSON, from the Committee on Public Health and Welfare, reported the following bills:

**SB 59 (Pr. No. 758) (Amended)**

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code, further providing for application for registration certificate, for issuance of registration certificate and for records; providing for disclosure; and further providing for emergency closure.

**SB 446 (Pr. No. 759) (Amended)**

An Act amending the act of June 29, 1953 (P.L.304, No.66), known as the Vital Statistics Law of 1953, further providing for registration districts and local registrars' duties, for death and fetal death registrations and for reports.

Senator YAW, from the Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing, reported the following bills:

**SB 331 (Pr. No. 329)**

An Act amending the act of May 28, 1937 (P.L.955, No.265), known as the Housing Authorities Law, further providing for awards of contracts, completion bond, additional bond for protection of materialmen and others.

**SB 468 (Pr. No. 760) (Amended)**

An Act amending the act of October 30, 1996 (P.L.732, No.131), known as the Pennsylvania Innkeepers' Rights Act, providing for prospective employee background checks.

**SB 599 (Pr. No. 649)**

An Act amending the act of December 3, 1959 (P.L.1688, No.621), known as the Housing Finance Agency Law, providing for the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Program.

### **RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES**

Senator EICHELBERGER, from the Committee on Local Government, reported the following resolution:

**SR 41 (Pr. No. 643)**

A Resolution designating the week of April 12 through 18, 2009, as "Local Government Week" in Pennsylvania.

Senator ERICKSON, from the Committee on Public Health and Welfare, reported the following resolution:

**SR 56 (Pr. No. 681)**

A Resolution designating April 16, 2009, as "Healthcare Decisions Day" in Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDENT. The resolutions will be placed on the Calendar.

### **LEGISLATIVE LEAVES**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Baker, Senator Folmer, and Senator Piccola, and a legislative leave for Senator Earll.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pileggi requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Baker, Senator Folmer, and Senator Piccola, and a legislative leave for Senator Earll. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

### **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS JOURNALS APPROVED**

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of March 17, 2009, and March 18, 2009, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of March 17, 2009, and March 18, 2009.

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I move that further reading of the Journals be dispensed with and that the Journals be approved.

On the question,  
Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator PILEGGI and were as follows, viz:

**YEA-50**

Alloway	Ferlo	O'Pake	Vance
Argall	Folmer	Orie	Vogel
Baker	Fontana	Piccola	Ward
Boscola	Gordner	Pileggi	Washington
Browne	Greenleaf	Pippy	Waugh
Brubaker	Hughes	Rafferty	White, Donald
Corman	Kasunic	Robbins	White, Mary Jo
Costa	Kitchen	Scarnati	Williams
Dinniman	Leach	Smucker	Wonderling
Earll	Logan	Stack	Wozniak
Eichelberger	McIlhinney	Stout	Yaw
Erickson	Mellow	Tartaglione	
Farnese	Musto	Tomlinson	

**NAY-0**

A majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

### **LEGISLATIVE LEAVES CANCELLED**

The PRESIDENT. Senator Baker, Senator Folmer, and Senator Piccola have returned, and their temporary Capitol leaves are cancelled.

### **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS GUEST OF SENATOR ROBERT WONDERLING PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Wonderling.

Senator WONDERLING. Mr. President, it is indeed my honor and pleasure today to introduce a young gentleman who is participating in our Wondership Program in our Northampton County district office, and that is Alan Mark Raisman. Alan is a junior at Lafayette College, where he is majoring in international studies and minoring in government and law. He is providing vital constituent work and legislative research for our office during the time of his internship, and he plans to attend graduate school and someday hopefully run for office. But also, it is a great recognition of honor for Alan that he has been accepted this summer to attend the National Institute of Justice. So, Mr. President, I ask that we offer Alan Raisman our hearty and warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Wonderling please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR ANTHONY WILLIAMS PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Williams.

Senator WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I am honored today to recognize some very special guests from my district who are here today, the Jones family. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are here today with us, and they brought their daughter, Lauryn, to see the State Capitol. They are actually on a personal tour of their own, and they thought that the consequence of what we do here is so significant that they wanted their child to witness it. They had the

benefit earlier of being on this floor and taking photographs. Some people in Philadelphia actually know Larry, as I do, affectionately as the head of the charter school Richard Allen Preparatory in Philadelphia County. And those of us who enjoy families across Pennsylvania recognize him as a pioneer in the charter school movement. But today, he is a father, along with his lovely wife, who is a proud mother. I would like this body to recognize the Jones family.

By the way, it was Lauryn who hit your gavel earlier who forced you to get up here on time so that we could start on time, so I would like us to welcome her.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Williams please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR PATRICK M. BROWNE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lehigh, Senator Browne.

Senator BROWNE. Mr. President, I have the pleasure to introduce three outstanding individuals who are working as interns in my local office, doing a great job serving the residents of the 16th Senatorial District. They include Andrew Rhodes, who is a sophomore at Muhlenberg College and is majoring in psychology as well as media and communications; Johanna Cespedes, who is a senior at DeSales and is majoring in communications as well; and Xavier Olivares, who is a senior at Muhlenberg College in Allentown and is majoring in business administration. Please give them a warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Browne please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR LLOYD K. SMUCKER PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Smucker.

Senator SMUCKER. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to introduce guests today, visitors who I believe would win the farthest-traveled award. Visiting the Senate today are 10 citizens of China, who are members of the Shanghai Executive Training Program hosted by Millersville University, which is located in my district. The program was established in 1998 between Millersville University and the Shanghai Municipal Government. Participants in the program are Chinese executive business and government managers. Since 1983, 83 Chinese executives have enrolled in the program and returned to China, where they have been instrumental in the rapid changes taking place in that country.

The Executive Training Program is designed to provide a high-quality educational opportunity for Chinese executives to learn about U.S. business principles and practices, to improve Chinese and U.S. relations, and to enhance mutual understanding necessary for successful economic and cultural exchanges in the future. Program participants visit various companies, government offices and agencies, community organizations, schools, hospi-

tals, and retirement communities. These extended visits in an actual business setting enhance the principles learned in the classroom and help the participants develop an understanding of the United States through hands-on experience.

The program is also a great resource for the Pennsylvania business community in exploring business opportunities in China, as well as promoting opportunities for Chinese investment in the Commonwealth. Regardless of business opportunities gained, the most important aspect of the program is its effectiveness in fostering mutual understanding between the people of our nations. I am delighted that they could visit today. Please give them a warm Pennsylvania welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Smucker please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR ROBERT TOMLINSON PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Tomlinson.

Senator TOMLINSON. Mr. President, I would like to welcome to the Senate today George and Marc Luciani. They are both here today with us as a result of a charitable event involving the Delaware Valley Orchestra. George is president of the Capital Planning Advisory Group located in Yardley, which has been in business for 24 years. As a certified financial planner, he specializes in planning and portfolio asset management. A graduate of Villanova University, he resides in Solebury. His son, Marc, is a retirement planning service representative at Merrill Lynch/Bank of America. He is a corporate specialist who manages retirees' financial products and basic estate planning. A graduate of Duquesne University, Marc resides in Bensalem. George and Marc are lifelong Pennsylvania residents, and this is their first visit to our beautiful Capitol. Will the Senate please give them a warm welcome to the Capitol today. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Tomlinson please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR KIM L. WARD PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator Ward.

Senator WARD. Mr. President, I hope you will join me in welcoming Dimension X. Dimension X is a communication and technology company located in Jeannette, Pennsylvania, and we have Heather Piper, just so you know, whom I have known since our days when we did karate together, Robert McClelland, and Norman Wright, and they came today to tour the Capitol and demonstrate just what can be done as it pertains to communications and technology. So please join me in welcoming the folks from Dimension X.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Ward please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

## CALENDAR

## THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEE  
AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION  
AND FINAL PASSAGE

**SB 189 (Pr. No. 746)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, further providing for conditions subject to which policies are to be issued; and providing for health insurance coverage for certain children of insured parents.

Considered the third time and agreed to,  
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

## YEA-50

Alloway	Ferlo	O'Pake	Vance
Argall	Folmer	Orie	Vogel
Baker	Fontana	Piccola	Ward
Boscola	Gordner	Pileggi	Washington
Browne	Greenleaf	Pippy	Waugh
Brubaker	Hughes	Rafferty	White, Donald
Corman	Kasunic	Robbins	White, Mary Jo
Costa	Kitchen	Scarnati	Williams
Dinniman	Leach	Smucker	Wonderling
Earll	Logan	Stack	Wozniak
Eichelberger	McIlhinney	Stout	Yaw
Erickson	Mellow	Tartaglione	
Farnese	Musto	Tomlinson	

## NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

BILL REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEE  
AS AMENDED OVER IN ORDER

**SB 442** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILLS REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEE  
AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION  
AND FINAL PASSAGE

**SB 443 (Pr. No. 749)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act establishing a system for payment or reduction in payment for preventable serious adverse events within this Commonwealth; and

providing for the powers and duties of the Department of Health and the Department of State.

Considered the third time and agreed to,  
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

## YEA-50

Alloway	Ferlo	O'Pake	Vance
Argall	Folmer	Orie	Vogel
Baker	Fontana	Piccola	Ward
Boscola	Gordner	Pileggi	Washington
Browne	Greenleaf	Pippy	Waugh
Brubaker	Hughes	Rafferty	White, Donald
Corman	Kasunic	Robbins	White, Mary Jo
Costa	Kitchen	Scarnati	Williams
Dinniman	Leach	Smucker	Wonderling
Earll	Logan	Stack	Wozniak
Eichelberger	McIlhinney	Stout	Yaw
Erickson	Mellow	Tartaglione	
Farnese	Musto	Tomlinson	

## NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

**SB 490 (Pr. No. 750)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 15, 1955 (P.L.865, No.256), entitled "An act requiring rents and royalties from oil and gas leases of Commonwealth land to be placed in a special fund to be used for conservation, recreation, dams, and flood control; authorizing the Secretary of Forests and Waters to determine the need for and location of such projects and to acquire the necessary land," providing for an interfund transfer; making appropriations from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund; authorizing an expenditure; and making editorial changes.

Considered the third time and agreed to,  
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I respectfully ask if the prime sponsor would stand for interrogation.

The PRESIDENT. She indicates she will.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, the first question I have as it relates to Senate Bill No. 490 is, this is legislation that proposes transferring \$174 million from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund, as

well as some other moneys, which I will talk about later. My first question is whether or not this is intended to be a one-time transfer or a one-time occurrence, that this does not authorize the General Assembly to be able to tap into the Oil and Gas Lease Fund at a later date and time but rather is restricted to a one-time transfer.

Senator M.J. WHITE. Mr. President, this current bill, Senate Bill No. 490, relates only to the current lease payments for this past fiscal year for the 75,000 acres of State forest land that were recently leased.

Senator COSTA. I am sorry, Mr. President, I could not hear the last part of that answer.

The PRESIDENT. Will the Senate please come to order. Would the gentlewoman please restate her answer to the gentleman's question.

Senator M.J. WHITE. Mr. President, Senate Bill No. 490 relates only to the payments that were received for the 75,000 acres that were leased on State forest land. It does not have any other prospective application.

Senator COSTA. So, Mr. President, as we go forward and begin to lease additional forest lands to individuals who want to do drilling of the Marcellus Shale, this would not obligate those additional leases and royalties to ongoing transfers beyond this \$174 million, is that correct?

Senator M.J. WHITE. That is correct, Mr. President. If we were to do that, it would require additional legislation.

Senator COSTA. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The second question I have relates to, as we have discussed, it talks about the \$174 million, but the legislation appropriates from that gas fund in excess of \$174 million. It is \$174 million plus, I believe, an additional \$8.5 million for other projects and other programs. My question is, at this time, as I understand it, there is about \$165 million in the fund, with an anticipation that by year's end, there will be roughly \$196 million or so. My question is: Will the first \$174 million into the fund from the Oil and Gas Lease Fund be transferred first? At this point, we are not quite there yet, but by the time the legislation is enacted, will the \$174 million come out first, and then we may or may not consider the remaining provisions in the legislation?

Senator M.J. WHITE. It is my understanding, Mr. President, that the \$174 million is already included in the Governor's proposed budget, and that would be the first money out.

Senator COSTA. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, finally, in terms of the nature of the projects that are eligible for funding through this program that we are taking the funds from, it is my understanding that there are other types of funding streams that are now available and that we enacted here in the General Assembly, that these type of projects could seek to receive funding through these programs. Mr. President, I am wondering whether or not the prime sponsor and the maker can discuss, briefly, some of those avenues or some of those pots that are now available that may not have been available in years past.

Senator M.J. WHITE. Mr. President, we have adopted a number of very beneficial programs, particularly relating to dams and flood protection. The H<sub>2</sub>O program deals with drinking water. That is paid for with gambling funds. We did a bond issue for other water-based initiatives and conservation initiatives. So the

gentleman is correct. There are other programmatic pots of money that are available for some of these activities. That is correct.

Senator COSTA. Thank you, Mr. President.

Finally, Mr. President, I just want to add that, I think, as the Members know, the transfer of the \$174 million has been contemplated by the administration as one of the ways in which we are going to solve the budget dilemma, the budget deficit that we have for 2008-09. But in addition to doing that, this legislation provides for, as I indicated, an additional \$8.5 million of spending. I think it is important that we make certain that the \$174 million be utilized in the appropriate fashion as soon as it comes in and gets out the door.

No doubt, we will have further discussion in the House, I believe, and ultimately, when we enact the final budget, whether or not Senate Bill No. 490 will stand on its own through the House or whether or not we get to a point where it will be incorporated into what we do in the General Fund budget conversation. But I think it is important that we move the vehicle forward, and I intend to support the legislation.

So I thank the gentlewoman for her answers.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Dinniman.

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, I rise to speak against the bill, because I believe that you are taking one particular type of program that deals with the environment, and you are moving it. I might in the end have no objection, but I believe that we need to look at this holistically. For five decades, this money has remained in the budget through recessions, through economic difficulties, to support the environment. We took a resource out of the land, and we used the money to put it back into appropriate programs that allowed us to restore the natural environment.

We are making the decision now to end this program. I know there are other sources of funding. But when the legislature and the voters approved Growing Greener and other sources of funding, they did so with the full knowledge that this program was also in place. All I am saying is everyone has to make a sacrifice, including those who are for the environment.

But I believe to do this now, to choose one area and move it, that those that -- many of you have received letters from all of the major environmental groups within the Commonwealth, including from your districts, which have said, do not move this now. We understand, for example, it is possible that there will be a tax, a severance tax, that might be able to take the place of this funding, but I am not comfortable with moving it now. I want it to be done in coordination with the total budget. So that is why I rise to oppose it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Venango, Senator Mary Jo White.

Senator M.J. WHITE. Mr. President, I rise to ask for an affirmative vote on this bill. I think it is important to know that this is a lease payment. No wells have been drilled on the State forest land at the current time. In fact, DCNR had a moratorium on any oil and gas leases on State property for several years. This is the first one that has been done in my recent memory, so this is not money that has been going into these coffers, because we have not been doing any leasing. I think it is no secret that the

Marcellus Shale interest and the huge--no one anticipated the size of these lease payments, because it has been unprecedented in the State.

I understand the disappointment of some of the conservation folks who thought they had a \$180-million windfall and now are seeing it taken away to plug the budget hole, but these are very difficult times. And I am not taking anything away from the importance of their programs. I am simply saying that if we are going to get through this budget successfully, we must use this money to plug the very serious budget hole we have. In fact, it points out the problem with dedicated funding. It takes away your ability to budget when money is automatically earmarked for specific uses. This is a time when we need all the budget powers we have.

The Governor has included this in his budget proposal, and I think it is a sensible one, and we certainly have a number of programs to help the conservation districts. We put \$1 million in here for the conservation districts, to assist them in any oil and gas activities that they may be asked to perform in connection with the Marcellus Shale. We also put some money in for the Fish and Boat Commission for similar responsibilities, as well as money for a demonstration project that DCNR wants for carbon sequestration. So we did use some of it for good environmental purposes, but the bulk of it really needs to go to plug the budget hole, and I hope my colleagues will agree.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna, Senator Mellow.

Senator MELLOW. Mr. President, not to prolong the debate on the bill, but I think just to make a very important point, we are now in the process of the time of the year of taking care of a budget, and we all know that this is going to be an extremely difficult, very complex year in trying to satisfy the needs of the Commonwealth and the needs of the Members of both the House and the Senate in trying to come up with a budget that will be acceptable, not only by 26 Members of the Senate but by 103 Members of the House of Representatives and, equally as important, by the constituencies that we represent.

Mr. President, I view the enactment of Senate Bill No. 490 as a budgetary process. I do not see this particular bill as a free-standing bill that is going to do anything other than--and it is a very important bill, and I congratulate the sponsors, because it is something that is badly needed, but I think ultimately this is going to be part of, or somewhere in, the budgetary process that we are now in the middle of going through. So I personally view a vote in favor of this bill as not a vote against any one particular group, but a vote in favor of moving the process on to the next level, where we can continue the job and, hopefully, get it finished.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

#### YEA-33

Alloway	Folmer	Pileggi	Vance
Argall	Gordner	Pippy	Vogel
Boscola	Logan	Robbins	Ward
Browne	Mellow	Scarnati	Waugh
Brubaker	Musto	Smucker	White, Donald
Corman	O'Pake	Stack	White, Mary Jo
Costa	Orie	Stout	Williams
Earll	Piccola	Tartaglione	Wozniak
Eichelberger			

#### NAY-17

Baker	Fontana	Kitchen	Tomlinson
Dinniman	Greenleaf	Leach	Washington
Erickson	Hughes	McIlhinney	Wonderling
Farnese	Kasunic	Rafferty	Yaw
Ferlo			

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

### **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS GUESTS OF SENATOR PATRICK M. BROWNE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lehigh, Senator Browne.

Senator BROWNE. Mr. President, I have the pleasure of introducing another guest from the 16th Senatorial District. All of us in our districts have organizations that stand as the rocks of our communities and represent our communities, not only in Pennsylvania but, in some cases, the rest of the world. And in that regard, I am very proud to introduce officers and members of the Allentown Patriots Athletic Association, who this year are celebrating their 60 years of dedicated community service.

The Allentown Patriots is an organization that if you know softball, across this country and across the world, people know the Allentown Patriots. They have, over the years, expanded from a very modest organization to an organization that holds major events each year. They have held world-class women's softball events featuring Team USA, National Pro Fastpitch, the Greek Olympic team, and have hosted three national fastpitch softball tournaments, in 1976, 1978, and 1984.

This organization has been a leader in promoting youth and adult softball events across the country and continues to be a major force and contributor to the well-being of the Lehigh Valley community. On behalf of the State Senate, I want to take an opportunity to recognize them for 60 years of community support and community leadership, and I ask the Senate to give them a warm welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Browne please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

**CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED****THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED****BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**SB 84 and SB 299** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

**SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR****BILL REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEE AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION**

**SB 237 (Pr. No. 747)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, further providing for annual and other reports; and providing for suitability of annuity transactions.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

**BILL REREFERRED**

**SB 9 (Pr. No. 356)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act requiring identification of lawful presence in the United States as a prerequisite to the receipt of public benefits.

Upon motion of Senator PILEGGI, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

**BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**SB 55, SB 56 and SB 136** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

**BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION**

**SB 206 (Pr. No. 450)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act prohibiting limitations on the wearing of official military uniforms on school property; and imposing a penalty.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

**BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**SB 213 and SB 240** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

**BILLS REREFERRED**

**SB 287 (Pr. No. 289)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for reports to Department of Education and for financial reports.

Upon motion of Senator PILEGGI, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

**SB 329 (Pr. No. 327)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 5, 1947 (P.L.1217, No.498), known as the State Public School Building Authority Act, further providing for competitive bidding of contracts; and providing for evasion of advertising requirements.

Upon motion of Senator PILEGGI, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

**SB 332 (Pr. No. 330)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for adjustments based on Consumer Price Index; and further providing for work to be done under contract let on bids and exception, for purchase of supplies, for contracts for construction, repair, renovation or maintenance, for project contracts and for powers and duties of institution presidents.

Upon motion of Senator PILEGGI, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

**BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**SB 351, SB 387, SB 486, SB 488 and SB 515** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

**BILL REREFERRED**

**SB 531 (Pr. No. 538)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for interagency information sharing.

Upon motion of Senator PILEGGI, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

**BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION**

**SB 536 (Pr. No. 543)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Governor, to grant and convey to Tad W. Hippensteel



a pedestrian and vehicular access easement over certain lands of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania situate in Mount Joy Township, Lancaster County.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

**SB 568 (Pr. No. 579)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Governor, to grant and convey to East Vincent Township, certain lands situate in East Vincent Township, Chester County.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

#### BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 573, SB 605 and SB 628** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senators BRUBAKER, SCARNATI, PILEGGI, STOUT, BAKER, FERLO, TARTAGLIONE, ROBBINS, ORIE, FONTANA, WILLIAMS, M. WHITE, BOSCOLA, RAFFERTY, TOMLINSON, ALLOWAY, WAUGH, GREENLEAF, ERICKSON, EARLL, BROWNE, SMUCKER, KASUNIC, O'PAKE, DINNIMAN, PICCOLA, VOGEL, PIPPY, WARD, FOLMER, WOZNIAC, COSTA, KITCHEN, WONDERLING, D. WHITE and YAW, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 59**, entitled:

A Resolution designating March 31, 2009, as "Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Day" and congratulating Pennsylvania Farm Bureau members for their contribution to this Commonwealth and to this Commonwealth's agricultural industry.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Brubaker.

Senator BRUBAKER. Mr. President, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, formerly the Pennsylvania Farmer's Association, was created in 1950 to provide Pennsylvania farmers and rural citizens with a strong voice in government. The Farm Bureau represents more than 44,000 farm and rural families and has 56 county Farm Bureau organizations that are active in 65 counties throughout this Commonwealth. The Farm Bureau has represented members on a variety of issues, including farmland preservation, commodity pricing, tort reform, property tax reduction, health insurance reform, water rights, wildlife management, and many more. I ask for an affirmative vote on this resolution.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

Senators FOLMER, BOSCOLA, BAKER, STOUT, TOMLINSON, WOZNIAC, ERICKSON, FONTANA, ROBBINS, STACK, KASUNIC, VOGEL, GREENLEAF, RAFFERTY, BROWNE, WAUGH, PILEGGI, DINNIMAN, PIPPY, BRUBAKER, ORIE, WARD, KITCHEN, COSTA, O'PAKE, ALLOWAY, SMUCKER, SCARNATI, EARLL, WONDERLING and FERLO, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 60**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of March 23 through 27, 2009, as "Family Farm Week" in Pennsylvania.

Which was read, considered, and adopted by voice vote.

#### CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTIONS

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following resolutions, which were read, considered, and adopted by voice vote:

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Schick, Robert Treskot, Sarah Daguio, Ann Ray M. Begis, Kelly Purcell, Pauline Butensky, Chad Brommer, Esther Ritter, Williams Valley High School Boys' Basketball Team and to the Hidden River Credit Union of Pottsville by Senator Argall.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Roxanne C. Farrell, Andrea Hartz, Nancy J. Jones, Elaine Fowler, Debbie Yuskas, Penn Kidder Lions Club, Mahoning Valley Lions Club, Coaldale Lions Club, Jim Thorpe Lions and Lioness Clubs, West Penn Township Lions Club, Tamaqua Lions Club, Lehighon Lions and Lioness Clubs, Nesquehoning Lions Club and to the Palmerton Lions Club by Senators Argall and Musto.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Garber, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Katona, Victoria Giblin and to Snowdon Funeral Homes, Inc., of Dallas, by Senator Baker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Honorable Diane Repyneck, Andrew J. Lynch and to Columbia Fire Company No. 1 of Roseto by Senator Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Whitehall Chamber of Commerce by Senators Boscola and Browne.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Polish Community of the Lehigh Valley by Senators Boscola, Browne, and Wonderling.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Andrew J. Phillips, Justin Schell and to Johanna Cespedes by Senator Browne.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Katy Pennachio, Jason Halley, Kaleena Neff, Gayatri Ray, Lehigh Valley ACT and to the Lehigh Valley Kennel Club by Senator Browne and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. John Wenger, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Uibel, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sauder, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Buohl and to Gerald Shane Campbell by Senator Brubaker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Glen L. Bilger, Phyllis Leonard, Shirley Aumiller, Betty Horton,

Alice Fealtman, Jessie Kennedy, Sandra S. McClure, Kevin Harrison, Walker Township Elementary School of Mifflintown, Mifflin Chapter No. 260, Order of the Eastern Star, and to Greenwood High School Boys' Basketball Team by Senator Corman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Matthew Stoffregen and to LifeSpan, Inc., by Senator Costa.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jeffrey O. Nelson, Elmer Duckinfield, Mary Dara Beidler, Marissa N. Martin, Krista L. Adsett, Kimberly R. Diehl, Katherine M. Hall, Jessica A. Tucker, Caroline E. Evans, Ashley R. Baugher, Natalie S. Bank and to William S. McDonald by Senator Dinniman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ronald Rhodes and to Valor Studios, Inc., of Montoursville, by Senator Eichelberger.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. William H. Shultz, Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Stevens, Corey Lear and to James Moncavage by Senator Gordner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to George Morrall, Mary Alice Scott and to the Bryn Athyn Historic District by Senator Greenleaf.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Girard College High School Boys' Basketball Team by Senator Kitchen.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Colonel James Lord, Colonel Dr. Gregory John Argyros and to Dr. Patricia Ann Barthalow Koch by Senator Logan.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kelly J. Rebert, Kathlyn E. Montgomery, Kaitlyn A. Drabb, Bridget M. Murphy and to Stephanie Paradisco by Senator McIlhinney.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Cody J. Baum by Senator O'Pake.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to James Davis Jackson and to Gene Arthur Williams by Senator Orie.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Hershey High School Memory Team by Senator Piccola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Paul Whitman by Senator Rafferty.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Michael Carney Humes and to Meadville Area Middle School by Senator Robbins.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. John Charles and to Tyler M. Torello by Senator Smucker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. George W. Bandalo, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Megyesy, Mr. and Mrs. James G. Nahas, Jr., William W. Barnhart and to Donald W. Booher, Jr., by Senator Stout.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Honorable Maria Quinones-Sanchez, the Honorable Tony J. Payton, Jr., Jose Melendez, Stephen Johnson, Quetcy Lozada, Victor Negron, Arnaldo Puentes, Carlos Perez, Eddie Ocasio, Edwin Bo Diaz, Jonathan Ramos, Albert Sanchez, Jose J.J. Rivera, Victor Benites, John Cantoral, Alma Nazario, Ana Rodriguez, Jamie Reyes and to Men in Motion in the Community by Senator Tartaglione.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Middle School Eco-Conservation Crew of Bristol by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Pardoe by Senator Vance.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Andrew D. Pergrin, Mason K. Miller, Stephen M. Bruck, Donald A. Amspacher, Paul Anthony and to Manan Gill by Senator Waugh.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kirkwood, Mr. and Mrs. James Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. Fred McLaughlin, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Cravener, Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Salerno, Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Dalessio, June Good and to Susan Hrinko by Senator D. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Roberta Stahlman by Senator M.J. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Telford Rankin, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Probert, Michael Virus, Kaitlyn McMullen and to the Hope Fire Company by Senator Wozniak.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kevin Tyler Rice, Christopher David Hilliard, Ree Ann Ross, Justin L. Girven and to the Kiwanis Club of Williamsport by Senator Yaw.

### CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following resolution, which was read, considered, and adopted by voice vote:

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late George Hagggar by Senator Greenleaf.

### POSTHUMOUS CITATION

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following citation, which was read, considered, and adopted by voice vote:

A posthumous citation honoring the late Dr. Andrew M. Tometsko was extended to the family by Senator Logan.

### BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator FOLMER. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now proceed to consideration of all bills reported from committees for the first time at today's Session.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bills were as follows:

**SB 59, SB 168, SB 317, SB 318, SB 319, SB 320, SB 321, SB 322, SB 323, SB 324, SB 325, SB 326, SB 327, SB 331, SB 419, SB 446, SB 468 and SB 599.**

And said bills having been considered for the first time,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for second consideration.

### PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Wonderling.

Senator WONDERLING. Mr. President, I really just want to rise today for the benefit of the Members to provide an update on an initiative that is bipartisan in nature and seeks to retain young Pennsylvanians in our Commonwealth and, perhaps more importantly and broadly, encourage young people throughout the world to come and become Pennsylvanians. And statistically, in this

Commonwealth, I am discouraged to announce, we are not doing very well retaining our young people.

I define a young Pennsylvanian as someone between the ages of 18 and 32. In fact, on a statistical basis, the Commonwealth ranks 36th, 14th from the bottom, in retaining young people. And survey after survey suggests when asking someone in their mid-20s why they are no longer remaining in our Commonwealth, it is because they do not see economic opportunity. They do not see job security. They do not see the Commonwealth as a place in which they could be empowered to be our next generation of entrepreneurs.

So in late November of last year, Mr. President, a number of us convened a working group of young individuals, young professionals from throughout this Commonwealth, to develop a short, medium, and long-term legislative agenda for that growing demographic. And today, on a bipartisan basis, we announced--and over the next several days, we will be introducing--legislation that, first, encourages entrepreneurship in this Commonwealth, that creates a more business-friendly environment for someone in their mid-20s to take that risk and start an enterprise.

Mr. President, the statistics do not lie. If you look at, on a percentage basis, the number of jobs that will be created in this Commonwealth between now and 2020, 50 percent of new jobs created between now and 2020 will be the result of someone in their mid-20s, with a germ of an idea and a little bit of risk, starting that enterprise. And so I applaud Senator Farnese, who will be introducing legislation in support of encouraging the language of entrepreneurship into our public school curricula, starting first with personal finance, and then literally how to start your own business, so that perhaps emerging graduates of this Commonwealth will not only understand the language of entrepreneurship, but will take that risk.

I also want to applaud Senator Eichelberger as chair of our Committee on Local Government. He will be offering resolutions and legislation that will encourage the myriad Commonwealth boards and commissions at the State, county, and local level, to encourage someone in their mid-20s to serve in an ex-officio capacity on that board or commission, so that someone who is a young Pennsylvanian can serve on a zoning board or the local water or sewer authority and perhaps get a taste of what it means to actively engage in appointed or elected citizenship and then, perhaps, take that step in becoming actively involved much sooner rather than later. It is our opinion that such involvement empowers individuals in their mid-20s in this Commonwealth not just to stay here, but to remain here as well.

And then finally, Mr. President, we are introducing an array of bills that support lifelong learning, that understand that if you are 25 years of age, and you are in Pennsylvania or coming to Pennsylvania, that you are going to need to continue learning in an applied way so that you continue to be employed in whatever your career pursuits might be.

So under the banner of "You Lead," Mr. President, from which we have built a legislative agenda to focus on entrepreneurship, education, and empowerment, I am delighted to recognize not only Senator Farnese and Senator Eichelberger, but Senator Alloway, Senator Folmer, Senator Costa, and Senator Stack as well.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Fontana.

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, I would like to rise to clarify some information that has been passed around the Chamber referring to a rock-and-roll group called Wayne Fontana and the Mindbenders. I have been asked if this is me, and I guess it suffices to say that if I began to sing, everyone in here would know that it is not me. I do want to state that I had a lot of fun growing up in my high school years answering that question, and I want to thank Senator Brubaker for allowing me another opportunity to have a trip down memory lane.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Rafferty.

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, I want to take a brief moment and once again remind my colleagues that we have the chance for the east and the west to join together, and all of Pennsylvania to join together, to wish two of our basketball teams the best of luck in their upcoming series, Pitt versus Xavier, and Villanova versus Duke. So to the two teams, best wishes, be victorious, and keep Pennsylvania alive in the NCAA championship series.

Thank you, Mr. President.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Williams.

Senator WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I wholeheartedly concur with Villanova.

On behalf of those of us who did read the literature that was provided on our desks and then went and got an autograph from Senator Fontana, I guess he is now telling us they are of no value, with his comments, so we are asking for a refund. And all the young ladies who are in the Chamber who actually got those signatures also, we want to defend their honor on your behalf.

To Senator Brubaker, we want to thank him for this light-hearted moment. We also enjoy laughing with you, Senator Fontana.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Ferlo.

Senator FERLO. Mr. President, I know it is Wednesday, and all of us are anxious to get back to our respective districts, and I am not going to talk about sports, although, "let's go Pitt."

Mr. President, I think you will clearly recognize that the fundamental issue on the minds of most Americans today, aside from all the problems that we have being in military conflict, the struggling economic recovery plan, you could go on endlessly about the daily struggles and crises that we go through, but I would venture to guess that one fundamental issue is the whole issue of the healthcare industry in our country and the fact that today, as we continue to speak in these Chambers about needed healthcare reforms, more than 47 million Americans have no form of adequate health insurance. Of the 20 to 25 million Americans who have health insurance, we continue to see situations where they are underinsured. We keep hearing about the insurance staff person on the other end of the line who often will tell the patient or the hospital that a particular needed medical procedure just cannot be covered, as a preexisting condition, you name

it. There are all kinds of concerns and complaints attributed to the healthcare industry in this country, but the fundamental issue has to do with the financing mechanism in which we either do or do not provide necessary healthcare.

There is a very significant movement around this country in every local community and every State government, in every union shop and every church meeting, religious meeting, PTA meeting, you name it. People are beginning to discuss the actual nature of the healthcare industry in our country today. And there is a profound movement in support of a basic, fairly simple concept that has been referred to as the single-payer healthcare plan. It is much-maligned by big industry and big insurance companies and others who have a vested interest in the profit nature of our healthcare industry in this country. But it is really a fundamentally simple, basic way in which we can guarantee, very similarly, the Medicare system, only this would be a system that would provide Medicare for all, cradle-to-grave coverage, comprehensive universal coverage, everybody in, nobody out. That does not come without a cost, as you well know, Mr. President. It would be a cost that everyone would contribute to, be they large businesses or small, be they private individuals, be they host communities and municipalities. So we are talking about a fundamental change in the manner in which we provide healthcare coverage.

This coming Saturday, there is a very focused conference on the campus of Carnegie Mellon University, Saturday, March 28, from 9 to 4 p.m. I encourage Pittsburghers who are interested in learning more about the single-payer plan, both the national piece of legislation that has well over 75 congressional cosponsors, House Resolution No. 676, Congressman Conyers' plan for single-payer, and as well, Representative Manderino has offered legislation in the House, House Bill No. 1660. I have companion legislation. These are works in progress. Senate Bill No. 400 would set up and establish a statewide version of single-payer.

I just want to close and reiterate that the conference is open and available to the public to learn more about the single-payer approach, how we can best work to educate and organize and advocate to government officials and to those in the community who have the sincere desire to grapple with a complicated issue but something that can be made much more simple than individuals are presenting in our nation today. Some want to gang up on the single-payer concept. Many of those are private health insurance corporations that, right now, have been raking in billions of dollars. And we know for a fact that a publicly administered medical trust fund would provide coverage with less than 3 to 4 percent administrative overhead, and private insurance corporations in our country are providing coverage with 12 to 14 percent overhead. Mr. President, as you well know, when we say "overhead" and use numbers like 12, 14 percent, we are literally talking about billions and billions of wasted dollars that do not go into the direct delivery of healthcare.

I encourage Pittsburghers and those throughout the southwestern Pennsylvania area to attend this conference. You can call my office at 412-621-3006 to learn more about single-payer healthcare for all. Demand first-rate, comprehensive healthcare. The conference is this Saturday, March 28, on the campus of Carnegie Mellon University. And in the future, we will talk at length, but we will provide that opportunity for another day.

Thank you, Mr. President.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY

The following announcements were read by the Secretary of the Senate:

### SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009

10:00 A.M.	EDUCATION (public hearing to hear testimony from the Department of Education on basic education funding and other budget issues)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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#### MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2009

9:30 A.M.	EDUCATION (public hearing to hear testimony from the Department of Education on basic education funding and other budget issues)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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#### TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009

9:15 A.M.	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (public informational hearing to discuss how the proposed 2009-2010 budget will affect agriculture and rural Pennsylvania)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
9:30 A.M.	FINANCE (public hearing on the nomination of Hon. Stephen H. Stetler as Secretary of Revenue)	Room 8E-B East Wing
10:30 A.M.	CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE (public hearing for Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection)	Room 8E-A East Wing

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009

9:00 A.M.	COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY (information hearing on Advanced Broadband Services - What's Next)	Room 8E-B East Wing
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#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2009

9:00 A.M.	COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY (Pennsylvania Public Television Network)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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## RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, March 30, 2009, at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 11:33 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.