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SESSION OF 2016 200TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 12

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, March 16, 2016

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

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend GREG HELMAN, Pastor of Blue Rock United Brethren in Christ Church, Waynesboro, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Dear heavenly Father, we thank You for the opportunity to be in Your presence. We thank You, Lord, that we could come before You and know that You will help us. Lord, wisdom is what we ask for today. We ask, Lord, for Your wisdom, not our own. We ask, Lord, that You would help us to hear You speak. Help us, Lord, to understand Your will. Help us to do that which You have called us to do. We thank You for each person who is here. We pray Your blessing upon them. Strengthen them in every way, for it is in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Pastor Helman, who is the guest today of Senator Alloway.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

HOUSE MESSAGE

**HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS
TO HOUSE BILL**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the Senate to **HB 1296**.

BILL SIGNED

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack) in the presence of the Senate signed the following bill:

HB 1296.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator RAFFERTY, from the Committee on Transportation, reported the following bills:

SB 52 (Pr. No. 1616) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in safety and anti-pollution equipment, further providing for windshield obstructions and wipers.

SB 973 (Pr. No. 1352)

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in nuisances, further providing for the offense of scattering rubbish; in registration of vehicles and in licensing of drivers, further providing for the acknowledgment of littering provisions; and, in miscellaneous provisions, further providing for the offense of depositing of waste and other material on highway, property or waters.

SB 1040 (Pr. No. 1333)

An Act designating the bridge on State Route 225 that crosses the Armstrong Creek in Halifax Township, Dauphin County, as the Staff Sergeant Brian K. Mowery Memorial Bridge.

SB 1152 (Pr. No. 1591)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in other required equipment, further providing for restraint systems; and making an editorial change.

SB 1155 (Pr. No. 1617) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, providing for special plates for active members of the armed forces of the United States.

HB 1087 (Pr. No. 1493)

An Act amending the act of June 12, 1931 (P.L.575, No.200), entitled "An act providing for joint action by Pennsylvania and New Jersey in the development of the ports on the lower Delaware River, and the improvement of the facilities for transportation across the river; authorizing the Governor, for these purposes, to enter into an agreement with New Jersey; creating The Delaware River Joint Commission and specifying the powers and duties thereof, including the power to finance projects by the issuance of revenue bonds; transferring to the new commission all the powers of the Delaware River Bridge Joint Commission; and making an appropriation," providing for gubernatorial veto.

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

HB 59 (Pr. No. 51)

An Act providing for hepatitis C testing and treatment and for duties of the Department of Health.

HB 264 (Pr. No. 2970) (Amended)

An Act providing standards for carbon monoxide alarms in care facilities; imposing powers and duties on the Department of Aging, the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services; and prescribing penalties.

RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator RAFFERTY, from the Committee on Transportation, reported the following resolution:

SR 261 (Pr. No. 1501)

A Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to support a Passenger Facility Charges (PFC) increase for commercial airports controlled by public agencies.

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

SR 267 (Pr. No. 1615) (Amended)

A Resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee to study issues relating to the need for, availability of and access to effective drug addiction treatment in this Commonwealth.

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator McIlhinney, and a legislative leave for Senator Baker.

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

Senator WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Leach.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator McIlhinney, and a legislative leave for Senator Baker.

Senator Williams requests a legislative leave for Senator Leach.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of December 4, 2015; December 5, 2015; and December 6, 2015, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of December 4, 2015; December 5, 2015; and December 6, 2015.

Senator CORMAN. 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 CORMAN and were as follows, viz:

YEA-49

Alloway	Eichelberger	Mensch	Vogel
Argall	Farnese	Rafferty	Vulakovich
Aument	Folmer	Reschenthaler	Wagner
Baker	Fontana	Sabatina	Ward
Bartolotta	Gordner	Scarnati	White
Blake	Greenleaf	Scavello	Wiley
Boscola	Haywood	Schwank	Williams
Brewster	Hughes	Smucker	Wozniak
Brooks	Hutchinson	Stefano	Yaw
Browne	Kitchen	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Corman	Leach	Teplitz	
Costa	McGarrigle	Tomlinson	
Dinniman	McIlhinney	Vance	

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

GUESTS OF SENATOR GENE YAW PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lycoming, Senator Yaw.

Senator YAW. Mr. President, today I rise to welcome to the Senate 27 individuals who are with us for the very first time. Seated in the gallery are students and advisors from the Diversified Treatment Alternatives program in Union County. I also state that there are several members of Intermediate Unit 16 with them. It is my understanding that this is the first time many of these students have been here in the State Capitol, specifically in the Senate Chamber. I ask my Senate colleagues to give these individuals a warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Yaw, our young people, please rise so that we may welcome you to the Pennsylvania Senate. Come back and see us again.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN N. WOZNIAK PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cambria, Senator Wozniak.

Senator WOZNIAK. Mr. President, it is my pleasure today to introduce men and women from the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce. It is my new district and Senator Eichelberger's old district. Some fine people, and as a matter of fact, one of the gentlemen went to the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown with Senator Rafferty and I. He was in the same fraternity, Delta Chi, and his name is Rick Smith. What I would like to do--they came to watch us work today in a bipartisan fashion to cooperate, collaborate, and govern, and they are here to see how well we do that. So, I would like the Senate of Pennsylvania to give a warm welcome to the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce.

The PRESIDENT. Would the Bedford County guests of Senator Wozniak please rise so that we may welcome you to the Pennsylvania Senate.

GUESTS OF SENATOR ROBERT F. TEPLITZ PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dauphin, Senator Teplitz.

Senator TEPLITZ. Mr. President, I welcome to the Senate Thomas Fisher and his guests in the gallery today. Thomas is a senior at Susquenita High School in Perry County, and he is the winner of my 2015 "There Oughta Be a Law!" essay contest. Thomas is here today with his mother, Wendy Fisher; his grandmothers, Pam Fisher and Debbie Dressle; his teacher, Terrance Shepler; his principal, Craig Funk; and his internship mentor, Nick Matash of Mid-Penn Legal Services.

Thomas proposed expanding the category of crimes that qualify for expungement to include misdemeanors and lower-class felonies as long as the ex-offender has remained free of arrest or prosecution for a certain period of time after conviction. Sound familiar? I am very impressed that this young man's second-chance proposal is not only a commonsense measure, but just became law last month. When I selected his essay last year, his proposal was making its way through the legislature as Senate Bill No. 166, authored by our colleague Senator Greenleaf. The Governor signed it into law on February 16 as Act 5 of 2016. I was proud to vote for the legislation, and I think Thomas should be commended for addressing an issue that we as legislators debated, voted on, and that the Governor approved.

Thomas is an honor student who is actively involved in his school and his community, and he plans to pursue a major in political science at Widener University. He clearly has a bright future ahead of him, perhaps some day as a lawmaker. So, Mr. President, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Thomas Fisher on winning my "There Oughta Be a Law!" essay contest and welcoming him and his guests to the Senate today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Teplitz, Thomas Fisher and his guests, please rise so that we may welcome and greet you.

(Applause.)

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator McIlhinney has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

GUESTS OF SENATOR RICHARD L. ALLOWAY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Franklin, Senator Alloway.

Senator ALLOWAY. Mr. President, I am from Franklin County; however, my guests today are from Adams County. I am pleased to welcome in the gallery the Gettysburg Area Middle School student council, along with their advisor, Kathy Thomas.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Alloway, the Gettysburg folks, please rise so that we may welcome you to our great Chamber.

(Applause.)

RECESS

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

Senator WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a Democratic caucus before we re-engage.

The PRESIDENT. Will that be in the rear of the Chamber or at the Leader's desk?

Senator WILLIAMS. Mr. President, in the rear of the Chamber.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, there is no need for the Republican Members to caucus, although we support the Democratic Members' desire to recess for their caucus.

The PRESIDENT. For the purpose of a Democratic caucus, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The time of recess having expired, the Senate will come to order.

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

HB 1801 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

HB 1801 (Pr. No. 2968) -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 2 of the Third Consideration Calendar, by Senator CORMAN, as a Special Order of Business.

PREFERRED APPROPRIATIONS BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1801 (Pr. No. 2968) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Supplement to the act of December 29, 2015 (P.L. , No.10A), entitled "An act to provide from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive and Judicial Departments, the State Government Support Agencies and the General Assembly of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016, for certain institutions and organizations, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015; to provide appropriations from the State Lottery Fund, the Tobacco Settlement Fund, the Aviation Restricted Account, the Hazardous Material Response Fund, The State Stores Fund, the Milk Marketing Fund, the Home Investment Trust Fund, the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund, the Tuition Account Guaranteed Savings Program Fund, the Banking Fund, the Firearm Records Check Fund, the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority Fund, the Oil and Gas Lease Fund, the Home Improvement Account, the Cigarette Fire Safety and Firefighter Protection Act Enforcement Fund, the Insurance Regulation and Oversight Fund, the Pennsylvania Racehorse Development Restricted Receipt Account and the Justice Reinvestment Fund to the Executive Department; to provide appropriations from the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account to the Judicial Department for the fiscal year July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016; to provide appropriations from the Motor License Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016, for the proper operation of several departments of the Commonwealth and the Pennsylvania State Police authorized to spend Motor License Fund money; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive Department of the Commonwealth and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015; and to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds from the General Fund and the State Lottery Fund for the Executive Department of the Commonwealth for the fiscal year July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015, and for the payment of bills in-

curring and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014," further providing for additions to appropriations and replacement of appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive Department, the General Assembly and Government Support Agencies of the Commonwealth and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016, for certain institutions and organizations and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015; providing for replacement of appropriations from the Tobacco Settlement Fund to the Executive Department; further providing for additions to appropriations from the Pennsylvania Racehorse Development Restricted Receipt Account to the Executive Department; and providing for required lapsing of money in the General Fund.

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 Lehigh, Senator Browne.

Senator BROWNE. Mr. President, I rise in support of House Bill No. 1801 as amended. No doubt, taken by itself or in insolation, House Bill No. 1801 as amended is somewhat unorthodox because it provides for a very material supplemental appropriation to a prior-approved General Appropriation Act for the 2015-16 fiscal year, the year that we are in right now, most likely the largest supplement in the Commonwealth's history. But when taken in conjunction with the act signed by the Governor in December, it provides for general appropriation spending at a level largely consistent with the base of spending for the 2014-15 fiscal cycle, while with the use of responsible--I emphasize that, responsible--cash management and revenue and expense recognition practices, provides for historic new investments in K through 12 education, early education, and higher education, and as part of this, it takes a tremendous step in fulfilling the Commonwealth's obligations to many school facility and capital projects.

It fulfills the Commonwealth's obligations to healthcare for lower-income citizens and children, long-term care for our seniors, and public safety. It does this primarily by restoring the significant vetoes made by the Governor to the appropriations provided for these needs in the measure sent to him in December. It provides for significant new investments in important programs to advance agricultural interests in the Commonwealth, our State's largest industry; it provides for greater investment and opportunities for our senior citizens for community settings and long-term care; it provides for increased investment to serve additional individuals with disabilities with important services; and additional investments to maintain Pennsylvania's rich historical heritage, all without raising taxes on our citizens and job creators.

Mr. President, as you know, we are aware that this proposal is a proposal with which the Governor has significant concerns. In this regard, it is important for me to note on behalf of the Senate Republican Caucus that we have made every effort over many months to build reasonable consensus with the chief executive regarding our joint responsibilities on the fiscal affairs of this government. Yet, at this time, it is my sincere belief, in March of 2016, entering the final quarter of the fiscal cycle with-

out a final spending plan for the Commonwealth, that we must collectively come to a conclusion that behind the numbers and outside these marble pillars are the people in our communities--the schoolchildren, the families, and the senior citizens - who depend on our ability to serve their needs.

What a majority of this Assembly can approve and advance to the Governor's desk for his consideration at this critical moment represents over 97 percent--I repeat that, represents over 97 percent--of the total spending which the Governor had indicated that he would consent to. This proposal, admittedly, does leave a gap in total projected revenue and expenses for 2016-17. We know that. However, we are currently in consideration of the 2016-17 budget, as we always are, and we can and we will consider methods and initiatives over the next several months to address this imbalance in finalizing our obligations for the prospective fiscal year.

Mr. President, as far as our most pressing obligations today, at this critical moment, we must embrace the bigger picture, embrace the 97 percent of our 2015-16 General Fund initiatives for which consensus has been reached. To do so is to simply insure that at this critical moment, collectively, all branches of government, that this government does its best to continue to meet its constitutional obligations to its citizens.

Thank you, Mr. President. I request a positive vote on House Bill No. 1801.

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, in spite of my respect for the previous speaker and my respect for his work effort and the time that he puts into this process to try to drive us to do the right thing, unfortunately, Mr. President, this is a document in front of us which, once again, resembles basically another political gimmick. It is written to score talking points but not solve a problem. This does not solve the problem. This document has not been negotiated and has not had folks sitting at the table attempting to work out our differences. Mr. President, it is a political gimmick, unfortunately. As I said, it is written to score budget talking points but not solve the problem.

I can talk about how this plan, as I did in the meeting of the Committee on Appropriations yesterday, Mr. President, puts us \$290 million out of balance. I can talk about how this plan does not make the kind of significant investments in key programs that we all desire. I can talk about how this proposal does not address our \$1.7 billion structural deficit and how the plan's fiscal statement itself admits a \$1.2 billion structural hole. I can talk about how this plan provides no money for school construction, how this plan reduces grants for our college students and basically trades one constituency against the other, taking grants from college students and forces the money into other portions of the budget. It scores talking points but does not solve the problem, Mr. President. I can also tell you that this approach in this document will perpetuate credit downgrades, which we have all been instructed by all the rating agencies that this State must come to grips with in terms of moving itself forward.

I can say much more about each of these, Mr. President, but for now I want to talk about how we need to take a short break from budget politics, put down budget rhetoric, and walk across this building to the Governor's Office, meet with him, and immerse ourselves in budget negotiations. The Governor is here. Let us go meet with him and finish our work. Again, there has

been no across-the-table conversation and no across-the-table dialogue with respect to this document that is in front of us right now. This process needs to be about compromise, about finding common ground. Quite frankly, something we did so expertly, something we did so well when we passed a budget out of here 43 to 7 back in December. Bipartisan, overwhelming, 43 to 7. We found compromise at that point. We worked together at that point, Mr. President. We were able to deal with a structural budget crisis at that point. We were able to address the issues that the folks on Wall Street, the rating agencies on Wall Street wanted us to address at that point, Mr. President. This document does not do that. There has been no across-the-table compromise in putting this document together. There has been no across-the-table negotiation in putting this document together.

Mr. President, in November, the *Express-Times* editorial board said, failing to compromise "is no way to run a State." They also said, "Pennsylvania can have property tax relief, pension reform, free-enterprise liquor stores and better education funding, if Democrats and Republicans step up and give something to get something. Real compromise." Unfortunately, this document does not do that. On March 7, the Wilkes-Barre *Times Leader* said compromise is needed because lack of it has pushed our schools to the brink of early closure, even bankruptcy. "Do expect the brinkmanship to continue for a while longer, pushing some school districts to consider ridiculous actions," the *Times Leader's* editorial board said. Unfortunately, we have to have compromise, we have to work together, we have to sit across the table and make that happen. We have all seen calls for budget negotiators, House and Senate Republicans, Democrats, and the Governor to be locked in a room and not be let out until a compromise is reached. While that seems like a simplistic approach as we stand here today on March 16, 2016, it is the correct approach. The Governor is in Harrisburg, Leaders on both sides of the aisle in both Chambers are here, let us move past the short-term political document and, instead, move to a conference room to forge a final agreement. The truth is, it is March, and March Madness exists not just in our college basketball games, but it exists here, unfortunately, in this building. This budget is way past due. Frustration envelops this Chamber, and citizens across Pennsylvania are anxious because we cannot seem to do our jobs and do them appropriately responding to their needs and, again, in the spirit of compromise. In the spirit of working across the table, Democrats, Republicans, House Members, Senate Members sitting together to work across the table, this document does not reflect that.

In December, this Chamber reached an agreement. This Chamber reached an agreement that was far different than what exists in this bill that is in front of us right now. This Chamber addressed the structural budget deficit, made the investments in education, did not put ourselves in perpetual credit downgrades. This Chamber did the appropriate thing in December. Now we are faced with a document far less than that by its own admission, creates a \$1.7 billion structural deficit, does not fund our systems the way they need to be funded, does not make the investments the way they need to be made in agriculture and other areas, does not do what is supposed to be done, again, in the spirit of compromise, working across the table.

Now, we can point fingers, but we cannot roll back the clock. The truth is, we are no further away today. That is why we need to negotiate and compromise, which this document does not do.

It is hard, it is necessary to compromise, but we must have the political will, we must have the wherewithal to get beyond all of the rhetoric and sit together and find common ground on a budget that serves the needs of our citizens. We can do it, we showed it before. The basics, the foundation of it are right in our midst. We all have the notes from that document, that budget that passed out of this Chamber 43 to 7. We do have that. We can refer right back to that and make it happen. Today, if we make a commitment to lock ourselves in negotiations until this job is finished, then we will have a product that we can all be proud of. Today's effort is not a joint product. It is a spending plan that was forged by the hot iron of budget politics without the requisite time to cool down and be honed and reformed by compromise.

MOTION TO TABLE HB 1801

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, this document does not solve our budget problem. It does not get us to where we need to go. That is why I rise today, Mr. President, and I move to table this bill. Let us table this plan and walk across the building, Mr. President. It is a short walk. Let us go across the building. Our Leaders, their Leaders, go across the building. The Governor is here. Let us sit with the Governor right now and have the negotiations necessary to do the work that is appropriate for the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

POINT OF ORDER

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I move to table right now. The PRESIDENT. The gentleman will yield.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I did not know if the motion to table came a little bit earlier and he was debating a non-debatable motion, but since he has now made the motion, we will now go on with a vote. I recommend a negative vote.

The PRESIDENT. There is a motion to table House Bill No. 1801 offered by Senator Hughes. It is a non-debatable issue.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, obviously, I ask for an affirmative vote.

The PRESIDENT. I had gathered that, but thank you for putting that on the record, Senator Hughes.

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

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

YEA-19

Blake	Farnese	Leach	Wiley
Boscola	Fontana	Sabatina	Williams
Brewster	Haywood	Schwank	Wozniak
Costa	Hughes	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Dinniman	Kitchen	Teplitz	

NAY-30

Alloway	Eichelberger	Rafferty	Vogel
Argall	Folmer	Resenthaler	Vulakovich
Aument	Gordner	Scarnati	Wagner
Baker	Greenleaf	Scavello	Ward

Bartolotta	Hutchinson	Smucker	White
Brooks	McGarrigle	Stefano	Yaw
Browne	McIlhinney	Tomlinson	
Corman	Mensch	Vance	

Less than a majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the negative.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, my good friend and colleague from Philadelphia, the Democratic chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, spent quite a bit of time talking about what this bill is not. Let me talk about what this bill is. We are now here in March. We are now almost 9 months past the deadline for a 2015-16 budget, and although a good bit of it was signed into law in December, there are some outstanding issues, some outstanding issues that this document here today will take care of. My colleague from Philadelphia talked a lot about the budget we passed in a bipartisan basis in December. Many of the line items that we are restoring in this budget that the Governor vetoed are agreed-to amounts. Many of them are, and so this still stays within what we negotiated.

Having said that, we have not been able to get to a final conclusion in our negotiations with the Governor, or with the House of Representatives, for that matter. So, we can continue, we can go into 9 months, 10 months, 11 months, but, obviously, there is a significant toll that is being put on our communities and our Commonwealth for the lack of us finishing off the 2015-16 budget. So, what this document and what this budget would do, Mr. President, is it would fully fund our critical-access hospitals, it would fully fund our burn centers, it would fully fund our neonatal facilities, and it would fully fund our agriculture programs. As we have learned over the last few weeks, ag extension, which is run through Penn State University, is not tuition-supported, and they do not have the ability to continue to support this program. As indicated, they will be laying off 1,100 employees if we do not get this ultimately resolved. I think ag extension goes throughout the Commonwealth and I believe it is in all 67 counties. So, this budget would bring that to a head and fund our ag extension programs. It would restore the cuts the Governor made to the State System of Higher Education so that our State system, which is, in many cases, the most inexpensive way to get into higher education, will not have to worry about a tuition increase because of lack of funds from the State.

This budget does not, as my colleague indicated, take one grant away from college students. Those grants have already been disbursed. They were in the budget that was signed in December. Yes, we are using some of the profits from PHEAA to help pay for certain things, but the grants that were allocated in the budget are already out and gone to the students. This does not impact one grant to one student.

Most importantly, Mr. President, what this budget does is it will allow school districts to stay open. It will allow school districts to not run out of money and have to make the very difficult decision of whether their employees are going to continue to work without pay, employees who have mortgages to pay, employees who have car payments to make, food to buy for their

families, and bills to pay. Are they going to go and work without pay because the school district has run out of money? If we pass this budget today and the Governor signs it, they will not have to face that choice. Well, more importantly, even worse than that decision they have to make is if a school district decides to close. I know the Governor sent out a memo to all the school districts on how to close their schools. I look up in the gallery and see quite a bit of students up there. I do not know if they are in one of those school districts that is facing that ultimate decision.

As important as structural deficits are, and they are important, and there is a commitment from this side to continue to work on that issue and to resolve it moving forward, but it pales in comparison to the decision parents are going to have to make if their schools are closed. It pales in comparison to the decision that employees are going to have to make, are they going to work without pay? That is the real-life decision that is going to happen if we do not pass this budget and the Governor does not sign it. That is the real world. That is not the halls of this Capitol. That is the real world that they are going to face. It is very unfortunate that they have been put in that position, and we can all take blame in that, Mr. President. We can all take our share of the blame, but in a lot of ways, when you drive down a road parallel to the turnpike, and you are getting ready to head onto the turnpike, there is the sign that says, "this is the last exit before the toll." In a lot of ways, this vote is the last exit before the toll. If we do not get this done, we were told that our school districts will run out of money this month. This budget has a significant new investment in education, \$200 million of new dollars going into education. In my time here, I am not sure we have had many years that we have had more than that.

So, it does not come up short in our investment to education. Does the Governor want more? Yes. And will we have that discussion starting next week to go into 2016-17? Yes, we can have that discussion. We can have that discussion that deals with the structural deficit and deals with the issues that the Governor wants to deal with. We can continue to have that discussion. In December, when the Governor signed the budget and signed 6 months' worth of education funding, he said, his words, "I don't want to hold the children of Pennsylvania hostage for the inability of folks here in Harrisburg to get the job done." I concur. We found common ground. I concur. I do not want to hold the children of Pennsylvania hostage because of our inability to get a job done. This budget will get the job done for now. It will take the crisis away from our school districts, it will take the crisis away from our healthcare facilities, it will take the crisis away from agriculture decisions of laying people off, and we can continue to have the big discussions on pension reform, on property tax reform, on dealing with the structural deficit. We can continue to do that, but we will remove the people of Pennsylvania from harm's way if we pass this budget today and the Governor signs it.

So, I implore a "yes" vote, and, more importantly, I implore the Governor to sign this in good faith and let us move forward to the 2016-17 budget where we can take on those big issues that my colleague from Philadelphia has brought up and others that need to be addressed here in this Commonwealth.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Hughes, for the second time.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, again, what this document does is continue to perpetuate this one-sided reality that exists in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This is a document that is not negotiated, not in the spirit of compromise, falls far short when we did have a spirit of compromise and we did have a willingness to work together, when four out of the five budget players worked things out, now we are confronted with something that only one of the five budget players has offered up. It continues the path down the failed policies of the previous administration, continues to drive us into credit unworthiness, continues to place us in a deeper financial situation, and again, it is not in the spirit of compromise. It is not in the spirit of working together.

Now, the Governor has responded in the last few minutes and has offered for all of us to come over to his office and sit down, all four Caucus Leaders, all of the principle players are in the building as we speak, to come over to his office and let us sit down and let us work things out. Let us create a path to get this thing done in a spirit of compromise, in a spirit of everyone working together to get it done. We want to do that. We want to move down that path. In fact, Mr. President, I invite everyone at the end of this Session today to join me at the rail, we can walk over to the Governor's Office together and try to sit down and work this out, but this does not do that. This falls far short of all of the needs that we need to address in this Commonwealth and only makes things more difficult, should this ever become law, in terms of how we have to address the 2016-17 budget issue that is also before us at the same time.

I can only plead, Mr. President, that we take up the Governor on his request to have us all come over right now. Let us have a sit-down right now. Let us have some dialogue right now. Let us talk about how we can get this done in the spirit of compromise. This document is \$238 million short of the document that many of us voted "no" against back in December. This document does not fix the problems that need to be fixed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it does not make the appropriate investments where they need to be made, and on the issue of fiscal sanity and financial stability, only puts us in a worse position than we have been in the last several years.

So, Mr. President, I urge and encourage a "no" vote on this. This, what we have, is not the compromise necessary to get the job done and to move this Commonwealth forward and creates, as I said, a worse foundation in terms of having to deal with what we need to deal with in the 2016-17 budget situation. So, Mr. President, let us take a walk over to the Governor's Office. Less than 3 minutes. Walk over there, sit down with the Governor, sit down with the Budget Secretary, all four Caucus Leaders, let us go on over and have the real compromise and real conversation necessary to finally get the job done, which I believe we can get this thing done in the next couple of weeks, and also to move this State forward, because what this does only moves us backward. That is the problem when you do not have compromise. That is the problem when you do not have folks working together. That is the problem when you do not have folks on both sides trying to hammer something out, you come up with a document that makes things worse as opposed to moving things forward and improving and moving us out of this terrible and dreadful situation that we are in right now.

So, Mr. President, I urge a "no" vote. We can do much better, even in the crisis that we are in right now, we can do much better when we sit across the table and forge the necessary compro-

mises that recognize and respect all parties. Unfortunately, this document does not do that.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator WILLIAMS. Mr. President, it was not my intention to speak, but I did listen to my colleague from the other side of the aisle about what this particular budget does do. I am glad he articulated and laid it out there, and he started out with not holding children hostage, and then he said "but." So, for the record, let us be clear, students and teachers have been held hostage for 7 months, at least. So, while I appreciate the passion by which he delivered his comments, the reality and truth is that for the last 7 months there has been a hostage-taking which will not be remedied within the next hour or so today. That level of anxiety still exists. I appreciate his comment that the attempt today is to relieve that anxiety, but the truth is, and the Governor's Office, the Independent Fiscal Office that reviews these budget proposals, has said there is a \$290 million gap between this budget proposal and revenues which would be available. So, unfortunately, it does not close that anxiety.

What it does do is bring into fresh and stark contrast what the executive office has said. I want to make sure, for the record, it is very plain and simple: If this event today is about making sure schools remain open for the balance of the year, I look to the Governor's Office to make sure that occurs. It has not once been said by him or people in his administration that schools are going to close if we -- schools will remain open if we pass this particular budget. I suggest, for clarity of purpose, it will allow us to certainly get to a table to make sure those schools remain open collectively, and it will be a lot of swallowing on both of our parts.

Unfortunately, the gentleman's comments just fall woefully short of removing the anxiety of the schools. I want to make sure the people in Philadelphia County, that school district, people in Delaware County know that whether we agree and support or vote against this particular proposal, we will not let schools close. That is not our plan. This is not about Democrats being right and Republicans being wrong. This is about governing and being responsible for all children, whether they are Democrat, Republican, urban, rural, suburban, making sure those schools remain open. We leave that charge, quite seriously, to the Governor's Office, those of us who disagree with this proposal. So I want to make sure for the record, we are not gambling today. Those of us who have to vote on this proposal and have a different perspective, we are not gambling with these schools or these children. That will not happen, that is not our plan, and that is not our intention, but we do disagree with having a budget passed that has about \$291 million short of revenue supporting it going forward.

While we certainly appreciate the agriculture community, and I believe that it is urgent for all Pennsylvanians that we move in that direction, I believe that we need the revenue to do that in a responsible and open way.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York, Senator Wagner.

Senator WAGNER. Mr. President, good afternoon. I rise to support and ask for a positive vote on House Bill No. 1801. There were many comments that have been made about negotiat-

ing, continuing to negotiate, compromise, and I hear the word "hostage" again. But the one thing that I have not heard at all from anyone in this Chamber is about accountability. We just finished 3 weeks of hearings of the Committee on Appropriations. We heard from agencies where the percentage of benefits to \$1 of payroll is approaching \$1. Dollar for dollar. In the private sector, typically, the percentage of benefits is under 50 percent for \$1 of payroll. We heard from the Department of Corrections. Last year, specifically, the Secretary of Corrections came in and talked about how they were not going to hire any additional Corrections officers and they were going to have their officers work some additional overtime so they did not have to hire anyone. But in fact, the Secretary of Corrections came in this year, overtime is off the charts, and I think it is important for the people who are listening to hear that seven Corrections officers last year made over \$100,000 in earnings just in overtime alone. It does not include their base salary. Even more troubling, the Department of Corrections hired 400 additional people. That is not what we were told last year. So I get back to Governor Wolf needs to charge the Secretaries of all of the agencies to manage their agencies, and we and Governor Wolf need to hold them accountable.

This budget is very, very important. It has been going on far too long. Even more troubling is the Auditor General, we are talking about, roughly, a gap of \$250 million, give or take \$10 million either way, but the Auditor General wrapped up an audit of the Pittsburgh School District and had a press conference in December. The Auditor General found \$129 million that was not being shown on that district's books. By the way, that school district now has the largest fund balance in the State of Pennsylvania. Well, what is even more troubling is the Budget Secretary testified in front of the Senate Committee on Appropriations and he was not aware of this \$129 million that had been found by the Auditor General.

Last week, the Budget Secretary stated the Governor vetoed the original budget on June 30 and blue-lined the budget in December because he wanted to have leverage. Well, leverage is hurting a lot of people. It is hurting schools and agencies, and even more insulting is that every single day when hardworking Pennsylvanians get up and go to work, and then they have a paycheck that is issued, whether it is weekly, biweekly, or monthly, Pennsylvania income taxes are taken out of their paychecks and sent to the State of Pennsylvania, typically on a weekly basis. Anybody who goes out and buys an automobile or something that is subject to sales tax is paying sales tax into the system. The cash flow continues into the State of Pennsylvania, and it is time for us to move on with this budget.

Finally, it is very important to mention that this budget is balanced without a tax increase, House Bill No. 1801. However, it is contingent upon the Secretary of the Budget lapsing \$200 million in available prior-year balances. I think it is time that we move on, and I am asking everyone in this Chamber to be responsible. Members on both sides of the aisle have school districts that are borrowing money that are impacted. I do not know how a single Member in this Chamber can go back to their district and face their constituents not supporting House Bill No. 1801.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Monroe, Senator Scavello.

Senator SCAVELLO. Mr. President, I rise to encourage my colleagues and friends across the aisle to end this impasse. There is \$3.1 billion in education dollars sitting in our coffers, and we have heard that we are not going to let the schools close. Well, without releasing those dollars through a budget document, how can you stop that from happening? This bill, House Bill No. 1801, does that. In addition, funding higher education, a 5-percent increase in higher education; \$50,549,000 for the agricultural extension and research; \$2 million to combat avian flu, should an outbreak occur within the Commonwealth. This funding will insure 1,100 employees of the College of Agriculture Sciences and the agricultural extension program, and we saw them all this week, will not be furloughed, and these vital programs will continue uninterrupted. It restores \$1 million for child advocacy centers; approximately \$3,600,000 is restored for miscellaneous agricultural programs, including agricultural research and agricultural excellence programs; it restores \$5,750,000 for economic development programs in our districts within the Department of Community and Economic Development; provides \$2,250,000 for heritage area parks within DCNR; restores \$9,380,000 for various disease-specific treatment research and education programs within the Department of Health; biotechnology research, regional cancer institutes, regional poison control centers; provides funding for obstetric and neonatal services; hospital-based burn centers; critical access hospitals in jeopardy of closing, totaling \$13,139,000; restores \$3 million in local municipal emergency relief.

I want to end by going back to education. We had our school districts go out and borrow money, \$50 million in interest was paid that came out of those classrooms. At what point do we stop this? Let us get last year's budget done and then worry about next year. Start the 2016-17 budget right after today. We will start that budget and address those issues. Put last year behind us. I polled it in my district. I was on the radio and the citizens of the Commonwealth want us to end this budget and start the new one. Get the new one done right. We have the opportunity. We do not have to wait until June 30. We can do it starting tomorrow. Again, I encourage my colleagues across the aisle to vote "yes" on House Bill No. 1801. Our children deserve better. We cannot continue to do this. Thank you.

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

Senator HAYWOOD. Mr. President, I also had no intention of rising, but given what has been said, I only have a few comments. Number one, the main reason that we cannot go with the list that my friend, Senator Scavello, has mentioned to fund is because we do not have the money to do it. We do not have the revenue to pay for the list. We are not going to have that revenue for this year, and if we continue down the same path we are on, we are not going to have it for next year. Next year is only 4 months away. So the commitment to deal with it now, today, actually can be made today, and we can make a commitment today to look for the revenue in this year's budget so we do not face the crisis next year. But simply put, we cannot vote for a list where the funds are not available to support it.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, briefly, in conclusion, we believe that this budget does balance and that the expenditures that we called for in this budget are paid for. Clearly, the Gover-

nor has the ability, as he has shown before through a blue-line, if he thinks it is out of balance, he can bring it within balance and still pass a budget and get the funding to our schools. Mr. President, I am glad to hear my colleague from Philadelphia and Delaware Counties talk about how we are not going to allow schools to close, and I certainly hope that is the case, but it was the administration that sent the memo out to the schools instructing them how to close. They said they did so because they were getting inquiries from the schools on how they would close.

There are big issues to debate still, and I think there is some bipartisan understanding that we need to move on pension reform. We need to move on fixing the structural deficit. We need to move on property tax reform. There are a lot of big issues we have to deal with, but the issue in front of us, right in front of us, is making sure that our schools have the funds to stay open. That is what this budget does more than anything else, and I ask for an affirmative vote.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Scarnati.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests a legislative leave for Senator Scarnati. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, for the third time, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Hughes.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, with that recognition, as my former mayor said, I will be brief no matter how long it takes.

One of the previous speakers spoke eloquently about some of the additions that exist in this document, and those additions are good, but I wonder how much better this could have been, Mr. President, if this document could have been something that was negotiated in a bipartisan fashion. I wonder how much better this document could have been if we had sat down across the table and worked on something that could have improved what was previously spoken positively of but also addressed the structural deficit and the appropriate investments in other areas that are necessary to move this State away from the financial disaster that it is lurking right now because of some failed policies that continue to have our credit downgraded and continue to have fewer dollars invested in the appropriate areas.

So, we could have done much better, and quite frankly, Mr. President, as I said earlier, we still have that opportunity. There is an open invitation right now from the Governor's Office to come on over, all four Caucuses, to sit down with him and begin the process of hammering something out that responds to all of the needs of the people of the Commonwealth, that does it in a timeframe that can hopefully bring us away from the brink of the crises that exist across the Commonwealth and represents a bipartisan negotiated agreement. I would make sure that folks

understand that each one of us is elected to represent citizens in our district. Therefore, each one of us has an opportunity to sit at the table and have the appropriate negotiation. It is not a document, nor should it be a document, that is forged by one without the involvement or the input of the other. We need to compromise, we need to work at the hard issues, we need to take up the Governor's invitation to come on over and sit down and work to get this thing done and lay the foundation, Mr. President, for the 2016-17 budget that needs to get addressed also. If we follow in this path with this document, we will be in a worse situation going forward dealing with 2016-17 than we were previously.

Now, this body, this Chamber, and I say this with the appropriate respect for my colleague sitting at the rostrum right now, this body did an incredible piece of work back in December of last year. We addressed all of the issues, addressed them in an appropriate fashion, made the appropriate investments necessary, and began the path of taking us out of financial calamity. We did that. We worked together. It left out of here, it went over to the other side and, well, the rest is history. We know that. This document that we have in front of us right now is far less than what should have been and far less than the work product that we did back in December. Unfortunately, it is a representation of one side's input and not across-the-board negotiated dialogue and compromise.

So, Mr. President, I urge a "no" vote. Again, I urge us to take the Governor up on his request, let us walk on over, let us sit down with him, and let us work this out like I know we can, like we have evidenced in the past.

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-31

Alloway	Dinniman	Mensch	Vance
Argall	Eichelberger	Rafferty	Vogel
Aument	Folmer	Resenthaler	Vulakovich
Baker	Gordner	Scarnati	Wagner
Bartolotta	Greenleaf	Scavello	Ward
Brooks	Hutchinson	Smucker	White
Browne	McGarrigle	Stefano	Yaw
Corman	McIlhinney	Tomlinson	

NAY-18

Blake	Fontana	Sabatina	Williams
Boscola	Haywood	Schwank	Wozniak
Brewster	Hughes	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Costa	Kitchen	Teplitz	
Farnese	Leach	Wiley	

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendments in which concurrence of the House is requested.

BILL ON CONCURRENCE IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE AMENDMENTS AS AMENDED

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE AMENDMENTS AS AMENDED

HB 1327 (Pr. No. 2969) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in financially distressed municipalities, providing for financial recovery; in oil and gas wells, providing for the Environmental Stewardship Fund; in tax credits, providing for Department of Community and Economic Development; in special funds, further providing for funding, for State Workers' Insurance Board, for expiration and for other grants; in additional special funds, further providing for use of the Tobacco Settlement Fund and for distributions from the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund and providing for miscellaneous limitations and transfers and for the Natural Gas Infrastructure Development Fund; in general budget implementation, further providing for the Department of Community and Economic Development, for the Department of Environmental Protection and for the Department of General Services, providing for the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, further providing for the Department of Human Services, for the Pennsylvania State Police and for the Environmental Quality Board and providing for the Commonwealth Financing Authority; providing for school district debt refinancing bonds; providing for 2015-2016 budget implementation; making a related repeal; and making editorial changes.

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate amendments, as further amended by the Senate, to House Bill No. 1327?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate amendments, as further amended by the Senate, to House Bill No. 1327.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, very briefly, since this is the Fiscal Code that attempts to implement, I believe, the implementation document for House Bill No. 1801, the supplemental appropriation piece of legislation, I am respectfully asking for a negative vote. Our position has been stated by my colleagues on the floor as to what the concerns are with regard to House Bill No. 1801. This is simply the implementation document that fails for the same reasons that we discussed. So I ask for a negative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I ask for an affirmative vote. This helps drive out the money to our schools. This helps deal with the issue of PlanCon, which is school construction, and schools are waiting for money. So, it is an important document to go along with the budget, and I ask for an affirmative vote.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

YEA-30

Alloway	Eichelberger	Rafferty	Vogel
Argall	Folmer	Resenthaler	Vulakovich
Aument	Gordner	Scarnati	Wagner
Baker	Greenleaf	Scavello	Ward
Bartolotta	Hutchinson	Smucker	White
Brooks	McGarrigle	Stefano	Yaw
Browne	McIlhinney	Tomlinson	
Corman	Mensch	Vance	

NAY-19

Blake	Farnese	Leach	Wiley
Boscola	Fontana	Sabatina	Williams
Brewster	Haywood	Schwank	Wozniak
Costa	Hughes	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Dinniman	Kitchen	Teplitz	

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate inform the House of Representatives accordingly.

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

PREFERRED APPROPRIATIONS BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 1106 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 50 (Pr. No. 1597) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act establishing an industrial hemp industry in this Commonwealth; conferring powers and imposing duties on the Department of Agriculture and the Legislative Reference Bureau; prescribing penalties; and establishing an account.

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-49

Alloway	Eichelberger	Mensch	Vogel
Argall	Farnese	Rafferty	Vulakovich
Aument	Folmer	Resenthaler	Wagner
Baker	Fontana	Sabatina	Ward
Bartolotta	Gordner	Scarnati	White
Blake	Greenleaf	Scavello	Wiley

Boscola	Haywood	Schwank	Williams
Brewster	Hughes	Smucker	Wozniak
Brooks	Hutchinson	Stefano	Yaw
Browne	Kitchen	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Corman	Leach	Teplitz	
Costa	McGarrigle	Tomlinson	
Dinniman	McIlhinney	Vance	

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 OVER IN ORDER

HB 150 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 606 (Pr. No. 1550) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 29, 1803 (P.L.542, No.156), entitled "An act to establish a Board of Wardens for the port of Philadelphia, and for the regulation of pilots and pilotages, and for other purposes therein mentioned," providing for licensed pilot and apprentice liability.

Upon motion of Senator CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

SB 606 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 606, Printer's No. 1550, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 837, SB 1104, SB 1108, HB 1199, HB 1319, HB 1484 and **HB 1638** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 340, SB 341, SB 342, HB 342, SB 343, SB 344, HB 423, SB 488 and **SB 579** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

HB 665 (Pr. No. 1187) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries) and 57 (Notaries Public) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in powers of attorney, further providing for general provisions; and, in

Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts, further providing for short form certificates, for implementation of power of attorney and for durable powers of attorney.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 805, HB 806, HB 826, SB 881, SB 930, SB 979, SB 983, SB 1014, SB 1031, SB 1122 and **SB 1123** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 1142 (Pr. No. 1598) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 6, 1989 (P.L.169, No.32), known as the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act, further providing for Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Board.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1154, HB 1154, SB 1159, HB 1168, HB 1229, HB 1326, HB 1618, HB 1660 and **HB 1734** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

PERMISSION TO ADDRESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Berks, Senator Schwank.

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, in 2014, the Federal Farm Bill opened the door for States that have legislation dealing with growing industrial hemp to explore options to grow it within their States. Currently, 18 States have such laws. In January 2015, Senator Folmer and I introduced Senate Bill No. 50. What is hemp? Hemp is a fiber that is used in fabric, building materials, food, beauty products, and other items. The crop is also used to rejuvenate farmland. Ford uses it in door panels and dash assemblies, as do Mercedes and BMW. Hemp is found in snack bars at your local grocery store, and if you have ever been to the Pennsylvania Farm Show, perhaps you have eaten a pretzel made with hemp seeds.

So, businesses that use hemp in their products must import it, which is not illegal, but growing it, however, is illegal in Pennsylvania. Growth was banned decades ago as the Federal government targeted marijuana, but while the plants are in the same family, hemp does not contain the active ingredient that gives marijuana its psychoactive properties. Currently, the United States imports \$650 million worth of hemp from Canada and China. In Canada, it is estimated to be over a \$2 billion crop. Senate Bill No. 50 would allow farmers within the Commonwealth the opportunity to grow this product, and not everyone is

going to choose to grow it. There is specific equipment that is needed to harvest this crop, as it is very strong, tough, and durable.

Senate Bill No. 50 starts small, setting up a pilot program in which farmers experiment with hemp growing under the supervision of the State and academic institutions. The goal is to research the best practices and clear the way for Pennsylvania to become a hemp farming powerhouse. It is not going to be in commercial use, probably, for several years, but at least it gets our foot in the door. Mr. President, 200 years ago hemp was grown everywhere in Pennsylvania. It was used in sails for ships and it was used in the canvas that covered the Conestoga wagons. So, it is certainly something we know we can grow, and it has many uses. It is time Pennsylvania gets back into the game of growing hemp. Starting here in the Senate, Senate Bill No. 50 allows us to do that.

I thank everyone for their positive vote on this bill, and I urge the House to consider this as it moves to them.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Senator Schwank for her productive work on Senate Bill No. 850.

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 Felicia E. Wranitz and to Meghan Sadler by Senator Argall.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bingeman, Emily Stauffer, Joseph Meck, Betty Lou Klinedinst and to Naomi Elizabeth Weaver by Senator Aument.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Honorable Ronald W. Swank, Paul Leonard Smith and to Michael Joseph Smith by Senator Baker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Catherine M. Marlin, Jenna Eberhardt, Brooke P. Lichak, Emily A. Zimmerman and to the Bethany United Church of Christ of Bethlehem by Senator Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Leticia Patino-Flores, Ashley Russo, Sabrina Lin, Marta Boulas Gabriel, Laura G. Azzalina, Carrie Ward and to Gladys Wiles by Senators Boscola and Browne.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Blake Reynolds, Gage Gladysz, Dillon Paul Cross, Faris Messai, Zach Stafford and to the citizens of the Borough of Stoneboro by Senator Brooks.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Thomas G. Hickey, Alfred J. Chapkovich, Eryn L. Somers, Kristen L. Hickey, Madeleine E. Gouck, Kaselyn S. Klase and to Paul Francis Kunkel by Senator Browne.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Betty Duffy by Senators Browne and Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Deanna Rayam, Jack McCallum and to Darnell Braswell by Senators Browne, Boscola, and Scavello.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ron Hassler by Senator Browne and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Bell by Senator Corman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the University of Pittsburgh by Senator Costa.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mitchell, Maria Nicole Palladino Roberts, Tammy Klotzbach and to Michael Zhang by Senator Dinniman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Brooke M. Kiner by Senator Eichelberger.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jonathan David Klinedinst and to the Holy Resurrection of Christ Serbian Orthodox Church of Lebanon by Senator Folmer.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Grabowski and to Tyler Heintzelman by Senator Gordner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Souderton Mennonite Home by Senator Greenleaf.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Michael Skolnick and to Songsters Unlimited by Senator Haywood.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kyle Aaron Bettwy and to Elizabeth Hamblin by Senator Hutchinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the members and coaches of the Springfield High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad by Senator McGarrigle.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Katherine R. Burke and to Esha Gajjar by Senator McIlhinney.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to citizens of the Borough of Honey Brook by Senator Rafferty.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Martin C. McDaniel and to Ashley Schmider by Senator Reschenthaler.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Peter H. Doukas and to Roland Scarinci by Senator Sabatina.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kaleb Young and to Taylor Ortiz by Senator Scarnati.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ean Joseph Sheats, Nikolas Robert Sheats, Robert Van Solkema, David Hess and to Jake Jakobsen by Senator Scavello.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to William Alexander Newkirk and to Thomas Matthew Monahan by Senator Smucker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Corporal John Marshall and to Millard D. Hess by Senator Stefano.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Darrell L. Clarke by Senator Tartaglione.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Lorelei McIntyre-Brewer by Senator Teplitz.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Paul S. Bingaman III, Morgan A. Gilmer, Alexis L. Jones and to the members and coaches of the Neshaminy High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Technical Sergeant Allen Christopher Brown by Senator Vance.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Stephen Gamble, Harry Harris, Trindy S. Grundy, Bernice Clark-Dickerson, Deborah Roberts, Christian Jamal Hall, Benjamin Alvin Arnold IV and to Asiha Braxton-Garvin by Senator Williams.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Katelyn M. Hosler by Senator Yudichak.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kathleen Dunsmuir and to Barbara Tozko Maculloch by Senators Yudichak and Baker.

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTIONS

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

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Janice Comfort Walsh by Senator McIlhinney.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Charles H. Rogovin by Senator Rafferty and others.

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 Dorothy Irene Height was extended to the family by Senator Costa.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator FONTANA. 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 52, SB 973, SB 1040, SB 1152, SB 1155, HB 59, HB 264 and HB 1087.

And said bills having been considered for the first time, Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for second consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016

10:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (public hearing for the purpose of additional budgetary review on long-term care programs in the Dept. of Human Services)	Room 8E-B East Wing
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TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2016

9:00 A.M.	LABOR AND INDUSTRY (to consider Senate Bill No. 703; and a public hearing to examine the future of apprenticeship programs in Pennsylvania)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
9:30 A.M.	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (to consider Senate Bills No. 1041, 1114 and 1145; and House Bill No. 1712)	Room 8E-B East Wing
10:00 A.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to consider Senate Bill No. 847; and House Bill No. 1310)	Senate Maj. Caucus Rm.
10:30 A.M.	JUDICIARY (to consider Senate Bill No. 1144; House Bills No. 12 and 215; and a	Room 8E-B East Wing

public hearing to examine proposed reforms to the bail system in Pennsylvania)

11:00 A.M.	GAME AND FISHERIES (to consider Senate Bills No. 374 and 1115; and House Bill No. 1452)	Senate Maj. Caucus Room
11:30 A.M.	EDUCATION (to consider Senate Bill No. 359; and House Bill No. 1574)	Room 8E-A East Wing
Off the Floor	FINANCE (to consider Senate Bills No. 421 and 601; and House Bills No. 147 and 1330)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Room

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, I take this opportunity on March 16 to wish everyone tomorrow, March 17, a very happy and blessed St. Patrick's Day. I once again thank my colleagues for the affirmative vote marking March 2016 the month to celebrate Irish American heritage here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President, and have a great day yourself. It is good to see you in a green tie, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. All for you, Senator Rafferty. Happy St. Patrick's Day to you, and thank you for everything you do and for your friendship.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate to the call of the President pro tempore.

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, the Senate stands in recess until the call of the President pro tempore.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The time of recess having expired, the Senate will come to order.

HOUSE MESSAGES

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:

SR 55.

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE BILLS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 912, SB 913, SB 914, SB 915 and SB 916**, with the information the House has passed the same without amendments.

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS WHICH FURTHER AMENDED HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the

Senate which further amended House amendments to Senate amendments to **HB 1327**.

**HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS
TO HOUSE BILL**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the Senate to **HB 1801**.

SENATE BILL RETURNED WITH AMENDMENTS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 3**, with the information the House has passed the same with amendments in which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The PRESIDENT. Pursuant to Senate Rule 13(c)(2)(i), the bill will be referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations.

BILLS SIGNED

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack) in the presence of the Senate signed the following bills:

SB 912, SB 913, SB 914, SB 915, SB 916, HB 838, HB 1327 and **HB 1801**.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Cumberland, Senator Vance.

Senator VANCE. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, March 21, 2016, at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 10:59 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.