

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**Legislative Journal**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2017

SESSION OF 2017 201ST OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 34

**SENATE**

WEDNESDAY, June 14, 2017

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

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

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Reverend CORRINE R. DAUTRICH, of United Church of Christ, Fleetwood, offered the following prayer:

Let us be in a spirit of prayer.

Gracious Lord, we thank You for the blessings of this day. As we observe Flag Day, we give thanks for the resolution of the Second Continental Congress who adopted the flag of the United States in 1777. We also recall Pennsylvania was the first State to celebrate Flag Day as a State holiday in 1937. May the stars and stripes we hold dear continue to flourish and never fade as they fly over our country offering us hope.

Bless abundantly the Members of this gathered body who serve on our behalf in this Commonwealth. Guide their hearts and minds in the spirit of fairness, right thought, and speech. Impart wisdom on their actions so that the legislative work may reach a successful conclusion. We ask that You would guide and direct today's work so that it is full of wisdom, productivity, and respect for one another. Teach us tolerance and grant us strength when faced with challenges. May the works that begin on this floor be accomplished in cooperation and with open minds and hearts. May Your redemptive power inspire the goodness in each person to rise above faction or chasm and work for the greater good for all our citizens.

Bless, we pray, the women and men who serve in our nation's military forces, whether serving stateside or overseas. We honor the sacrifices they make on a daily basis and ask for their safety and security for their missions. Protect and guide them and their families. We pray, O God, for peace among all nations. Lord, help us here and across the global landscape to learn from one another. This is our hope and this is our prayer, for we pray in Your holy name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Dautrich, who is the guest today of Senator Schwank.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED**

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

June 14, 2017

Senators ARGALL, ALLOWAY, McGARRIGLE, RAFFERTY, COSTA, REGAN, FONTANA, MARTIN and McILHINNEY presented to the Chair **SB 758**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the Medical Practice Act of 1985, further providing for definitions and for applicability of act.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, June 14, 2017.

Senators ARGALL, VULAKOVICH, WHITE, HUTCHINSON, BARTOLOTTA, STEFANO, BREWSTER and VOGEL presented to the Chair **SB 759**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in powers and duties of the Department of General Services and its departmental administrative and advisory boards and commissions, further providing for grounds, buildings and monuments in general.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, June 14, 2017.

Senators HUTCHINSON, BARTOLOTTA, RAFFERTY, RESCHENTHALER, VOGEL, VULAKOVICH and WHITE presented to the Chair **SB 760**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in Computer Data Center Equipment Incentive Program, further providing for definitions, for sales and use tax refund, for application for certification, for review of application, for eligibility requirements, for notification, for revocation of certification, repealing provisions relating to application and limitations and providing for exemption certificate.

Which was committed to the Committee on FINANCE, June 14, 2017.

Senators WARD, SCARNATI, RESCHENTHALER, WHITE and MENSCH presented to the Chair **SB 762**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration system, providing for audit of SURE system.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, June 14, 2017.

Senators WARD, VULAKOVICH, RAFFERTY and BARTOLOTTA presented to the Chair **SB 763**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 22, 1951 (P.L.317, No.69), known as The Professional Nursing Law, regulating the practice of lactation consultation and licensure of lactation consultants; and further providing for penalties.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, June 14, 2017.

Senators GORDNER, RAFFERTY, TARTAGLIONE and ARGALL presented to the Chair **SB 764**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 22, 1983 (P.L.306, No.84), known as the Board of Vehicles Act, providing for preliminary provisions, further providing for short title, for definitions, for State Board of Vehicle Manufacturers, Dealers and Salespersons, for powers and duties of board, for license to engage in business, for biennial renewal, for enforcement, for protest hearing decision within 120 days unless waived by the parties, for reimbursement for all parts and service required by the manufacturer or distributor and reimbursement audits, for damage disclosure, for mediation and arbitration, for unlawful acts by manufacturers or distributors, for area of responsibility, for termination of franchises, for industry reorganization, for succession to franchise ownership, for manufacturer right of first refusal, for manufacturer or distributor repurchase of inventory and equipment, for reimbursement of rental costs for dealer facility, for grounds for disciplinary proceedings, for administrative liability of employer, copartnership, association or corporation, for reinstatement, for application for license, for refusal of license, for change of salesperson's license to indicate new employer, for termination of employment or business, for exemption from licensure and registration, for limitations on establishing or relocating dealers, for licensing cost, for penalties, for civil actions for violations, for fees, for disposition of fees and fines, for vehicle shows, off-premise sales and exhibitions and for off-premise sales, shows, exhibitions or rallies on Sundays; providing for recreational vehicles and for miscellaneous provisions; further providing for savings provision, for repeals, expiration of terms of board members and for existing rules and regulations.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, June 14, 2017.

Senators VULAKOVICH, COSTA, FONTANA, HUTCHINSON, KILLION, RAFFERTY, RESCHENTHALER, STEFANO, TARTAGLIONE and YUDICHAK presented to the Chair **SB 765**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in exclusions from tax, providing for a tax exclusion for emergency preparedness items.

Which was committed to the Committee on FINANCE, June 14, 2017.

### BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator TOMLINSON, from the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, reported the following bills:

#### **SB 472 (Pr. No. 475)**

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in prescribing opioids to minors, providing for prescribing opioids to individuals and further providing for definitions, for prohibition and for procedure.

#### **SB 542 (Pr. No. 581)**

An Act amending the act of September 27, 1961 (P.L.1700, No.699), known as the Pharmacy Act, further defining unlawful acts concerning emergency prescriptions.

#### **SB 616 (Pr. No. 690)**

An Act amending Title 9 (Burial Grounds) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for notice of burial benefits; and imposing a penalty.

Senator FOLMER, from the Committee on State Government, reported the following bills:

#### **SB 610 (Pr. No. 686)**

An Act designating quartz as the official State mineral of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

#### **SB 658 (Pr. No. 776)**

An Act designating the Eastern hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis*) as the official amphibian of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

#### **HB 599 (Pr. No. 629)**

An Act establishing the Results First Project; and providing for data collection and analysis by the Independent Fiscal Office.

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

#### **SB 145 (Pr. No. 120)**

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in accidents and accident reports, further providing for duty to give information and render aid.

#### **SB 753 (Pr. No. 958) (Amended)**

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in miscellaneous provisions relating to accidents and accident reports, further providing for accident scene clearance.

#### **HB 188 (Pr. No. 155)**

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in fees, further providing for exemption of persons, entities and vehicles from fees.

#### **HB 283 (Pr. No. 269)**

An Act amending the act of June 17, 2016 (P.L.342, No.46), entitled "An act designating: A portion of State Routes 108 and 551 in Lawrence County as the Battery B Memorial Highway. A bridge on that portion of State Route 403 over the Two Lick Creek, Borough of Clymer, Indiana County, as the Sergeant James Robert Pantall Memorial Bridge. A bridge on that portion of State Route 580 over the Susquehanna River, Cherry Tree Borough, Indiana County, as the Airman Second Class Gerald Emmett Johnson Memorial Bridge. A bridge on State Route 2014 over the Muncy Creek in Muncy Creek Township, Lycoming County, as the Private Walter L. Smith Spanish-American War Memorial Bridge. A portion of State Route 2044 in Lycoming

County as the Lance Corporal William F. Merrill Vietnam Veterans Highway. 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. A bridge on that portion of State Route 1026, Section 004 over the Cocalico Creek, Denver Borough, and West Cocalico Township, Lancaster County, as the Samuel L. Snyder Memorial Bridge. An overpass on State Route 49 over State Route 15, Lawrence Township, Tioga County, as the Lance Corporal Michael G. Plank Memorial Bridge. A portion of Blair Mill Road in Montgomery County as the PVT William H. Walls, U.S.M.C. Memorial Highway. The overpass on State Route 3145 over Interstate 376, BMS 02-3145-0010-0537, in the Market District at Settlers Ridge, Robinson Township, Allegheny County, as the Roy F. Johns, Jr., Overpass. A portion of State Route 51 North in the Borough of Coraopolis, Allegheny County, as the Fred A. Trello Memorial Boulevard. A certain interchange in New Stanton Borough, Westmoreland County, as the Edwin "Lance" Wentzel Memorial Interchange. The bridge carrying State Route 2005 (Business Route 222) over the Schuylkill River, Riverfront Drive and Norfolk Southern Railroad in the City of Reading, Berks County, commonly referred to as the Bingaman Street Bridge, as the 65th U.S. Infantry Regiment, Borinqueneers Memorial Bridge. A bridge on that portion of State Route 36 over the Chest Creek, Patton Borough, Cambria County, as the Martin Joseph Davis Memorial Bridge. A portion of State Route 1008 in Fayetteville, Franklin County, as the James W. Cutchall Memorial Highway. A bridge on that portion of U.S. Route 15 over State Route 114, Mechanicsburg Borough, Cumberland County, as the Corporal Jonathan Dean Faircloth Memorial Bridge. The bridge on that portion of Township Route 431/436, Cooney Road, over U.S. Route 22 in Munster Township, Cambria County, as the PFC Thomas A. Cooney Memorial Bridge. The bridge on Tower Road spanning U.S. Route 219 in Croyle Township, Cambria County, as the Trooper Herbert A. Wirfel Memorial Bridge. A bridge on that portion of Greenwood Avenue over the SEPTA tracks in Cheltenham Township and Jenkintown Borough, Montgomery County, as the Honorable Lawrence H. Curry Bridge. A bridge on that portion of State Route 144 over the Bald Eagle Creek, Milesburg Borough, Centre County, as the Veterans Bridge. An interchange on Pennsylvania Turnpike Route 66 in Westmoreland County as the David B. Sheridan Memorial Interchange. A bridge on that portion of State Route 217 over the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks and 2nd Street in Derry Borough, Westmoreland County, as the Derry Veterans Memorial Bridge," further providing for Lance Corporal Michael G. Plank Memorial Bridge.

**HB 952 (Pr. No. 1111)**

An Act designating the bridge, identified as Bridge Key 53825, on that portion of State Route 1011, also known as Castile Run Road, over the South Fork Tenmile Creek between Jefferson Township and Clarksville Borough, Greene County, as the PFC Brent A. McClellan Memorial Bridge.

**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 Wagner, and legislative leaves for Senator Ward and Senator Mensch.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Haywood and Senator Williams.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Wagner, and legislative leaves for Senator Ward and Senator Mensch.

Senator Costa requests legislative leaves for Senator Haywood and Senator Williams.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Senator COSTA asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator LEACH, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

**JOURNAL APPROVED**

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of April 19, 2017, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of April 19 2017.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with and that the Journal 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	DiSanto	Martin	Tartaglione
Argall	Eichelberger	McGarrigle	Tomlinson
Aument	Farnese	McIlhinney	Vogel
Baker	Folmer	Mensch	Vulakovich
Bartolotta	Fontana	Rafferty	Wagner
Blake	Gordner	Regan	Ward
Boscola	Greenleaf	Resenthaler	White
Brewster	Haywood	Sabatina	Williams
Brooks	Hughes	Scarnati	Yaw
Browne	Hutchinson	Scavello	Yudichak
Corman	Killion	Schwank	
Costa	Langerholz	Stefano	
Dinniman	Laughlin	Street	

**NAY-0**

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

**GUESTS OF SENATOR JUDY SCHWANK  
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, I am doubly honored again or twice blessed this week because I have a guest Chaplain again from Berks County. This time I have a guest Chaplain whom I met before I recognized that she was a guest Chaplain before. I met her at a veterans ceremony honoring veterans in our Topton community. Reverend Corrine Dautrich is not only a veteran but now, of course, a chaplain, a pastor, and she is my neighbor in Ruscombmanor Township. Corrine hails from Oley Valley and is proud to be a U.S. Air Force veteran and has served our country for over 12 years. She served as chaplain of Phoebe Ministries in Allentown for 11 years before serving First United Church of Christ in center city Reading for 2 years. Now, she is serving as pastor at New Jerusalem UCC in Fleetwood. Corrine is accompanied by her life partner, Cindy Steele. Cindy is a high school teacher in the Fleetwood School District, and happens to be my grandson's math teacher as well. I found that out this morning, too.

So I am very, very honored to have our guests with us, Mr. President. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in welcoming them to the Senate. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Schwank, Reverend Dautrich, along with Cindy Steele, please rise so that we may welcome you to the Pennsylvania Senate. Thank you for your prayer today, Reverend.

(Applause.)

#### **GUESTS OF SENATOR ANDREW E. DINNIMAN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, I am honored today to have two sets of guests. The first are two interns who are working with me. One is Gionelly Mills. Mr. Mills is president of the student body at Lincoln University, and in that university, the president of the student body is also a voting member of the board of trustees, and I am honored to have the Governor's seat on that board. Gionelly has been an excellent student leader. He hopes to go to law school and have your place, Mr. President, some day, my place some day, and the Governor's place some day. He is an exceptional leader, and I am delighted to have him as an intern, since Lincoln University is within my district.

My second guest is Vinay Musunuri, who attends Episcopal Academy. Vinay is very active in his school and in his community. I note that the fastest growing demographic group in Chester County is the Indian community, and I am making every effort to make sure that community has every means to become fully involved in the political life of both my county and of the Commonwealth. It is a community of doctors, scientists, and lawyers who are making tremendous contributions as first generation immigrants, and their children, of course, are second generation. So, for my first set of guests, I ask you to give both Vinay and Gionelly a warm welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Dinniman, Vinay and Gionelly, please rise so that we may welcome you to the State Senate. Keep working at it, gentlemen.

(Applause.)

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, my second set of guests -- as you know, I auction off myself to raise money for charity and give tours of the Capitol, and today I am proud to have a pastor who purchased one of those tours, and thank you, again, Mr. President, for letting us tour your office as part of the tour. I have Annalie Korengel and her son, Jamie Lorgus. She is pastor of a church in, I believe, Senator Killion's district, and we are happy to have the pastor and her son here. The pastor has been involved in many social programs to help the poor and homeless within Chester County, so I ask that we give a good welcome to Annalie and her son, Jamie.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Dinniman, Pastor Annalie and her son, Jamie, please rise so that we may welcome you to the Pennsylvania Senate.

(Applause.)

#### **GUESTS OF SENATOR SHARIF T. STREET PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise to introduce two of my office interns who are doing great work. They have helped me work on legislation and resolutions. Those two interns are here with us today--they ordinarily work in the district office, but have been engaged in the process of writing legislation--that is Ms. Laila Suswell and Mr. Alex Olson. I ask everyone to please share your thoughts and wisdom as you encounter them throughout the day, help them in their experience, and, hopefully, they will be interested in pursuing careers in public service, as we have all chosen to do so. Thank you so much.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Street, Laila and Alex, they have already risen but we will ask them to rise again and be welcomed to the Pennsylvania Senate.

(Applause.)

#### **GUESTS OF SENATOR SCOTT E. HUTCHINSON AND SENATOR JOHN P. BLAKE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Venango, Senator Hutchinson.

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, today must be introduction day for summer interns. I am pleased to join my colleague, Senator Blake, on the Senate Committee on Finance in introducing 15 students who are currently serving as summer interns in the Pennsylvania Treasury Department. Twelve of them are working in the Bureau of Unclaimed Property, where they review claims and assist with quality control measures; six of them attend Penn State University, and of those six, four are accounting majors. Their names are Arnelle Amegashie, Andrew Bogdanovich, Nana Darko, and Zoey Gillespie; Michael Henning and Anthony Tellez, also Penn State students, are majoring in economics; Dante Bressi and Zachary Sims both attend Shippensburg University, where they are majoring in finance and business, respectively; Kiana Carter is studying information systems management at Duquesne University; Peter Landis is a business information systems major at Mount St. Mary's University; Brendan Schneiderman attends Slippery Rock University, where he majors in homeland security; and Caleb Thompson studies economics at Columbia University. Elizabeth Kuch is interning in the Office of Consumer Programs and Public Engagement, where she researches and maintains a database of potential partners for the Treasury. Elizabeth is a student at Central Penn College majoring in organizational leadership. Finally, the Bureau of Fiscal Review has two interns whose work includes learning many aspects of the personal income tax and assigning property tax rebate returns; Hoang Nguyen and Randy Nguyen both attend Penn State, where they are majoring in accounting.

Please join me in welcoming these summer interns from the Pennsylvania Treasury Department to the Pennsylvania State Senate.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Hutchinson and Senator Blake who are interning in the Treasury Department please rise so that we may give you a warm Pennsylvania Senate welcome.

(Applause.)

**RECESS**

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a brief recess of the Senate and ask the Members of the Republican Caucus to join me at the Leader's podium.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I ask that the Democratic Members meet at the Leader's desk.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of Republicans and Democrats to meet at their respective Leader's desks, 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****BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**HB 16, SB 144, SB 168, SB 178, SB 332, SB 383, SB 458, SB 461, SB 503 and SB 504** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION  
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

**SB 527 (Pr. No. 911)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, establishing the Office of State Inspector General.

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 Lancaster, Senator Aument.

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I rise today to ask for support of legislation that I have sponsored, Senate Bill No. 527, that seeks to establish the Office of Inspector General in statute. This is legislation that passed the Senate and the House last Session, went to the Governor, and resulted in a veto by the Governor. Since that time, I have worked with my colleagues across the aisle and continued to have conversations with our current and previous Inspectors General, as well as conversations with the administration, to work through some of the issues that were raised in the Governor's veto message. This legislation, quite simply, takes an existing office, an office that was established by Executive Order in 1987 by Governor Robert Casey, and builds upon this great idea by Governor Casey to insure that we have an

Office of Inspector General, whose central mission is to identify and eradicate waste, fraud, and abuse in executive agencies of State government. It certainly seems to me that at a time in which we face tremendous fiscal challenges, and at a time when we have increasing difficulty insuring those who are in genuine need of State services are able to get the help they need and the help they are entitled to, it certainly seems to me that we ought to work in a bipartisan way to do all that we can to identify areas of waste, fraud, abuse, malfeasance, and to eradicate that. So the legislation seeks to establish this important office in statute, where it currently exists by Executive Order. It enhances the investigative powers of this office, which has been sought by the Inspector General, and we believe, or I certainly believe, particularly with the enhanced investigative powers, some measure of independence is important.

Last Session, we had language in this bill that would require the Inspector General, as a cabinet-level position, to serve with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor would nominate the Inspector General, and that nomination would come before the Senate for our advice and consent. Based on the feedback that we received throughout the process from the Governor's veto, at a committee hearing held by the Committee on State Government, we removed that language from the bill. I continue to believe that an important provision in the bill is that the Inspector General can only or should only be fired for cause and not at will. I believe that with these enhanced investigative powers, that is an important provision. I am not the only one who believes that is an important provision. The national Association of Inspectors General, in their statement of principles for the Office of Inspectors General, articulate quite clearly that, "The statute should contain provisions to help establish and maintain the independence of the inspector general and the Office of Inspector General." That, "Procedures should be established for the appointment of the inspector general and for the removal of the inspector general only for cause." Again, these are not my words, these are the words of the Association of Inspectors General in their principles and standards for the Office of Inspector General.

Additionally, today we are experiencing a debate on the Federal level with the role that the chief executive has to remove someone from office with investigative powers at will or for cause. I think there has been bipartisan concern for that, and I think we are right to have concern with that. If anyone in the executive branch of government, or there may be an investigation that might be embarrassing to an administration of either party, Republican or Democratic, it certainly seems to me that someone with these enhanced powers should not be able to be dismissed at the whim of the chief executive, to be dismissed at will. So, this is an important provision in the bill.

I am aware of this being the only concern that has been expressed to this point by the administration or in committee. This is the only concern that has been raised. I, however, believe this is an important position, and I hope that we can work in a bipartisan way to place this important office in statute, to enhance the powers of this office in a bipartisan way to make a statement that governors, Republican or Democratic, should not be able to remove someone from office with these enhanced investigative powers at their whim or at will.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, I noticed that the speaker, the fine gentleman from Lancaster County, kept using the words "bipartisan way." He has informed us that there was an effort to bring this to conclusion with the Governor and that we were very close. In my judgment, originally I supported what the bill is, but I no longer can because I think that if we have gotten this close, then we have an obligation to try to make it real and make it really bipartisan. The way the bill is now, most of our Caucus would vote against it. Why not make that extra effort if you spent a year trying to make this a reality? Why not make it truly bipartisan? Why do we give up when we are so close? So I say, I understand the use of the word "bipartisan," and if there is anyone who stood on this floor who is not afraid to challenge the Governor or not afraid to vote with either party, it has been myself, but when you are this close, then make the extra effort, and go the extra 10 yards. Let us get it done together and let us solve this final issue. So I will be voting against the bill. Thank you.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Hughes.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Hughes. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

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-37

Alloway	Eichelberger	McGarrigle	Vogel
Argall	Farnese	McIlhinney	Vulakovich
Aument	Folmer	Mensch	Wagner
Baker	Gordner	Rafferty	Ward
Bartolotta	Greenleaf	Regan	White
Boscola	Hutchinson	Resenthaler	Yaw
Brooks	Killion	Scarnati	Yudichak
Browne	Langerholc	Scavello	
Corman	Laughlin	Stefano	
DiSanto	Martin	Tomlinson	

NAY-12

Blake	Dinniman	Hughes	Street
Brewster	Fontana	Sabatina	Tartaglione
Costa	Haywood	Schwank	Williams

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 AMENDED

**SB 553 (Pr. No. 949)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in licensing of drivers, further providing for surrender of license, for period of disqualification, revocation or suspension of operating privilege, for driving while operating privilege is suspended or revoked, for chemical testing to determine amount of alcohol or controlled substance and for probationary license; in driving after imbibing alcohol or utilizing drugs, further providing for penalties, for ignition interlock and for illegally operating a motor vehicle not equipped with ignition interlock; and, in penalties and dispositions of fines, further providing for habitual offenders.

On the question,  
Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

Senator RAFFERTY offered the following amendment No. A1924:

Amend Bill, page 14, lines 15 through 19, by striking out all of said lines and inserting:

- (1) The following provisions shall take effect immediately:
  - (i) The amendment of 75 Pa.C.S. §§ 1547(b)(2)(ii), 3804(c) and 3805(a.1) and (h.2)(1).
  - (ii) This section.
- (2) The amendment or addition of 75 Pa.C.S. § 1547(a), (b) heading, (1), (2)(i), (3), (b.1), (b.2) and (b.3) shall take effect in six months.
- (3) The remainder of this act shall take effect in 15 months.

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

It was agreed to.

Without objection, the bill, as amended, was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 592** and **SB 630** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

**HB 1071 (Pr. No. 1270)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in other subjects of taxation, prohibiting bans, fees, surcharges and taxes on recyclable plastic bags.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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-28

Alloway	Corman	Laughlin	Stefano
Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Vogel
Aument	Eichelberger	Mensch	Vulakovich
Baker	Folmer	Regan	Wagner
Bartolotta	Gordner	Resenthaler	Ward
Brooks	Hutchinson	Scarnati	White
Browne	Langerholc	Scavello	Yaw

## NAY-21

Blake	Fontana	McIlhinney	Tomlinson
Boscola	Greenleaf	Rafferty	Williams
Brewster	Haywood	Sabatina	Yudichak
Costa	Hughes	Schwank	
Dinniman	Killion	Street	
Farnese	McGarrigle	Tartaglione	

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 without amendments.

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED**

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

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

**SB 9, HB 17, HB 27, SB 31, SB 113, HB 118, SB 121, HB 126, SB 128 and HB 144** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

**BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION**

**HB 168 (Pr. No. 132)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in proprietary and official rights, further providing for wearing of uniforms and insignia.

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

**BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION  
AND REREFERRED**

**SB 180 (Pr. No. 923)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in anatomical gifts, further providing for definitions, for persons who may execute anatomical gift, for persons who may become donees and purposes for which anatomical gifts may be made, for manner of executing anatomical gifts, for amendment or revocation of gift, for rights and duties at death, for requests for anatomical gifts, for use of driver's license or identification card to indicate organ or tissue donation, for The Governor Robert P. Casey Memorial Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Trust Fund contributions, for The Governor Robert P. Casey Memorial Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Trust Fund, for confidentiality requirement and for prohibited activities, providing for promotion of organ and tissue donation, establishing the Donate Life PA Registry, providing for facilitation of anatomical gift from decedent whose death is under investigation, for collaboration among departments and organ procurement organizations, for information relative to organ and tissue donation, for requirements for physician and nurse training relative to organ

and tissue donation and recovery, for uniformity of application and construction, for relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act and for study of organizations and repealing provisions relating to corneal transplants.

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

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

**BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**SB 183 and SB 211** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

**BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION  
AND REREFERRED**

**HB 217 (Pr. No. 1502)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in offenses against the family, further providing for the offense of endangering welfare of children.

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

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

**BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**HB 239, SB 242, SB 252, SB 403, SB 406, HB 411, HB 422 and HB 423** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

**BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION  
AND REREFERRED**

**SB 446 (Pr. No. 913)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 68 (Real and Personal Property) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for drug and alcohol recovery houses and establishing the Drug and Alcohol Recovery House Fund.

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

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

**BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**SB 449, SB 469, SB 471, SB 494, SB 533 and SB 590** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

## BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

**SB 595 (Pr. No. 912)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 57 (Notaries Public) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in revised uniform law on notarial acts, further providing for definitions, for personal appearance required, for identification of individual, for short form certificates, for journal, for notification regarding performance of notarial act on electronic record and selection of technology and for regulations.

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

## BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**HB 595, SB 629 and SB 636** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION  
AND REREFERRED

**SB 653 (Pr. No. 942)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 31, 1965 (P.L.1257, No.511), known as The Local Tax Enabling Act, in local taxes, further providing for collection; in consolidated collection of local income taxes, further providing for tax collection committees and for powers and duties of tax officer; in collection of delinquent taxes, further providing for costs of collection; and making a related editorial change.

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

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

**SB 662 (Pr. No. 916)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in assault, providing for the offense of drug delivery resulting in serious bodily injury; and, in sentencing, providing for sentencing for drug delivery resulting in serious bodily injury.

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

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

## BILL OVER IN ORDER

**SB 663** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

## BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

**SB 690 (Pr. No. 848)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in home rule and optional plan government, further providing for procedure for amendment of charter or optional plan.

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

**SB 691 (Pr. No. 849)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, providing for residency during military service.

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

## BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 693, SB 724, SB 728, SB 736, SB 751, HB 758 and HB 1039** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION  
AND REREFERRED

**HB 1238 (Pr. No. 1565)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 3 (Agriculture), 18 (Crimes and Offenses), 22 (Detectives and Private Police), 34 (Game) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in race horse industry reform, further providing for licenses for horse race meetings and for occupational licenses for individuals; in riot, disorderly conduct and related offenses, repealing provisions relating to offense of cruelty to animals, live animals as prizes prohibited, police animals and assault with a biological agent on animal, fowl or honey bees and providing for offenses relating to cruelty to animals; in humane society police officers, further providing for definitions, for appointment by nonprofit corporations, for qualifications for appointment, for suspension, revocation, limitation and restriction of appointment and restoration of appointment, for powers and authority and jurisdiction, for search warrants and for costs; in hunting and furtaking, further providing for destruction of dogs declared public nuisances; in budget and finance, further providing for municipal corporation portion of fines, etc; and making editorial changes.

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

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

## BILL OVER IN ORDER

**HB 1269** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED**

Senators STREET, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, SCHWANK, COSTA and HUGHES, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 143**, entitled:

A Resolution observing June 25, 2017, as "Eid al-Fitr Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,  
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate is going to adopt a resolution recognizing Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as holidays. These are holidays that are celebrated by billions of people around the world. Eid al-Fitr commemorates the conclusion of the fast of Ramadan, which is a religious observance where Muslims become more devout and focused on our duties to God. There are hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians who will benefit. I think it is consistent with the grand experiment of the United States, where William Penn came here fleeing religious persecution and wanted to set up a place where people of diverse backgrounds who may disagree would be able to all co-exist and practice their beliefs, their expressions of cohabitation, their expressions of religion, and their expressions of speech in a way we can all celebrate. This is a truly historic day and it is important. I will also note that Pennsylvania is home to hundreds of thousands of Muslims, and over 250,000 in the city of Philadelphia alone.

And the question recurring,  
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators VULAKOVICH, ARGALL, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER, BROWNE, COSTA, DINNIMAN, FARNESE, FONTANA, GORDNER, GREENLEAF, KILLION, MARTIN, RAFFERTY, RESCHENTHALER, SCAVELLO, WARD, WHITE, YUDICHAK, FOLMER, MENSCH, AUMENT, STREET and HUGHES, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 144**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing June 14, 2017, as "National Flag Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,  
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator VULAKOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a resolution designating June 14 as "National Flag Day" in Pennsylvania. I ask that you indulge me for a moment as I read a poem entitled, "I Am The Flag," originally entitled, "My Name Is Old Glory," by Howard Schnauber. (*Reading:*)

I am the flag of the United States of America.

My name is Old Glory.  
I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.  
I stand watch in America's halls of justice.  
I fly majestically over institutions of learning.  
I stand guard with power in the world.  
Look up and see me.

I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice.  
I stand for freedom. I am confident.  
I am arrogant. I am proud.  
When I am flown with my fellow banners,  
My head is a little higher,  
My colors a little truer.  
I bow to no one!  
I am recognized all over the world.  
I am worshipped - I am saluted.  
I am loved - I am revered.  
I am respected - I am feared.

I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 200 years.  
I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Shiloh and Appomattox.  
I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, in the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome and the beaches of Normandy.  
Guam, Okinawa, Korea and Khe Sanh, Saigon, Vietnam know me.  
I was there. I led my troops.  
I was dirty, battleworn and tired,  
but my soldiers cheered me and I was proud.

I have been burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries  
I have helped set free. It does not hurt for I am invincible.  
I have been soiled upon, burned, torn and trampled in the streets of my country.

And when it's done by those whom I've served in battle - it hurts.  
But I shall overcome - for I am strong.  
I have slipped the bonds of earth and stood watch over the uncharted frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon.

I have born silent witness to all of America's finest hours.  
But my finest hours are yet to come.  
When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the battle field,  
When I am flown at halfmast to honor my soldier,  
Or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the grave of their fallen son or daughter,

**I am proud.  
I am the flag of the United States of America.**

God bless America.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, I congratulate my friend and colleague from Allegheny County, Senator Vulakovich. Mr. President, briefly, the importance of the flag is one of the things that we learn in childhood. The flag is one of the first items that we do each day in school; that is, we salute the flag, and certainly the first thing we do here in Session is to salute the flag. It is important in our nation's history and to those who have fought under the colors of our flag. Mr. President, the significance of the flag cannot be lost on any of us, especially with the news today in Washington, D.C. Mr. President, as we saw three of our fallen heroes come home from Afghanistan, their caskets were draped with the American flag. It is a very special day, and all of us in the United States should consider this and consider the importance of this day and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our nation and standing with our flag.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

### 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 Coretta Shealer Redding and to Colleen Hartman by Senator Alloway.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Nicole Lipinski and to the Maslow Family Foundation by Senators Baker, Blake, and Yudichak.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Joseph F. Garin, Jr. and to the State Theatre of Easton by Senator Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Prezioso, Saints Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sharon, Sharon Tiger Techs Robotics Team, Titusville Post Office, Pioneer Steam and Gas Engine Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania and to the members and coaches of Sharpsville Area High School Softball Team by Senator Michele Brooks.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Sarah G. Vannicola Dominic by Senator Browne.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Robert Postal and to E. Kenneth Walters by Senator Corman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Rabbi Ahron Brodie, Sonja Wimer and to Robert Goldstein by Senator Costa.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Triple Crown Corporation by Senator DiSanto.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Stohrer by Senator Folmer.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hughes and to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Keane by Senator Fontana.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. John Miller, Maura Fiamoncini, Ruth L. Hess and to Payden Montana by Senator Gordner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Joseph C. Bennis and to Karen Knodel by Senator Greenleaf.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. James E. Swift and to Frederick V. Peterson, Jr., by Senator Hutchinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to citizens of the Borough of Marcus Hook by Senator Killion.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kathleen Vogt by Senator Laughlin.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Vernon Freeman by Senator McGarrigle.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Scott Thomas Albert by Senator McIlhinney.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Zachary Skalecki, Niketh S. Charpanjeri and to Justin Grimley by Senator Rafferty.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Captain Evan Brazunas, Brian Hughes, Tyler Moyer, Neil Jackson, Michael Baskin, Carl Weisbecker, Scott Kramer, Christopher Bickings,

Shawn Johnson, Carmelo P. Morales, Jr., Bill Ronayne and to Janssen Pharmaceuticals by Senator Rafferty and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Carol Ruth Schaeffer by Senator Scavello.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Robert Culmer and to Trinity United Church of Christ of Leesport by Senator Schwank.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Mazzoni by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Marzula, Maria DeLuca and to Laura Gellner by Senator Vogel.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to David K. Miles by Senators Vulakovich and Costa.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to citizens of Slickville by Senator Ward.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the West Philadelphia Community Mental Health Consortium and to Eden Cemetery Company by Senator Williams.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Stephanie Salvatori and to Dawson Chad Harvey by Senator Yaw.

### 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 Reverend Dr. Ronald King Hill, Sr., by Senator Haywood.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Ray S. Walker by Senator Langerholc.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Herman Silverman by Senator McIlhinney.

### BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator FARNESE. 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 145, SB 472, SB 542, SB 610, SB 616, SB 658, SB 753, HB 188, HB 283, HB 599 and HB 952.**

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2017

10:30 A.M.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (public  
hearing on after action assessment of the  
Eric Frein manhunt)

Pike Co.  
Training  
Ctr., Lords  
Valley

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2017

Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 180, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 446, 662 and 741; and House Bills No. 217 and 1238)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
Off the Floor	EDUCATION (to consider Senate Bill No. 756; and House Bill No. 178)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
Off the Floor	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (to consider Senate Bills No. 334, 639 and 692; and House Bill No. 290)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
Off the Floor	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bill No. 656)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider Senate Resolution No. 146; and certain Executive Nominations)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
Off the Floor	STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bills No. 622, 774 and 775)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2017

10:00 A.M.	COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (public hearing to receive testimony on PREP Programs and Partners. Specifically, the context of the hearing will include funding and delivery of these programs, as well as the economic impact to the Commonwealth)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
11:00 A.M.	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (to consider House Bills No. 187 and 790)	Room 461 Main Capitol
Off the Floor	FINANCE (to consider Senate Bills No. 760 and 770)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2017

9:00 A.M.	LABOR AND INDUSTRY (public hearing to receive input on Senate Bill No. 429 regarding apprenticeship ratios)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
10:00 A.M.	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (to consider Senate Bills No. 6 and 655; and House Bills No. 45 and 424)	Room 461 Main Capitol

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2017

11:00 A.M.	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (public hearing on Philadelphia Soda Tax)	City Cncl. Cmbrs., Phila.
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**PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES**

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

Senator FARNESE. Mr. President, I rise again to speak on House Bill No. 271 that was passed recently, both in this Chamber and then we threw it over to the House. They sent it back here with regard to the casino amendments discussion that has been going on over the last several weeks, and to clarify a few things between what we passed out of the Senate and what was returned to the Senate last week with regard to the amendments put in by the House. Specifically, I will focus, again, on the Philadelphia local share fix, in other words, the casinos that are and

will be licensed within the city of the first class, the city of Philadelphia. Again, as we know by statute, Mr. President, Philadelphia is the only city that is required under the gaming law to have two licensees, and that was set forth when the act was passed. A few months ago, actually last year, the decision was made on the second licensee site in south Philadelphia, and I know that the city is anxiously awaiting the groundbreaking so that project can get up and running. That will bring the jobs, community and economic development, and revitalization money that is so critically important to the city and, of course, to the rest of the Commonwealth, which the rest of the Commonwealth who hosts casinos get an opportunity to share in the fees. I will focus on those issues for the purposes of my discussion.

The language that the House put back into House Bill No. 271 was essentially to reinstate the 4-percent local share assessment, the same 4-percent local share assessment that was struck down by our Supreme Court in the *Mount Airy* decision. Now, I know I have said this before, but I understand that the Supreme Court did not specifically address or rule on the merits of Philadelphia's local share assessment, but that does not mean that we should not address this issue. In fact, if you read the Supreme Court's decision, you could come away with the interpretation and understanding that the Supreme Court did not even need to reach the issue of the assessment in Philadelphia, because it looked at what Mount Airy put in its petition and basically said, in layman's terms, you have enough here already for us to determine the issue of constitutionality and, specifically, with regard to the taxing structure. We do not even need to get into the Philadelphia issue at this point, but, clearly it is there, and clearly the Supreme Court knew it was there and did not need to address it because they had enough that was presented by the petitioners in the initial lawsuit.

I think we have to look at the big picture here when we take a look at what is going to be happening in Philadelphia. If House Bill No. 271 is passed or enacted as it came back over from the House, Philadelphia casinos will be paying an entirely different and lower local share assessment than any other casino in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. There is going to be a race to the courthouse, once again, by non-Philadelphia casinos arguing that Philadelphia is getting special treatment and paying less than each and every other site across the Commonwealth. Once again, the communities that each and every one of us represents, and specifically, those communities that we represent as Philadelphia legislators, those will be the ones that will have to pay the price again for what will be useless litigation to run its course because we decided not to address an issue that the Supreme Court said to fix. Imagine that. Mr. President, imagine having two sites in Philadelphia, one paying 4 percent and one paying a specific dollar amount. Imagine how fast the papers will be flying and folks will be running to the courthouse and what will happen. Litigation will ensue and dollars will cease to flow to those communities that actually benefit from the great economic revitalization dollars that have been a consequence of gaming within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The reality is that if we leave Philadelphia's local share assessment at 4 percent, lawsuits and litigation are exactly what will follow. That is the reality of what we were supposed to do in response to the *Mount Airy* decision by the Supreme Court.

A few weeks ago, I explained my proposal for how Philadelphia's local share dollars should be distributed, but there has been

some confusion on that issue, so I will again try to explain it and clarify it. First, under the proposal that we passed out of the Senate a few weeks ago, the School District of Philadelphia will not lose any money. The school district is held harmless. Let me say that again. We are not taking away, diverting, utilizing, or grabbing money from the school district. In fact, there is no money that is even earmarked for the school district that even comes into play with the distribution schedule that passed out of the Senate. Because we recognize, each and every Philadelphia legislator, and I would say even folks across the aisle, how critically important it is to insure that the School District of Philadelphia gets those dollars and is held harmless from any change in the local share assessment in accordance with the directions from the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. House Bill No. 271 and the Philadelphia local share that was in effect until the fall distributed the first \$5 million to the school district right off the bat. My proposal that we voted on a few weeks ago, which passed the Senate, did the exact same thing. The first \$5 million goes directly to the school district.

Second, under my proposal, the city of Philadelphia would receive 60 percent, and I said this before, maybe I will speak slower this time, 60 percent of the remaining local share from the casino currently operating. As we know, we have one licensee currently operating within the city of Philadelphia, with 60 percent of that remaining local share from that casino currently operating and 70 percent of the local share from the second casino when it comes online, for a total of \$10 million. Let me say that again. The city of Philadelphia would receive, when the second casino comes online, an increase of \$10 million directly to the general fund. They do not have that under the proposal that came over, and they certainly do not have that under the 4-percent local share assessment that they have now.

So the irony here is that the Senate bill that we supported and passed with the support of the Philadelphia legislators actually gives the city one shot at having \$10 million in their general fund to utilize. We actually gave them that opportunity because we care about the city's ability to utilize those funds, and we wanted to make sure that not only were they held harmless, but that they saw an increase. We are giving the city additional money in the language that passed out of the Senate. That language, as you know, was taken out of the bill that came back to us. The city can use this money to cover the casino-related costs, contribute additional dollars of that \$10 million to the school district, or however council and the mayor determine it should be used.

Third, the 20 percent of the local share from the first casino, and the 30 percent of the local share from the second casino, will be deposited into a restricted account within the Department of Community and Economic Development, to be used for neighborhood revitalization and community development projects within the city of Philadelphia. Again, this is a restricted account with DCED, to be used specifically for the purpose of which it was intended to be used - neighborhood revitalization and community improvement projects within the city of Philadelphia. I asked this question when I made the same remarks a few weeks ago, what will this do to Philadelphia's local share assessment? It will bring it into uniformity and make it consistent with the distributions elsewhere in the State, where money is already dedicated to community and economic development. A piece of our proposal that we passed out of the Senate that I think is critically important is, who can apply to that DCED fund for those

dollars? The School District of Philadelphia can apply for those dollars. So, right off the bat, anybody who says we are using money earmarked for the city of Philadelphia should pick up the bill and take a look at it and read it. Read it, understand it, or call somebody on the phone who does, because clearly, if you come to the conclusion that there is money that is earmarked for the School District of Philadelphia that is being used, utilized, or grabbed for any other purpose, you either forgot how to read, or you simply do not care enough to pick it up and put the time in that would reveal what exactly the bill states.

In addition, Mr. President, to the consistency, the purpose of the fund is to continue those partnerships that have already been developed between the city and the casinos. These partnerships include projects that are done, or parades, relationships with the neighborhoods, neighborhoods that have hosted these casinos and have become good, productive partners with these casinos. It is our hope, specifically my hope, that these dollars that would be infused into that DCED fund would continue to be used for the purpose in which they were enacted. Back in 2005, this body and the body across the way made a decision that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania would be in partnership with casinos and gaming, a decision that was made back long before I got here. DCED, the same body that many of us use and depend upon for those important projects that impact our communities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, would be eligible to receive applications from the School District of Philadelphia, from the city of Philadelphia, from community groups, or civic associations, or anyone or any group that is putting forth a project for public benefit or the public good. I do not need to tell you--maybe I do, for the people who did not understand or did not bother to read the gaming bill that we passed out of here a couple of weeks ago--that DCED dollars are open, transparent, and can be tracked. You can actually see how and where those dollars are being used. That is the proposal I pushed for to be inserted into House Bill No. 271, which we passed a few weeks ago. That is the same proposal that I continue to push for today, a distribution scheme with protocols consistent with each and every other community and city that hosts a casino across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and a tax assessment that is uniform and consistent within the confines and the direction of the *Mount Airy* decision that was handed down by our Supreme Court.

Mr. President, I would like to be able to stand up here and say that this proposal that we came up with here, myself, Senator Hughes, and other folks, was some stroke of brilliance, but the truth here is if you really want to know where this language came from, go back to the legislative Session of 2009-10, Senate Bill No. 711, where I proposed this exact same language with the difference of a mile-and-a-half boundary. Otherwise, it is the exact same language which passed this Chamber, I believe, in December, Senate Bill No. 711--I think you can find the language on page 138 of that document. But again, if you do not want to read, then you do not really care about finding it. But it is there. Again, the change that we made back then was that only those communities within a mile-and-a-half radius of a casino were able to apply to DCED for those dollars. Under this approach, everybody in the city of Philadelphia - the school district, the city itself, community groups - whoever is working on a project with a public benefit, could have access to that restricted

fund within DCED. Where did I get this idea? I got it in December of 2009, and it was passed, Senate Bill No. 711. Go look it up.

We need to take a firm and hard look at what we do with the local share distribution under Philadelphia. We need to understand that what we are doing could have the consequence of slowing down the process considerably, slowing down by litigation with another lawsuit, the ability of those dollars, those critically important dollars, that will flow to those communities now. It will either slow them down, stop them, or affect those dollars that are now being generated into the city's general fund, that are accessed by our mayor and our city council, to do the wonderful projects and the wonderful causes that they utilize those dollars for. We cannot risk that happening. We have to insure that the communities and our city's general fund are not hamstrung by another lawsuit that would take a shot at the uniformity of the way we are taxing between non-Philadelphia and Philadelphia casinos, or the scheme of the taxation rate and the distribution plan for the local share assessment. We cannot allow those issues to be the impetus for litigation that could slow down the flow of those critically important dollars.

We have an opportunity to get it right. We have an opportunity to do what the Supreme Court told us to do, and, for the first time, to give the city of Philadelphia a local share plan and protocol that is similar to each and every other community or city in the Commonwealth that hosts a casino. I think it is the right thing to do. Frankly, I think we should have done it back in 2009 when we opened up the Gaming Act to do table games. The Supreme Court told us to open up this Gaming Act, and we are doing it now. I believe if we do not make these fixes that the Supreme Court told us to do, then we will be doing more harm than good, because, Mr. President, you can bet there will be a race to the courthouse. There is litigation right now pending with regard to the second license, the *Mount Airy* case I have referenced already. If we do not get this right now, those communities and the city of Philadelphia's general fund that is being funded with those critically important dollars, that is what is at risk.

I hope that we can all resolve ourselves to at least understand what is being done here. You may not like it, you may not want to support it, you may think there are other ways to utilize it, but at least understand it. Take the time to understand it and ask questions. Ask real questions to get at the heart of what is going on here. Try to understand why we are doing what we are doing. Reference the Supreme Court case, try to understand the way that taxation structures are supposed to be uniform and constitutional under a form of government like we have here in the Commonwealth. Understand why in *Mount Airy* the court struck down that taxation scheme. Understand that is what is motivating the decisions that you see being made now. If you do not agree with it, fine, but at least come to the table educated and able to discuss what is in the bill, because that, Mr. President, is the starting point for each and every discussion that we have in this Chamber. Thank you.

**The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator John C. Rafferty, Jr.) in the Chair.**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Dinniman.

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, it is good to see you there, Senator Rafferty, acting as President. It is good to see my buddy over there, Senator Folmer, as Leader, and my other friend, Senator Farnese, as a Leader, also, but I want to talk about some serious things, if I can, for a second.

The Committee on Education was to take up a bill today that would have ended the Keystone Exams and also would have put a new evaluation system into effect. That will be taken up on Monday, but I want to talk a little about it because I think that PSEA, who has sent messages out saying that this is not a good evaluation system, has either not read the bill or does not completely understand what we are trying to do.

First of all, understand the larger part of the bill. The bill has two parts. It says that the Keystone Exams will no longer be used in Pennsylvania. Our own Department of Education has said that these exams are not a good indicator of career and college success. So, there is no reason to have them. Second of all, we do not believe that one exam should determine whether a student graduates or not. So, we tell school districts they could come up with whatever they want, throw the ball back to the local districts, but they simply cannot use one exam. They have to use a variety of approaches to whether a student graduates or not.

We now have to find a way to keep the Feds happy. You know they have intruded and put their nose where it should not be. The Constitution makes it quite clear they have no business in education, that is a State's matter, but they are here, so we have to deal with reality. So, how do we, at least at the high school level, deal with the idea of accountability and measurement? We would use, as nine other States have already done, the SAT. Why do we use the SAT? For two reasons, Mr. President. The first is that 72 percent of the students in Pennsylvania are already taking them. The Keystones take 10 days of instruction time. The SAT takes one day, all right? This also opens up the possibilities of SATs for poorer students who cannot pay the fee, because if the State gives the test, it pays. When they did that in New York City, they had 17,000 more students, poorer students, coming from poor or working families who could not afford SATs, who took them once the school made them available, and then had that opportunity. No one has ever asked--to the best of my knowledge--no college, no employer, how did you do on the Keystones? But people will ask, what is your SAT score? The SATs have been aligned, so they work. Nine other States are using them, and what we do is we use PSATs in 10th grade in the fall, which half of the schools are giving already, and SATs in the spring of 11th grade to show growth in terms of learning.

If you are not going to use the Keystones, Mr. President, it means that we have to have a new approach to teacher evaluation, especially in high school. Because right now I could be teaching art, or music, or history in a school, but 90 percent of my evaluation, or 40 percent of the part that deals with assessment, is based on these three exams. Now, I do not control the teacher who teaches algebra I, biology, or English, but my evaluation is going to be based on that. So what we are trying to do is come up with a new system, one that opens up education so we can finally start to have a discussion about teaching and education in a new age, in a new time. Our educational system and our evaluation system of teachers is based on the Industrial Age model: standardization. Everyone does the same thing, to get the same pay, and they are evaluated in the same way. Mr. President, that is not how the economy works anymore. Our economy today

is based on customization. Our economy today is based on the concept of value added. You get your jobs, you maintain your jobs, you are evaluated on the value that you, as an individual and through your knowledge, add to the job. Most professions have accepted that change. Most professions understand the new economy. I think most teachers understand it, too, but for whatever reason, PSEA wants to continue to do it the old way. Well, the old way does not work anymore. Things have changed. So, this evaluation system in no way is an attack on PSEA or teachers. It simply offers another approach based on value added to who teachers are.

So, let me tell you three fundamental concepts that PSEA, the union representing teachers, do not like, but I daresay that teachers themselves would like. The first is this, do you think that consumers have any right, any say, in evaluating those who provide education? Right now, they do not. So, we put a 5-percent factor in there, out of a total of 100 percent, that says that parents would be surveyed and would be asked what they think about the teaching. Now, they are not going to be asked, is the teacher bad or good, or questions such as that, but questions about what the kids have learned, what they talked about. It is done in a very professional way. PSEA did not like that. Another 5 percent, at least for high school, we said the students should have a say in the evaluation. By the way, we already do that in the city of Pittsburgh with the agreement of the union there. When you go to college, at least in all the State-owned schools, I am evaluated based on my students, and we do not have parents, because the students are over 18 years old.

So, here is the question that we have to answer as a legislature: Do we believe parents have a role in the education of their children and should they have a say in public education? And how do we do it, and should we do it? Senator Eichelberger and I feel they do. So, we sent it back to the school district to figure out the answer to that question, which we hope is a most reasonable question. By the way, it does not matter where you go these days, do they not ask you what the service was like? I brought my car in the other day and when I got home, the computer asked me to fill out a form whether the person who took care of my car was good to me. My wife was in the hospital, and when she left we got a form asking about the service of the hospital and the medical professionals. Why would education not be service oriented as well? Why would you not seek the opinions and inputs of your consumers?

In fact, I am not ashamed to say that the most valuable input I ever got in my teaching was from the student evaluations. I will tell you why, because I was teaching the way I had learned. Most teachers teach the way their favorite teachers teach, especially in college, but even sometimes in high school. I discovered through these evaluations that my students were learning differently than I did. First of all, they did not have the attention span that we all had when we were growing up, for those of us who are older. They learn more from technology and short ways. So, I realized, and I improved my teaching immensely. I was a good teacher to begin with, I might humbly say, but I improved my teaching and got good evaluations, but I improved because of the student evaluations. In fact, for a year, I would start class each time for the first 5 minutes and I would ask the students, how do you learn? I would see how it was different from how I learned. It made me a better teacher. Why are we afraid to ask our students? Why is the union afraid to ask parents? It does not make sense to me.

Finally, the other provision of this bill would insist on the professionalization of education. We should treat teachers as the professionals that they are. Many have gone on to get master's and even doctoral degrees, and they all do in-service workshops. Think about it for a second, if we evaluate doctors, other doctors evaluate those doctors. If we evaluate engineers, other engineers evaluate them. So, our bill put in peer evaluation. Our bill said that other teachers should evaluate teachers, not just the principal. Well, it turns out that that was an objection that PSEA had, but you cannot be a profession until the profession polices itself or until the profession says that we take the responsibility of evaluating our own members. That is what every profession does, that is what professionalism means, you see?

So, let me try to bring this together with an example of what our evaluation plan would have done that the PSEA misunderstood. I am going to give them the benefit of the doubt. They did not read it. They must have misunderstood it, not that they objected to it. I only know the things they objected to. On the merit one and others, I think maybe they misunderstood. By the way, I am a union member. I belong to an education union. So I am not anti-union. I am not sitting here advocating paycheck protection or anything like that. I am advocating that education has to change because the times have changed, and I am saying that the majority of teachers understand that, and we have to begin this discussion based on the new economy and the new age, and the union has to be part and parcel of that discussion that takes place. That is, I think, the feeling of the majority of teachers. Based on these tests and the way we are treating teachers now, we are treating them as if they are a cog in a machine. We tell them they have to teach this curriculum and we tell them they are going to be evaluated numerically on this test. More and more of the best teachers are leaving teaching, less and less students are applying to schools of education, and our teaching force is going to be significantly diminished because the government intruded and because the profession will not police itself through peer review.

Let me say two more things, then conclude. By the way, is there anyone in this room or anyone that you know of who does not know who the bad teachers in the school are? You know, the parents know, the students know, the teachers know. It is not a secret. Why are we trying to protect them through an evaluation system? Let the parents have their say. Let the students have their say. Give them an improvement plan so they can become better. I do not understand the resistance to something that everyone knows about. I mean, just ask in your school. I know parents, I can say from my own experience, who say, we pray that our son or daughter gets X teacher in X grade rather than Y teacher. It is no secret. I am not saying you get rid of that teacher, but you help that teacher improve. You cannot help that teacher improve until you have an evaluation system that allows peer review, other teachers reviewing, and until you have a system that allows parent and student input. Let us create that. What is the problem?

Finally, an example, I am a music, phys ed, or an art teacher. Right now, as I mentioned before, 90 percent of my evaluation of the 50 percent that goes for assessment comes as a result of grades on the Keystone tests. If the tests are gone, we will have to have a new system now, right? It gives us a wonderful opportunity. How would I judge a music teacher or an art teacher? By the way, what the State is now doing is sending it back to the schools with the teachers and school boards, and they will work together. If I am doing an art teacher, I would judge it, if I was

that superintendent or that teacher, on their portfolio of the students' work, see what progress they made in art during the semester. How do you ask on a test in algebra whether someone is a good art teacher? How do you ask on a test in biology whether someone is a good music teacher and listen to the performance, see how the instruments come together? You know the people who do it best? Those who are the teachers themselves. Yet, the union is resisting having peer review from their very own members. This makes no sense to me.

So, what I am saying, to conclude, is simply this: I am sure when our bill comes to the Committee on Education it will pass, despite the opposition to the new system of evaluation which is required, because we are getting rid of the Keystones. All right? I will never get involved in union bashing, because I would be bashing myself, since I am a member of a faculty union. But I dare say, as a union member, I have a right and an obligation to say to the leadership of all educational unions, it is time to take your head out of the sand. It is time to understand it is a new economy, it is a new age, and indeed, it is a new legislature, in terms of the new Senators who have been elected here, and it is time that we confront the issues of education. It is time that we institutionalize an evaluation system that has worked. It is time that we put students first. It is time that we understand that our basic economy and our survival as a nation depends on our educational system.

I will stand up here and say that as a Democrat, I will say it as a union member, and, my friends, this bill was the work of bipartisan work. Senator Eichelberger, my friend and colleague, is one of the more conservative Members of this body, not exactly a friend to unions. I am one of the more moderate and liberal Members of this body, and I am a friend to unions. If the two of us, after hour after hour of discussion, can come up with a plan for evaluation that is fair, teacher-centric, that involves parents, that is concerned with students, and insists on peer review, then I am going to say we can get this accomplished together as a legislature and this is the beginning of the most important discussion that this Commonwealth can have. What is the future of education, and how are we going to educate students for this new era?

Thank you so much, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Folmer.

Senator FOLMER. Mr. President, on a number of occasions, I have risen to express my support for Senator Argall's Senate Bill No. 76 to eliminate school property taxes because, and I have said this many times before, I believe no tax should have the power leave you homeless.

Recently, I received a handwritten letter from a citizen who read an article about my support for this much-needed and long-overdue legislation, and he was kind enough to say, I applaud you, sir, and thank you. The man attached some information about his need for help, and thanked me again, as someone who may be able to help him. Mr. President, I actually believe each of us can help this gentleman, a retired senior citizen on a fixed income, by passing Senate Bill No. 76 to eliminate school property taxes.

While the man who wrote to me is not a constituent of the 48th Senatorial District, he sounds like the type of person any of us would be proud to represent in the General Assembly. As I said, he is a retired senior citizen living on a fixed income, Social

Security, who is also a Navy veteran, who served 10 years working for the NSS and the NSA, and 42 years for various companies in a variety of jobs. Plus, Mr. President, this gentleman gave back hours of his time to his community: 3 years as a Sunday school teacher for 10th, 11th, and 12th graders; 6 years as an AARP instructor for 55-and-up driving classes; 6 years mentoring at-risk teenage boys ages 13, 14, and 15; and he is also the caregiver of his 82-year-old wife who is suffering from dementia, and their 13-year-old female Beagle. In 1976, this gentleman received a Golden Deeds Award for his 12 years of volunteer work with youth baseball as a manager, a coach, an umpire, a groundskeeper, and other efforts in support of the children. Yes, Mr. President, the man who wrote to me to say thank you for trying to get Senate Bill No. 76 passed to eliminate school property taxes is someone I am sure we all would agree is the salt of the earth, and yet, Mr. President, this senior citizen, this person who has given so much of himself throughout his life also wrote to me to say, I am sorry, but I cannot afford my \$4,000 in taxes anymore.

How sad, Mr. President, that after all these years, this gentleman fears that he may have to sell his house, put his wife of 62 years into a home, and possibly go on welfare himself. Why, Mr. President? Because a man living on \$6,718.07 a year cannot pay his \$4,000 in property taxes--to which some might say, well, he just cannot afford his home anymore. But, you see, he could afford his home because he bought his home. It was supposed to be his home, and I think when you buy your home you think you own it, but I guess we really do not. I guess the State actually owns the home. This, Mr. President, is a sad, sad story, and regrettably, a true one. Worst of all, this is a real life example of what I have been saying for quite some time: no tax should have the power to leave you homeless.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I will leave this Chamber with the words from the man who took the time to handwrite a letter to me about his plight, "Please, us old folks--and I am not alone--really need help."

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Street.

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise to thank my colleagues for an important step we took today. America started in Pennsylvania. Our country was born right here in Pennsylvania, in Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

At that time, we stated that all men were created equal and set forth a Bill of Rights to protect those people. However, not everyone was protected. The First Amendment we adopted in the Bill of Rights gave the right of freedom of expression, religion, and association, but we did not guarantee those rights to all people, even though that was the vision of William Penn and many Founders. Women were not fully protected. Although we set forth those principles and did not include everyone, they became ideals that were more aspirational for our country than they were the reality of the day. In the past, we have acknowledged many benchmarks along the way. We have acknowledged Juneteenth, which I will introduce in the future and which you have supported. We acknowledge the contributions of many people in our community. Today, for the first time, we adopted a resolution commemorating the Eid holidays. We sent a message in a bipartisan way that there is a place for Muslims in Pennsylvania, and that the 2 billion people around the world, the millions across the

country, and the hundreds of thousands in Pennsylvania can understand there is a place for us, too, to practice and worship in this State, to contribute to its economic vitality and to participate.

I thank my colleagues for this bipartisan support, but I also rise to remind us that there is still work to be done. We still need to adopt comprehensive hate crimes legislation. This is particularly important, as roughly a year ago the tragedy at Pulse nightclub occurred, in which many LGBT citizens were killed in Orlando. This event could have marked a turning point in which we became further divided against Muslims and LGBT citizens. However, that did not occur. Remarkably, after that, LGBT citizens spoke out against Islamophobia, and Muslims spoke out against violence against the members of the LGBT community. We have other work to do. I have offered legislation protecting sacred places in response to the desecration of a mosque and a Jewish cemetery. We also have to adopt comprehensive hate crimes legislation that includes LGBT citizens. I rise, thanking my colleagues for taking an important step today for the first time acknowledging the Eid holidays. As we come to the conclusion of Ramadan, which I am observing, we send a message to people throughout the world that the demagoguery of Washington has no place in Harrisburg and no place in this Capitol. I am pleased and proud that we did this in a bipartisan way and that we showed that we can do it. I want to let my colleagues know that while we have done a great thing today, we have work to be done, and I look forward to doing it in as comprehensive and collegial a manner as we were able to in adopting the resolution today.

Thank you, Mr. President, for this time.

### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Folmer.

Senator FOLMER. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, June 19, 2017, 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 12:58 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.