

# COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

## LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2003

SESSION OF 2003

187TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 21

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House convened at 11 a.m., e.s.t.

**THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE  
(PATRICIA H. VANCE) PRESIDING**

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House will now stand in recess until 1 p.m.

#### AFTER RECESS

The time of recess having expired, the House was called to order.

#### PRAYER

REV. ROBERT A. GRAYBILL, Chaplain of the House of Representatives, offered the following prayer:

Perhaps you can pause with me in prayer as I share this thought:

As we begin this session, we pause before You, O God Almighty, to open our hearts to the calming breath of Your Spirit. As You well know, our world is in turmoil, our nation is at war, and our lives are filled with unrest.

So, O God Almighty, we ask again for Your guidance to shine upon the path that will lead to stability, that will offer to all the basics of freedom, that will bring peace that shall last. In our struggles and in our fear, we pray for the warmth of Your love to touch the hearts of everyone in our Armed Forces. Though within arm's way of terror and evil, help them to feel securely Your loving arms upon their soul. Please give to each of them Your guidance that produces determination that will lead to peace.

And as for these men and women gathered in this room, though we are not caught in the middle of a desert nor in a sandstorm, I still ask of Thee to shed Your light upon them and their path this day. Help them to listen with open minds for solutions to problems that face the people of this State, to seek diligently the ways in which everyone can take responsibility for improving the well-being of our citizens, and to accept with honor the tasks that need to be done, so our Commonwealth can become the best it can be. Give to all gathered here a fresh breath of Your Spirit that leads them with determination to find the best solutions. It is not his idea or her answer, but together shall they say, it is our best effort to do Thy will.

O God Almighty, place Your Spirit afresh upon each of us, and may we, too, know the loving presence of Your arms around us. Amen.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by members and visitors.)

#### JOURNAL APPROVAL POSTPONED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the approval of the Journal of Wednesday, March 12, 2003, will be postponed until printed.

#### HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

**No. 134** By Representatives McILHINNEY, ADOLPH, BAKER, BUXTON, CASORIO, CAWLEY, COLEMAN, CRUZ, DAILEY, DiGIROLAMO, FICHTER, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, HARHAI, HARPER, HERSHEY, LAUGHLIN, LEWIS, MAHER, MARSICO, MYERS, NAILOR, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PETRI, PHILLIPS, REED, ROSS, SCHRODER, E. Z. TAYLOR, TRUE, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, defining the offense of greyhound racing; and prescribing a penalty.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 18, 2003.

**No. 700** By Representatives B. SMITH, CLYMER, JOSEPHS, STERN, FEESE, BUNT, BEBKO-JONES, BISHOP, E. Z. TAYLOR, FLEAGLE, GILLESPIE, JAMES, YOUNGBLOOD, McNAUGHTON, MAITLAND, STABACK, WASHINGTON, TANGRETTI, WALKO, CREIGHTON, HORSEY, S. MILLER, LEWIS, PICKETT, WATSON, PAYNE, CRAHALLA and LAUGHLIN

An Act selecting, designating and adopting celestite, more commonly known as celestine, as the official State mineral of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Referred to Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, March 18, 2003.

**No. 777** By Representatives PETRONE, DeWEESE, SHANER, RUFFING, LAUGHLIN, FRANKEL, CAPPELLI, CORRIGAN, THOMAS, TRAVAGLIO, BEBKO-JONES, PALLONE, HORSEY, SAYLOR, DERMODY, PRESTON, MELIO, TANGRETTI, HARHAI, GOODMAN, SAINATO, PISTELLA, LaGROTTA, McCALL, COSTA, GERGELY, SOLOBAY, JAMES, FABRIZIO, YOUNGBLOOD, WALKO, LESCOVITZ, ROONEY, DALEY, BELFANTI and SANTONI

An Act authorizing a video lottery system at certain racetracks; providing for disbursements of revenues; imposing duties on the Division of the State Lottery; establishing an advisory committee; imposing a video lottery tax; and making an appropriation.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, March 13, 2003.

**No. 803** By Representatives J. WILLIAMS, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BISHOP, BLAUM, BROWNE, BUNT, BUTKOVITZ, CAWLEY, COSTA, COY, CRAHALLA, CRUZ, DALEY, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, D. EVANS, FABRIZIO, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GABIG, GEORGE, GRUCELA, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HORSEY, JAMES, KELLER, KIRKLAND, KOTIK, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LEDERER, MELIO, PISTELLA, REICHLEY, RUBLEY, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STABACK, TANGRETTI, THOMAS, TIGUE, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WATERS, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

An Act amending the act of November 6, 1987 (P.L.381, No.79), known as the Older Adults Protective Services Act, providing for reporting by hospital personnel of suspected abuse.

Referred to Committee on AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES, March 18, 2003.

**No. 804** By Representatives J. WILLIAMS, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BISHOP, CAWLEY, COSTA, COY, CRUZ, DALEY, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, D. EVANS, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GRUCELA, HERMAN, HORSEY, JAMES, KIRKLAND, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LEDERER, MANDERINO, MANN, MUNDY, O'BRIEN, ROEBUCK, SANTONI, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STABACK, STURLA, J. TAYLOR, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WATERS, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

An Act providing for a grant program for class size reduction activities; and imposing powers and duties on the Department of Education and the Secretary of Education.

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION, March 18, 2003.

**No. 805** By Representatives J. WILLIAMS, BEBKO-JONES, BROWNE, BUTKOVITZ, CRUZ, CURRY, FRANKEL, HORSEY, KENNEY, KIRKLAND, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, McGEEHAN, MELIO, METCALFE, PISTELLA, THOMAS, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WATERS, WATSON and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act requiring community notification of certain prison projects.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 18, 2003.

**No. 806** By Representatives J. WILLIAMS, McGEEHAN, BISHOP, BUTKOVITZ, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, DALEY, GRUCELA, HORSEY, JAMES, KIRKLAND, LAUGHLIN, MELIO, PISTELLA, ROEBUCK, SOLOBAY, TANGRETTI, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WATERS, WATSON and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the offense of unlawful installation or use of viewing devices.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 18, 2003.

**No. 865** By Representatives KENNEY, MACKERETH, TURZAI, LEDERER, ADOLPH, BAKER, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BISHOP, BOYES, BROWNE, BUXTON, CIVERA, CLYMER, CORNELL, CREIGHTON, CURRY, DALLY, DERMODY, DeWEESE, DiGIROLAMO, EACHUS, GEIST, GEORGE, HARHAI, HARHART, HORSEY, JOSEPHS, KELLER, LaGROTTA, LAUGHLIN, MAITLAND, MANDERINO, MANN, MARSICO, McNAUGHTON, MELIO, S. MILLER, MUNDY, NAILOR, OLIVER, PISTELLA, REICHLEY, ROEBUCK, ROSS, RUBLEY, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SHANER, B. SMITH, STABACK, STERN, STURLA, SURRA, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK and FRANKEL

An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, providing for coverage of treatment ordered by worksite-based employee assistance programs.

Referred to Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, March 13, 2003.

**No. 866** By Representatives MACKERETH, KENNEY, TURZAI, LEDERER, ADOLPH, BAKER, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BISHOP, BOYES, BROWNE, BUXTON, CIVERA, CLYMER, CORNELL, CREIGHTON, CURRY, DALLY, DeWEESE, DiGIROLAMO, EACHUS, GEIST, GEORGE, HARHAI, HARHART, HERMAN, HORSEY, JOSEPHS, KELLER, LaGROTTA, LAUGHLIN, MAITLAND, MANDERINO, MANN, MARSICO, McNAUGHTON, MELIO, S. MILLER, MUNDY, NAILOR, OLIVER, PISTELLA, REICHLEY, ROSS, RUBLEY, SANTONI, SATHER, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SHANER, B. SMITH, STABACK, STERN, STURLA, SURRA, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRUE, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK and FRANKEL

An Act establishing annual performance standards for the provision of alcohol and drug abuse and dependency treatment.

Referred to Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, March 13, 2003.

**No. 867** By Representatives MACKERETH, KENNEY, TURZAI, LEDERER, ADOLPH, BAKER, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BISHOP, BOYES, BROWNE, BUXTON, CIVERA, CLYMER, CORNELL, CREIGHTON, CURRY, DALLY, DeWEESE, DiGIROLAMO, EACHUS, GEIST, GEORGE, HARHAI, HARHART, HERMAN,

HORSEY, JOSEPHS, KELLER, LaGROTTA, LAUGHLIN, MAITLAND, MANDERINO, MANN, MARSICO, McNAUGHTON, MELIO, S. MILLER, MUNDY, NAILOR, OLIVER, PISTELLA, REICHLEY, ROSS, RUBLEY, SANTONI, SATHER, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SHANER, B. SMITH, STABACK, STERN, STURLA, SURRA, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRUE, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK and FRANKEL

An Act requiring carriers and health plans to make certain annual reports relating to the provision of alcohol and drug abuse and dependency treatment.

Referred to Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, March 13, 2003.

**No. 868** By Representatives TURZAI, KENNEY, MACKERETH, LEDERER, ADOLPH, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BISHOP, BOYES, BROWNE, BUXTON, CAPPELLI, CIVERA, CLYMER, CORNELL, CREIGHTON, CURRY, DALLY, DERMODY, DeWEESE, DIGIROLAMO, EACHUS, GEIST, GEORGE, HARHAI, HARHART, HORSEY, JOSEPHS, KELLER, LaGROTTA, LAUGHLIN, MAITLAND, MANDERINO, MANN, MARSICO, McNAUGHTON, MELIO, S. MILLER, MUNDY, NAILOR, OLIVER, PISTELLA, REICHLEY, ROSS, RUBLEY, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SHANER, B. SMITH, STABACK, STERN, STURLA, SURRA, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK and FRANKEL

An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, providing for coverage of alcohol and drug abuse and dependency treatment resulting from court action.

Referred to Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, March 13, 2003.

**No. 870** By Representatives SCRIMENTI, WASHINGTON, HENNESSEY, E. Z. TAYLOR, BELFANTI, LEACH, HARHAI, STABACK, YOUNGBLOOD and HORSEY

An Act providing for regulation of air quality in ice arenas; conferring powers and imposing duties on the Department of Health; and establishing the Ice Arena Air Quality Fund.

Referred to Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, March 13, 2003.

**No. 871** By Representatives SCRIMENTI, ROONEY, WASHINGTON, CRUZ, HARHAI, SCAVELLO and THOMAS

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for persons eligible for licensing, license issuance to minors and junior driver's license.

Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION, March 13, 2003.

**No. 872** By Representatives RUFFING, DeWEESE, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BROWNE, BUNT, CAWLEY, CIVERA, COSTA, CURRY, DALEY, FABRIZIO, FRANKEL, GEIST, GEORGE, GERGELY, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HORSEY, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, JOSEPHS, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, MANN, McGEEHAN, MELIO, PALLONE, PISTELLA, READSHAW, ROBERTS, ROONEY, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STURLA, TANGRETTI, TIGUE, WALKO, WHEATLEY, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

An Act establishing a grant program for paid municipal fire departments; and making an appropriation.

Referred to Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, March 13, 2003.

**No. 873** By Representatives GEIST, STERN, CAPPELLI, CIVERA, CREIGHTON, FRANKEL, HARHAI, HERSHEY, HESS, HORSEY, LaGROTTA, MANN, MARSICO, SATHER, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WATSON, WOJNAROSKI and MAHER

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for suspension of operating privilege and for careless driving.

Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION, March 13, 2003.

**No. 874** By Representatives GEIST, BALDWIN, BASTIAN, BEBKO-JONES, GODSHALL, HARHAI, KELLER, LEWIS, McCALL, McNAUGHTON, METCALFE, R. MILLER, PHILLIPS, PRESTON, REICHLEY, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, STAIRS, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WANSACZ, WILT, WOJNAROSKI and MAHER

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for applicability and uniformity of law and for disposition and use of liquid fuels and fuels tax.

Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION, March 13, 2003.

**No. 875** By Representatives SAYLOR, CIVERA, RUBLEY, STEIL, LEWIS, ADOLPH, BUNT, CAPPELLI, CREIGHTON, GORDNER, HARHART, HERSHEY, HORSEY, McCALL, McILHATTAN, McNAUGHTON, RAYMOND, ROHRER, TANGRETTI, TIGUE, WASHINGTON, WATSON, WRIGHT and ARMSTRONG

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, authorizing school districts to impose a tax on personal income; providing for the levying, assessment and collection of local personal income tax; and imposing powers and duties on the Department of Revenue and the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, March 13, 2003.

**No. 876** By Representatives SAYLOR, DAILEY, THOMAS, TRUE, REICHLEY, BEBKO-JONES, JAMES, BELFANTI, BROWNE, CAPPELLI, CIVERA, CURRY,

DeLUCA, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEORGE, HARPER, HERMAN, HORSEY, JOSEPHS, LEH, LEVDANSKY, LEWIS, MANDERINO, MARKOSEK, McCALL, S. MILLER, MUNDY, NICKOL, PAYNE, PICKETT, RAYMOND, RUBLEY, SATHER, SCRIMENTI, SEMMEL, SHANER, STERN, E. Z. TAYLOR, TIGUE and WOJNAROSKI

An Act amending the act of November 26, 1978 (P.L.1212, No.286), referred to as the Inspection of Employment Records Law, providing for medical records.

Referred to Committee on LABOR RELATIONS, March 13, 2003.

**No. 877** By Representatives SAYLOR, CAPPELLI, GEORGE, HARRIS and ROHRER

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for sovereign immunity for claims related to highways.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 13, 2003.

**No. 878** By Representatives SAYLOR, CAPPELLI, HARRIS, HERSHEY, SATHER, SCAVELLO and TURZAI

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the amount of damages payable for claims arising from highway conditions.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 13, 2003.

**No. 879** By Representatives SAYLOR, NICKOL, DeLUCA, MACKERETH, SATHER, ADOLPH, BEBKO-JONES, TANGRETTI, BAKER, BARRAR, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, CAPPELLI, CRUZ, CURRY, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, McCALL, McILHATTAN, MUNDY, NAILOR, PAYNE, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROBERTS, SCRIMENTI, SOLOBAY, STABACK, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act providing mandatory insurance coverage for general anesthesia for dental care for certain persons.

Referred to Committee on INSURANCE, March 13, 2003.

**No. 880** By Representatives SAYLOR, GEIST, McCALL, BARD, WATSON, DERMODY, MELIO, BELARDI, CRUZ, DeWEESE, FRANKEL, GILLESPIE, HARHAI, HORSEY, MANN, METCALFE, NAILOR, SOLOBAY, E. Z. TAYLOR and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for securing loads in vehicles; and providing requirements for transporting loose material.

Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION, March 13, 2003.

**No. 881** By Representatives SAYLOR, MACKERETH, HUTCHINSON, CAWLEY, KELLER, LEDERER, McCALL, REICHLEY, THOMAS and WASHINGTON

An Act amending the act of July 7, 1947 (P.L.1368, No.542), known as the Real Estate Tax Sale Law, increasing the rate of interest charged for late payment of taxes.

Referred to Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT, March 13, 2003.

**No. 882** By Representatives SAYLOR, BUNT, R. MILLER, HARRIS, HICKERNELL, HERSHEY, BASTIAN, EGOLF, S. MILLER, STERN, PICKETT, GRUCELA, HALUSKA, SOLOBAY, BAKER, BALDWIN, BEBKO-JONES, CAPPELLI, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, DeWEESE, FAIRCHILD, FREEMAN, GEIST, GODSHALL, HARPER, HENNESSEY, HESS, HORSEY, LEACH, LEWIS, MACKERETH, MANDERINO, McCALL, McILHATTAN, PISTELLA, RAYMOND, READSHAW, REICHLEY, RUBLEY, SATHER, B. SMITH, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRUE, WALKO, WILT, YOUNGBLOOD and ARMSTRONG

An Act amending Title 68 (Real and Personal Property) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for sales disclosure forms.

Referred to Committee on PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, March 13, 2003.

**No. 883** By Representatives SAYLOR, WEBER, REICHLEY, BROWNE, BUNT, HENNESSEY, FRANKEL, JAMES, LEACH, WALKO, WASHINGTON, MUNDY, BASTIAN, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BUXTON, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CIVERA, CLYMER, CORRIGAN, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, CURRY, FEESE, GEIST, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARPER, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HORSEY, HUTCHINSON, KELLER, KIRKLAND, LAUGHLIN, McCALL, McILHATTAN, R. MILLER, NAILOR, READSHAW, RUBLEY, SATHER, SCRIMENTI, SEMMEL, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STABACK, SURRA, TANGRETTI, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, WANSACZ, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

An Act establishing the Inmate Functional Literacy Program for certain inmates in State correctional facilities so that they may become functionally literate; and providing for powers and duties of the Department of Corrections.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 13, 2003.

**No. 884** By Representatives SAYLOR, HERMAN, FLEAGLE, CREIGHTON, McILHATTAN, CURRY, GRUCELA, KIRKLAND, SHANER, YUDICHAK, BAKER, BALDWIN, BARD, CAPPELLI, CIVERA, COSTA, DALEY, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLESPIE, HARHAI, HARPER, HORSEY, JAMES, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LEH, LESCOVITZ, LEVDANSKY, MANDERINO, MELIO, READSHAW, REED, SAINATO, SATHER, B. SMITH, TANGRETTI, THOMAS, TURZAI, WASHINGTON, WILT and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act providing Commonwealth support for a Science and Mathematics Educator Recruitment Loan Forgiveness Program for Pennsylvania residents who graduate from institutions of higher education with certification in science and mathematics and who agree to apply their expertise to public schools in this Commonwealth.

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION, March 13, 2003.

**No. 885** By Representatives SAYLOR, HARRIS, NAILOR, GEIST, BAKER, CASORIO, HARHAI, WANSACZ, BALDWIN, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BUXTON, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, CIVERA, CORRIGAN, CREIGHTON, CURRY, DERMODY, FRANKEL, GEORGE, HESS, HORSEY, KELLER, LEACH, LEDERER, LEH, MANDERINO, McCALL, McGEEHAN, MELIO, R. MILLER, PISTELLA, READSHAW, SAINATO, SATHER, SHANER, STERN, THOMAS, TIGUE, WALKO, WASHINGTON, WILT, WOJNAROSKI and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, adding provisions relating to privacy protection for customer information of financial transactions; and imposing penalties.

Referred to Committee on COMMERCE, March 13, 2003.

**No. 886** By Representatives DeWEESE, BEBKO-JONES, CAWLEY, DALEY, FABRIZIO, GRUCELA, HERSHEY, JOSEPHS, LEVDANSKY, READSHAW, RUFFING, SCRIMENTI, SOLOBAY, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, GOODMAN, BELARDI, COY, D. EVANS, GEORGE, HARHAI, HORSEY, KOTIK, McGEEHAN, ROONEY, SCAVELLO, SHANER, STABACK, WANSACZ, JAMES and PALLONE

An Act amending the act of July 22, 1974 (P.L.589, No.205), known as the Unfair Insurance Practices Act, further providing for unfair acts.

Referred to Committee on INSURANCE, March 13, 2003.

**No. 887** By Representatives MARSICO, PIPPY, SOLOBAY, ADOLPH, BAKER, BARD, BARRAR, BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI, BUXTON, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CORRIGAN, COY, CRAHALLA, CURRY, FABRIZIO, FICHTER, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLESPIE, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HERMAN, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORSEY, JAMES, KOTIK, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LEH, LYNCH, MANN, McCALL, McGEEHAN, McNAUGHTON, METCALFE, R. MILLER, NAILOR, O'NEILL, PETRARCA, PETRONE, READSHAW, REICHLEY, SAINATO, SATHER, SAYLOR, SCRIMENTI, SHANER, B. SMITH, STABACK, R. STEVENSON, THOMAS, TRUE, WANSACZ, WOJNAROSKI, ZUG, MELIO and ARMSTRONG

An Act amending the act of June 11, 1968 (P.L.149, No.84), known as the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act, further providing for purpose; providing for volunteer firefighters' retirement plans; and further providing for funds and audits.

Referred to Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, March 13, 2003.

**No. 888** By Representatives VANCE, KENNEY, E. Z. TAYLOR, PISTELLA, ADOLPH, BALDWIN, BARD, BARRAR, BASTIAN, BELFANTI, BROWNE, BUTKOVITZ, BUXTON, CAPPELLI, CORNELL, CORRIGAN, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, DAILEY, DALLY, J. EVANS,

FEESE, FICHTER, FLICK, GABIG, GEIST, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HASAY, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HORSEY, JAMES, KELLER, KIRKLAND, LAUGHLIN, LEH, LEWIS, MACKERETH, MARSICO, McCALL, McGILL, McNAUGHTON, MELIO, MICOZZIE, R. MILLER, S. MILLER, NAILOR, NICKOL, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PETRI, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, RAYMOND, READSHAW, REED, ROBERTS, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STEIL, R. STEVENSON, T. STEVENSON, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRAVAGLIO, TURZAI, WATSON, WEBER, WILT, WRIGHT, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK, ZUG, MAHER and PETRARCA

An Act providing for pharmaceutical assistance for the elderly, for pharmaceutical purchasing, for limited prescription drug redistribution within certain health care facilities and for pharmaceutical practices and cost control program; imposing additional powers and duties on the Department of Aging, the Department of Health, the Department of Public Welfare and the Secretary of Administration; and making repeals.

Referred to Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, March 13, 2003.

**No. 889** By Representatives DiGIROLAMO, PERZEL, BEBKO-JONES, BROWNE, CIVERA, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, DALLY, DeLUCA, FLICK, GEIST, HARHAI, HERSHEY, HORSEY, KELLER, LEWIS, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, MELIO, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PISTELLA, REICHLEY, SHANER, STABACK, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WALKO, WASHINGTON, WATSON, WEBER, YOUNGBLOOD and TURZAI

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for drug trafficking sentences and penalties.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 13, 2003.

**No. 890** By Representatives PISTELLA, BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI, BISHOP, BROWNE, BUNT, BUTKOVITZ, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CIVERA, COSTA, CRUZ, CURRY, DALEY, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, FRANKEL, GEORGE, GRUCELA, GRUITZA, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HORSEY, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, KOTIK, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, McCALL, PALLONE, READSHAW, ROONEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STABACK, SURRA, THOMAS, TIGUE, WALKO, WASHINGTON, WATSON, J. WILLIAMS, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

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 Child Advocate as an independent office within the Office of Attorney General; prescribing its powers and duties; and making an appropriation.

Referred to Committee on CHILDREN AND YOUTH, March 18, 2003.

**No. 891** By Representatives PISTELLA, BELFANTI, COSTA, CREIGHTON, DALEY, FREEMAN, GODSHALL, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, JOSEPHS, KELLER, LEACH, LEDERER, S. MILLER, PALLONE, PRESTON, READSHAW, RUBLEY, SATHER, SCRIMENTI, SURRA, TIGUE, WANSACZ and WASHINGTON

An Act amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, further providing for reporting by candidate and political committees and other persons.

Referred to Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, March 18, 2003.

**No. 892** By Representatives PISTELLA, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BROWNE, BUNT, CAWLEY, CIVERA, COSTA, COY, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, DALEY, DERMODY, FAIRCHILD, FREEMAN, GABIG, GEORGE, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARPER, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HORSEY, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, WASHINGTON, WEBER, J. WILLIAMS, WOJNAROSKI, YEWIC, YOUNGBLOOD, KOTIK, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LEDERER, LEWIS, MELIO, S. MILLER, PALLONE, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROBERTS, ROONEY, SAINATO, SCRIMENTI, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STABACK, T. STEVENSON, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRAVAGLIO, WALKO and WANSACZ

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for exemption from payment of real estate taxes.

Referred to Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, March 18, 2003.

**No. 893** By Representatives PISTELLA, BEBKO-JONES, CAWLEY, CURRY, HARHAI, HORSEY, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KOTIK, MELIO, MYERS, PALLONE, PRESTON, SHANER, B. SMITH, THOMAS, WALKO, WASHINGTON, WATSON, J. WILLIAMS and YUDICHAK

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code, further providing for medical assistance payments for institutional care.

Referred to Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, March 18, 2003.

**No. 894** By Representatives HANNA, DeWEESE, BAKER, BELFANTI, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, GEORGE, HARHAI, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HORSEY, PRESTON, ROONEY, SOLOBAY, STABACK, SURRA, THOMAS, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON and YOUNGBLOOD

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

Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, March 18, 2003.

**No. 895** By Representatives GEORGE, GODSHALL, HANNA, ALLEN, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BROWNE, BUNT, BUXTON, CAPPELLI, CLYMER, COSTA, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DeWEESE, FAIRCHILD, FREEMAN, GERGELY, GRUCELA, HASAY, HERSHEY, HORSEY, KELLER, LAUGHLIN, LEH, LEWIS, MARKOSEK, MCGILL, NAILOR, PRESTON, ROEBUCK, SHANER, CAWLEY, CORRIGAN, COY, CRUZ, DeLUCA, FABRIZIO, FICHTER, GEIST, GOODMAN, HALUSKA, HERMAN, HESS, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, LEDERER, LEVDANSKY, MANDERINO, McCALL, McNAUGHTON, PISTELLA, ROBERTS, SATHER, SOLOBAY, STABACK, SURRA, THOMAS, TRAVAGLIO, WANSACZ, WOJNAROSKI, STERN, TANGRETTI, TIGUE, WALKO, WASHINGTON, YOUNGBLOOD, SAINATO, PALLONE, B. SMITH and FRANKEL

An Act designating the Fish Dam Wild Area in Clinton County as the Russell P. Letterman Wild Area.

Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, March 18, 2003.

**No. 896** By Representatives McILHATTAN, READSHAW, GORDNER, HUTCHINSON, CREIGHTON, CAPPELLI, SOLOBAY, MAITLAND, LAUGHLIN, R. STEVENSON, FORCIER, SATHER, HERMAN, WILT, RUBLEY, YOUNGBLOOD, HERSHEY, BASTIAN, HARHAI, HORSEY, STERN, SAYLOR, HARPER, TURZAI, ARGALL, ARMSTRONG, BENNINGHOFF, CAUSER, CLYMER, COLEMAN, CORRIGAN, CRAHALLA, DALLY, DiGIROLAMO, FLEAGLE, HABAY, JAMES, LYNCH, McILHINNEY, METCALFE, R. MILLER, PICKETT, REED, ROHRER, ROSS, SEMMEL, S. H. SMITH, T. STEVENSON, E. Z. TAYLOR, TRUE, WANSACZ, WATSON and FEESE

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, limiting civil liability for injury or death incurred in connection with equine activities.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 18, 2003.

**No. 897** By Representatives LEACH, OLIVER, BEBKO-JONES, WALKO, RUBLEY, BISHOP, BUNT, BUXTON, CAPPELLI, CLYMER, CREIGHTON, GEIST, GEORGE, GERGELY, GRUCELA, HALUSKA, KOTIK, LEDERER, MANN, McGEEHAN, MUNDY, ROEBUCK, SAINATO, SCRIMENTI, SOLOBAY, STABACK, TIGUE, WANSACZ, YOUNGBLOOD, SHANER, PETRARCA, MELIO, HENNESSEY, WASHINGTON, GOODMAN, REICHLEY, MANDERINO, FRANKEL and HARHAI

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for sibling visitation.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 18, 2003.

**No. 898** By Representatives KENNEY, BROWNE, BUNT, DALLY, JAMES, LEWIS, McNAUGHTON, REICHLEY, WALKO, WASHINGTON, BAKER, BALDWIN, BELARDI, BENNINGHOFF, CAWLEY, CIVERA, COY, CRAHALLA, EACHUS, GEIST, GEORGE, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GORDNER, HALUSKA, HARHAI, HARPER, HARRIS, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HESS, HORSEY, KELLER, KIRKLAND, LaGROTTA, LAUGHLIN, LEDERER, LEH, MANN, MARSICO, McGEEHAN, R. MILLER, MUNDY, O'NEILL, PRESTON, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SATHER, SAYLOR, SEMMEL, SHANER, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STABACK, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, WILT and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act prohibiting false claims; imposing duties on the Attorney General and on district attorneys; and providing for procedures and for penalties.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 18, 2003.

**No. 899** By Representatives BIANCUCCI, VEON, DeLUCA, LAUGHLIN, BELFANTI, CAWLEY, COY, FABRIZIO, GERGELY, GRUCELA, HORSEY, KIRKLAND, LaGROTTA, LESCOVITZ, MUNDY, PETRARCA, PRESTON, SAINATO, STABACK, TIGUE, WANSACZ, WOJNAROSKI, McGEEHAN, BROWNE, CORRIGAN, DAILEY, GEORGE, GOODMAN, HARHAI, JAMES, KOTIK, LEACH, MELIO, PALLONE, PISTELLA, REICHLEY, SANTONI, THOMAS, TRAVAGLIO, WASHINGTON, YOUNGBLOOD and FRANKEL

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for additional powers and duties of the Department of Transportation and other agencies.

Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION, March 18, 2003.

**No. 900** By Representatives SEMMEL, SAYLOR, TIGUE, SATHER, DeWEESE, ARGALL, BALDWIN, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BROWNE, BUNT, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, CIVERA, COSTA, COY, CREIGHTON, DAILEY, DALEY, DALLY, FAIRCHILD, FLEAGLE, FLICK, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GOODMAN, GORDNER, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORSEY, HUTCHINSON, KELLER, KOTIK, LAUGHLIN, LEH, LEVDANSKY, MANN, MARSICO, McCALL, MELIO, R. MILLER, S. MILLER, NAILOR, PALLONE, PAYNE, PETRARCA, PHILLIPS, READSHAW, ROSS, RUBLEY, SCHRODER, SCRIMENTI, SHANER, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STABACK, STAIRS, STERN, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TRAVAGLIO, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD, ZUG, S. H. SMITH and FORCIER

An Act amending the act of July 15, 1976 (P.L.1036, No.208), known as the Volunteer Fire Company, Ambulance Service and Rescue Squad Assistance Act, further providing for legislative findings and declaration of purpose, for authority to borrow, for temporary financing authorization and for appropriation.

Referred to Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, March 18, 2003.

**No. 901** By Representatives E. Z. TAYLOR, MAJOR, CRAHALLA, BARD, GRUITZA, CAPPELLI, HERMAN, COY, FAIRCHILD, MANN, LAUGHLIN, STURLA, RUBLEY, SOLOBAY, WATSON, TURZAI, PRESTON, CURRY, BENNINGHOFF, THOMAS, GOODMAN, SURRA, CREIGHTON, HENNESSEY, PHILLIPS, CORRIGAN, RAYMOND, WASHINGTON, HARHAI, BROWNE, J. TAYLOR, GEIST, HORSEY, SAYLOR, DeLUCA, PETRARCA, YOUNGBLOOD, JAMES, LEDERER, REICHLEY, YUDICHAK, KIRKLAND, CAWLEY and FREEMAN

An Act amending the act of December 17, 1993 (P.L.487, No.73), known as the Early Childhood Education Professional Loan Forgiveness Act, further providing for definitions, for the program and for funding.

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION, March 18, 2003.

**No. 902** By Representatives HABAY, BAKER, BELFANTI, CREIGHTON, GORDNER, HORSEY, JAMES, LAUGHLIN, PICKETT, READSHAW, SAYLOR, SCHRODER, SEMMEL and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act prohibiting a deceptive business practice in the floral industry; and providing for a private cause of action.

Referred to Committee on CONSUMER AFFAIRS, March 18, 2003.

**No. 903** By Representatives HABAY, CIVERA, HORSEY, KIRKLAND, LEACH, LEDERER, E. Z. TAYLOR, WASHINGTON and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act providing for visibility of child safety warnings.

Referred to Committee on CHILDREN AND YOUTH, March 18, 2003.

**No. 904** By Representatives SATHER, KENNEY, BEBKO-JONES, BASTIAN, BELFANTI, BISHOP, BROWNE, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CREIGHTON, CURRY, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, J. EVANS, GEIST, GOODMAN, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HORSEY, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, LEACH, MAITLAND, PETRARCA, PETRONE, PHILLIPS, ROSS, SAINATO, SOLOBAY, STERN, STURLA, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, WASHINGTON, WATSON and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act establishing the People Improving Lots of Lives for Pennsylvania's Health Grant Program; and making an appropriation.

Referred to Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, March 18, 2003.

**No. 905** By Representatives COSTA, FRANKEL, THOMAS, GRUCELA, PALLONE, SOLOBAY, MANN, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BROWNE, CAPPELLI, CORRIGAN, DALEY, FABRIZIO, GOODMAN, HARHAI, JAMES, LAUGHLIN, LEDERER, McGEEHAN, R. MILLER, MUNDY, PETRARCA, SAINATO, SHANER, STERN, TIGUE, WANSACZ, YOUNGBLOOD, CAWLEY, CREIGHTON, DeWEESE, GEORGE, HALUSKA, HORSEY,

KELLER, LEACH, McCALL, MELIO, S. MILLER, O'NEILL, READSHAW, SANTONI, STABACK, SURRA, WALKO and WOJNAROSKI

An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, further providing for automobile insurance policy premium increases.

Referred to Committee on INSURANCE, March 18, 2003.

**No. 906** By Representatives STERN, FLEAGLE, REED, NAILOR, S. H. SMITH, BELARDI, BUXTON, CORRIGAN, BARRAR, T. STEVENSON, HERMAN, HENNESSEY, GEORGE, COLEMAN, COSTA, SURRA, WILT, MACKERETH, WALKO, RUBLEY, LEVDANSKY, LEACH, BEBKO-JONES, STURLA, TRUE, FEESE, McILHATTAN, HUTCHINSON, CREIGHTON, E. Z. TAYLOR, CAPPELLI, COY, SANTONI, PERZEL, GILLESPIE, WOJNAROSKI, GRUCELA, YOUNGBLOOD, ROSS, RAYMOND, ZUG, HESS, SAYLOR, MELIO, MAJOR, CIVERA, GOODMAN, SAINATO, KIRKLAND, BASTIAN, FABRIZIO, TIGUE, YEWIC, HARHAI, McGEEHAN, GEIST, ALLEN, TURZAI, HASAY, JAMES, REICHLEY, BROWNE, SOLOBAY and BELFANTI

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, further providing for the disposition of certain funds.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, March 19, 2003.

**No. 907** By Representatives STERN, FLEAGLE, NAILOR, BELARDI, T. STEVENSON, HERMAN, HENNESSEY, GEORGE, COSTA, SURRA, WILT, WALKO, LEVDANSKY, FEESE, McILHATTAN, HUTCHINSON, CREIGHTON, E. Z. TAYLOR, COY, SANTONI, GILLESPIE, GRUCELA, YOUNGBLOOD, ROSS, RAYMOND, ZUG, HESS, SAYLOR, MELIO, CIVERA, GOODMAN, SAINATO, BASTIAN, FABRIZIO, HARHAI, McGEEHAN, GEIST, TURZAI, JAMES, REICHLEY, BROWNE, HORSEY, SOLOBAY and BELFANTI

An Act establishing the Fire and Emergency Services Fund and a grant program for volunteer fire and ambulance companies and paid municipal fire and ambulance companies.

Referred to Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, March 19, 2003.

**No. 908** By Representatives GEORGE, BAKER, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BELFANTI, CAWLEY, CORRIGAN, COSTA, COY, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, EACHUS, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FREEMAN, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HALUSKA, HARHAI, HORSEY, KOTIK, LAUGHLIN, LEVDANSKY, McCALL, O'NEILL, PETRARCA, SAINATO, SCRIMENTI, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STERN, SURRA, THOMAS, TIGUE, WALKO, WASHINGTON, WOJNAROSKI and YUDICHAK

An Act amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, adding definitions; and providing for water line services to municipal corporations.

Referred to Committee on CONSUMER AFFAIRS, March 19, 2003.

**No. 909** By Representatives EACHUS, WALKO, VEON, GRUCELA, GOODMAN, STURLA, LAUGHLIN, COHEN, SURRA, DeWEESE, STETLER, BELARDI, COY, BELFANTI, BIANCUCCI, BISHOP, BLAUM, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, CASORIO, CAWLEY, CORRIGAN, COSTA, CURRY, DALEY, DeLUCA, DERMODY, DIVEN, FABRIZIO, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GERGELY, HANNA, HARHAI, HORSEY, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, KOTIK, LaGROTTA, LEACH, LESCOVITZ, LEVDANSKY, MANDERINO, MARKOSEK, McCALL, McGEEHAN, MELIO, MUNDY, MYERS, OLIVER, PALLONE, PETRARCA, PETRONE, PISTELLA, PRESTON, READSHAW, ROBERTS, ROEBUCK, ROONEY, RUFFING, SAINATO, SAMUELSON, SANTONI, SCRIMENTI, SOLOBAY, STABACK, TANGRETTI, TRAVAGLIO, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WATERS, WHEATLEY, J. WILLIAMS, WOJNAROSKI, YEWIC, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK, SHANER and THOMAS

An Act amending the act of August 26, 1971 (P.L.351, No.91), known as the State Lottery Law, further providing for definitions, for the drug utilization review system, for the PACE program generally, for generic drugs, for restricted formulary, for PACENET, for terms of rebate agreement, for amount of rebate, for disposition of funds and for annual report to General Assembly.

Referred to Committee on AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES, March 18, 2003.

**No. 910** By Representatives GEORGE, BAKER, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BELFANTI, CAWLEY, CORRIGAN, COSTA, COY, CURRY, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, EACHUS, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FREEMAN, GOODMAN, GORDNER, GRUCELA, HALUSKA, HARHAI, HERMAN, HORSEY, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KOTIK, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LEVDANSKY, MANDERINO, McCALL, MUNDY, O'NEILL, PETRARCA, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SATHER, SCRIMENTI, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STERN, R. STEVENSON, SURRA, THOMAS, TIGUE, WALKO, WASHINGTON, WOJNAROSKI, YUDICHAK and FRANKEL

An Act amending the act of March 1, 1988 (P.L.82, No.16), known as the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority Act, further providing for financial assistance.

Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, March 19, 2003.

**No. 911** By Representatives GEORGE, BAKER, BELARDI, BELFANTI, CAWLEY, CORRIGAN, COSTA, COY, CURRY, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, EACHUS, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FREEMAN, GOODMAN, GORDNER, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HERMAN, HORSEY, JOSEPHS, KOTIK, LAUGHLIN, LEVDANSKY, MANDERINO, McCALL, MUNDY, O'NEILL, PETRARCA, REICHLEY, SAINATO, SCRIMENTI, SHANER, SOLOBAY, SURRA, THOMAS, TIGUE, WALKO, WASHINGTON and YUDICHAK



An Act authorizing the incurring of indebtedness of \$50,000,000 for the clearance of streams, improvement of watercourse flow patterns, and abatement of flooding potential in this Commonwealth; defining the powers and duties of certain offices, agencies and political subdivisions; providing for the allotment of proceeds under this act, including Commonwealth grants; prescribing standards; establishing the Watercourse Flow Improvement Fund; creating the Watercourse Flow Improvement Sinking Fund; providing for use of certain proceeds of the State Realty Transfer Tax; and making an appropriation.

Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, March 19, 2003.

**No. 912** By Representatives O'BRIEN, McNAUGHTON, GEORGE, BEBKO-JONES, YOUNGBLOOD, PISTELLA, TIGUE, BARRAR, COY, MANN, LAUGHLIN, CIVERA, BELFANTI, READSHAW, J. TAYLOR, KIRKLAND, E. Z. TAYLOR, CRUZ, WASHINGTON, HARHART, GEIST, BELARDI, McGEEHAN, LEH, SURRA, SAINATO, HORSEY, PALLONE, CORRIGAN, SHANER, MELIO and LESCOVITZ

An Act amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act, further defining "occupational disease."

Referred to Committee on LABOR RELATIONS, March 19, 2003.

**No. 913** By Representatives O'BRIEN, THOMAS, LEDERER, COY, SAYLOR, GORDNER, MUNDY, T. STEVENSON, MANDERINO, JOSEPHS, WALKO, BELFANTI, DAILEY, J. TAYLOR, CRUZ, J. EVANS, WASHINGTON, HORSEY, SCRIMENTI, HENNESSEY and FRANKEL

An Act amending Title 15 (Corporations and Unincorporated Associations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, adding provisions relating to fundamental changes to charitable nonprofit corporations; and further providing for judicial supervision of certain proceedings.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 19, 2003.

**No. 914** By Representatives O'BRIEN, GEORGE, YOUNGBLOOD, GRUCELA, DeWEESE, FLICK, COY, HERMAN, SHANER, BASTIAN, FLEAGLE, SOLOBAY, McILHINNEY, CIVERA, PAYNE, O'NEILL, CURRY, LEVDANSKY, R. MILLER, BELFANTI, READSHAW, CLYMER, E. Z. TAYLOR, McNAUGHTON, THOMAS, HARHAI, J. EVANS, WASHINGTON, COSTA, BELARDI, FREEMAN, DALEY, STABACK, SAINATO, HORSEY, BALDWIN, PALLONE, CORRIGAN, REICHLEY, MELIO, SEMMEL, PETRARCA, HENNESSEY, DeLUCA and GOODMAN

An Act providing for purchases of materials, supplies and equipment with the Department of General Services.

Referred to Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, March 19, 2003.

**No. 915** By Representatives O'BRIEN, CREIGHTON, McGEEHAN, PETRARCA, DERMODY, LEDERER,

DeWEESE, TIGUE, BARRAR, GEORGE, McILHATTAN, COY, HERMAN, SHANER, CAPPELLI, GODSHALL, RUFFING, LAUGHLIN, BEBKO-JONES, REED, FEESE, HUTCHINSON, CIVERA, STURLA, O'NEILL, CURRY, BELFANTI, WALKO, READSHAW, J. TAYLOR, KIRKLAND, E. Z. TAYLOR, DiGIROLAMO, CRUZ, THOMAS, HARHAI, J. EVANS, WASHINGTON, ROSS, COSTA, DALLY, BELARDI, LEH, SURRA, LEACH, HORSEY, McCALL, GRUITZA, PALLONE, MELIO, MAHER, HENNESSEY, DeLUCA, TURZAI, PRESTON, GOODMAN and FRANKEL

An Act making an appropriation to the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine for support of the development of multisite Autism Centers of Excellence.

Referred to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS, March 19, 2003.

**No. 916** By Representatives O'BRIEN, GEORGE, YOUNGBLOOD, THOMAS, GRUCELA, McGILL, DeWEESE, FLICK, COY, HERMAN, SHANER, BASTIAN, FLEAGLE, SOLOBAY, McILHINNEY, CIVERA, B. SMITH, LEVDANSKY, BELFANTI, KIRKLAND, E. Z. TAYLOR, ZUG, J. EVANS, WASHINGTON, COSTA, DALLY, BELARDI, FREEMAN, STABACK, SAINATO, HORSEY, McCALL, BALDWIN, PALLONE, CORRIGAN, MELIO, SEMMEL, PETRARCA, PRESTON and FRANKEL

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, further providing for standards and purchases.

Referred to Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, March 19, 2003.

**No. 917** By Representatives O'BRIEN, GEORGE, YOUNGBLOOD, S. MILLER, GRUCELA, LEDERER, BARRAR, SHANER, FICHTER, HERMAN, CAPPELLI, COY, GEIST, MACKERETH, LAUGHLIN, MANN, THOMAS, RUFFING, WILT, MICOZZIE, LEWIS, FLICK, T. STEVENSON, HARRIS, SOLOBAY, BEBKO-JONES, SATHER, HUTCHINSON, BASTIAN, CIVERA, HANNA, B. SMITH, PAYNE, HERSHEY, R. MILLER, BELFANTI, DAILEY, READSHAW, E. Z. TAYLOR, ZUG, HASAY, COSTA, BELARDI, ALLEN, LEH, METCALFE, CAWLEY, BOYD, BUNT, DALEY, STABACK, CORRIGAN, REICHLEY, EGOLF, PETRARCA, DeLUCA, BENNINGHOFF, ARMSTRONG and ROHRER

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, repealing provisions relating to inheritance tax.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, March 19, 2003.

**No. 918** By Representatives O'BRIEN, COY, BISHOP, THOMAS, GEIST, LEWIS, FLICK, JOSEPHS, STERN, R. MILLER, BELFANTI, J. TAYLOR, KIRKLAND, E. Z. TAYLOR, WASHINGTON, WANSACZ, HARHAI, WEBER, LEACH, HORSEY, CRAHALLA, EGOLF and MELIO

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for driving under influence of alcohol or controlled substance.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 19, 2003.

**No. 919** By Representatives O'BRIEN, YOUNGBLOOD, BARRAR, SHANER, FICHTER, HERMAN, CAPPELLI, COY, GEIST, LAUGHLIN, THOMAS, WILT, FLICK, T. STEVENSON, SOLOBAY, BEBKO-JONES, SATHER, BASTIAN, CIVERA, HANNA, HERSHEY, BELFANTI, KIRKLAND, E. Z. TAYLOR, CRUZ, ZUG, WANSACZ, S. MILLER, BELARDI, ALLEN, CAWLEY, STABACK, CORRIGAN, PETRARCA, DeLUCA and ARMSTRONG

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, further providing for inheritance tax exclusions and for inheritance tax.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, March 19, 2003.

**No. 920** By Representatives BROWNE, BEBKO-JONES, BISHOP, BUNT, CAPPELLI, CASORIO, CAWLEY, CIVERA, CORRIGAN, CURRY, DALLY, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HORSEY, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, MANN, MELIO, READSHAW, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SAYLOR, THOMAS, TRUE, WALKO, WASHINGTON, WATSON, WHEATLEY and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act establishing the Judicial Education Program in Domestic Violence; and requiring judges to attend and successfully complete the program.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 19, 2003.

**No. 921** By Representatives BROWNE, BAKER, BARRAR, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BISHOP, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CRAHALLA, CURRY, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, EGOLF, FORCIER, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEIST, GRUCELA, GRUITZA, HARPER, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HESS, HORSEY, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KELLER, KOTIK, LaGROTTA, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LEH, LEWIS, MACKERETH, MANN, MCGILL, R. MILLER, S. MILLER, MUNDY, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PISTELLA, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROHRER, SAYLOR, SCHRODER, SCRIMENTI, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STERN, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRUE, VANCE, WALKO, WASHINGTON, YEWIC and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act providing for certain rights of foster parents; and further providing for duties of county agencies and foster family care agencies.

Referred to Committee on CHILDREN AND YOUTH, March 19, 2003.

**No. 922** By Representatives BROWNE, BALDWIN, BELFANTI, CAPPELLI, CREIGHTON, DALLY, FAIRCHILD, GEIST, HENNESSEY, HORSEY, JAMES, KELLER, LEVDANSKY, LEWIS, McGEEHAN, MELIO, S. MILLER, NAILOR, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROHRER, SAINATO, SAYLOR, SEMMEL, SHANER, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, TIGUE, WATSON, WILT, ZUG and FRANKEL

An Act providing for State employee incentives, awards, bonuses and funding.

Referred to Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, March 19, 2003.

**No. 923** By Representatives BROWNE, ALLEN, BISHOP, CAUSER, CAWLEY, COSTA, COY, DeWEESE, GODSHALL, GRUCELA, HARHART, HORSEY, KELLER, McGEEHAN, McILHATTAN, REICHLEY, ROSS, SATHER, STAIRS, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for the definition of "eligible student," for educational support services providers and for payments of grants.

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION, March 19, 2003.

**No. 924** By Representatives BROWNE, BENNINGHOFF, COSTA, COY, CURRY, FRANKEL, GEIST, HARRIS, HERMAN, HORSEY, KELLER, LaGROTTA, LEACH, LEWIS, MELIO, R. MILLER, O'NEILL, PISTELLA, RAYMOND, REICHLEY, SOLOBAY, TIGUE, WALKO, WATSON and WEBER

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for willful failure to pay support order.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 19, 2003.

**No. 925** By Representatives BROWNE, CAWLEY, FAIRCHILD, JAMES, KELLER, LEWIS, MACKERETH, PAYNE, SATHER, STERN, TANGRETTI, TIGUE, WALKO and WATSON

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for sentencing proceeding.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 19, 2003.

**No. 926** By Representatives BROWNE, BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI, BISHOP, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CORRIGAN, CREIGHTON, FREEMAN, GEIST, HORSEY, JAMES, KELLER, LEDERER, LEWIS, McGEEHAN, R. MILLER, PETRARCA, REICHLEY, SAYLOR, SCRIMENTI, SHANER, SOLOBAY, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, WALKO, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WATSON and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for death action.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 19, 2003.

**No. 927** By Representatives BROWNE, BELARDI, BELFANTI, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CLYMER, CORRIGAN, CREIGHTON, GEIST, HERSHEY, HORSEY, JAMES, LaGROTTA, LEWIS, R. MILLER, MUNDY, REICHLEY,

RUBLEY, SAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, WALKO, WASHINGTON, YEWIC and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act regulating the amount of property insurance coverage required by certain lenders.

Referred to Committee on COMMERCE, March 19, 2003.

**No. 928** By Representatives BROWNE, BELFANTI, BARD, BARRAR, BELARDI, BISHOP, BUNT, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CIVERA, CORRIGAN, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, DAILEY, DeWEESE, FLICK, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GORDNER, HASAY, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HORSEY, JAMES, JOSEPHS, LaGROTTA, LAUGHLIN, LEH, MAITLAND, MANDERINO, MANN, McGEEHAN, McILHATTAN, MUNDY, PETRARCA, REICHLEY, ROEBUCK, ROHRER, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SEMMEL, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, SURRA, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, WALKO, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WHEATLEY, WILT and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending the act of July 22, 1974 (P.L.589, No.205), known as the Unfair Insurance Practices Act, further providing for unfair acts.

Referred to Committee on INSURANCE, March 19, 2003.

**No. 929** By Representatives BROWNE, BUNT, CAWLEY, CIVERA, CLYMER, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, CURRY, DeLUCA, FREEMAN, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HORSEY, McCALL, REICHLEY, SEMMEL, SOLOBAY, STEIL, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WASHINGTON, WILT and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending Titles 23 (Domestic Relations) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for procedures in domestic relations litigation; conferring powers and duties on the unified judicial system, the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Legislative Reference Bureau; establishing the Family Justice Account; and making editorial changes.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 19, 2003.

**No. 930** By Representatives BROWNE, BELFANTI, BISHOP, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, COSTA, CRUZ, DALEY, FREEMAN, HARPER, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HORSEY, JAMES, LAUGHLIN, MANDERINO, REICHLEY, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SAYLOR, SCRIMENTI, SEMMEL, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WASHINGTON, WATSON and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act establishing a pilot program to enrich classroom instruction in primary grades by increasing the teacher instructional time per pupil through the placement of a teaching aide in participating classrooms.

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION, March 19, 2003.

**No. 931** By Representatives BROWNE, BAKER, BALDWIN, BARRAR, BASTIAN, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BISHOP, BUXTON, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CIVERA, CLYMER, CORRIGAN, COSTA, COY, CRUZ, CURRY, DALEY, DALLY, DeWEESE, FAIRCHILD, GEORGE, GODSHALL,

GORDNER, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARHART, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HORSEY, HUTCHINSON, KELLER, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LEH, MACKERETH, MAITLAND, MANDERINO, MANN, McCALL, MELIO, R. MILLER, MUNDY, NICKOL, PISTELLA, REICHLEY, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SATHER, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SCRIMENTI, SEMMEL, SHANER, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STABACK, STERN, SURRA, THOMAS, TIGUE, TURZAI, WALKO, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WATSON, WOJNAROSKI, WRIGHT, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for approved reimbursable rental for leases hereafter approved and approved reimbursable sinking fund charges on indebtedness.

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION, March 19, 2003.

**No. 932** By Representatives BROWNE, BAKER, BARRAR, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, COSTA, CURRY, DALEY, DALLY, HARHAI, HARPER, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HORSEY, MANN, PHILLIPS, REICHLEY, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SAINATO, STURLA, THOMAS, WASHINGTON, WILT and YUDICHAK

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for a quality instruction program; and making an appropriation.

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION, March 19, 2003.

**No. 933** By Representatives BROWNE, BAKER, BALDWIN, BASTIAN, BENNINGHOFF, BOYES, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, CAWLEY, COSTA, CRAHALLA, CRUZ, DALEY, DALLY, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, FLEAGLE, FORCIER, GEORGE, GODSHALL, GRUCELA, HERSHEY, HORSEY, HUTCHINSON, LEDERER, LEH, MANN, McCALL, McILHATTAN, McNAUGHTON, MELIO, METCALFE, REICHLEY, ROHRER, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SATHER, SAYLOR, SCHRODER, SCRIMENTI, SEMMEL, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STABACK, STERN, SURRA, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TURZAI, WASHINGTON, WILT, WOJNAROSKI, WRIGHT, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, providing for a sales and use tax discount for motor vehicle registered dealers.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, March 19, 2003.

**No. 934** By Representatives BROWNE, ALLEN, BALDWIN, BARD, BARRAR, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BUNT, BUXTON, CAUSER, CAWLEY, CIVERA, CORRIGAN, COSTA, COY, CRAHALLA, CRUZ, CURRY, DALEY, DALLY, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, DIVEN, EACHUS, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GERGELY, GOODMAN, GORDNER, GRUCELA, GRUITZA, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HORSEY, JAMES, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, MACKERETH, MANDERINO, MANN, McCALL, McNAUGHTON, MELIO, MUNDY, NAILOR, PETRARCA, REICHLEY, ROEBUCK, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SAMUELSON, SANTONI, SATHER, SAYLOR,

SCRIMENTI, SEMMEL, SHANER, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STURLA, SURRA, THOMAS, WALKO, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WATSON, WOJNAROSKI and YUDICHAK

An Act providing for the Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program; imposing additional powers and duties on the Department of Public Welfare and Head Start providers; and making an appropriation.

Referred to Committee on CHILDREN AND YOUTH, March 19, 2003.

**No. 935** By Representatives BROWNE, BALDWIN, BENNINGHOFF, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CIVERA, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, CURRY, DeLUCA, FLICK, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GORDNER, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HERSHEY, JAMES, KELLER, LAUGHLIN, LEDERER, MANN, MUNDY, PETRARCA, REICHLEY, ROSS, RUBLEY, SCRIMENTI, SEMMEL, SOLOBAY, STURLA, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, WALKO, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WATSON and YUDICHAK

An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, further providing for managed care plans, for continuity of care, for utilization review, for internal grievance process and for external grievance process.

Referred to Committee on INSURANCE, March 19, 2003.

**No. 936** By Representatives BROWNE, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BUNT, BUXTON, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CORRIGAN, COSTA, COY, CRAHALLA, CRUZ, CURRY, DIVEN, EACHUS, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GERGELY, GOODMAN, GORDNER, GRUCELA, GRUITZA, HARHAI, HARHART, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HORSEY, JAMES, KELLER, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LEDERER, MACKERETH, MANDERINO, MANN, McCALL, MUNDY, NAILOR, PETRARCA, REICHLEY, ROEBUCK, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SAMUELSON, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCRIMENTI, SEMMEL, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STAIRS, T. STEVENSON, SURRA, THOMAS, TIGUE, WALKO, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

An Act establishing the Early Childhood and School Readiness Initiative Program; authorizing the Department of Community and Economic Development to issue grants for preschool education; establishing the Early Childhood Initiative Advisory Committee; and making an appropriation.

Referred to Committee on CHILDREN AND YOUTH, March 19, 2003.

**No. 937** By Representatives BROWNE, BALDWIN, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CREIGHTON, DALLY, GEIST, HENNESSEY, HORSEY, MANN, S. MILLER, REICHLEY, SAINATO, SCHRODER, THOMAS, TIGUE, WILT and YUDICHAK

An Act amending the act of July 11, 1990 (P.L.465, No.113), known as the Tax Increment Financing Act, further providing for the definition of "tax increment" and "tax increment base."

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, March 19, 2003.

**No. 938** By Representatives BROWNE, BELARDI, BISHOP, BUNT, BUXTON, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, COSTA, CRAHALLA, CRUZ, CURRY, DIVEN, EACHUS, FREEMAN, GEIST, GODSHALL, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARHART, HENNESSEY, HORSEY, JAMES, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, MANDERINO, MANN, REICHLEY, ROEBUCK, SAINATO, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SOLOBAY, STAIRS, STURLA, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WALKO, WASHINGTON and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act providing targeted assistance to urban school districts to improve early learning and development so children are better prepared to succeed in school.

Referred to Committee on CHILDREN AND YOUTH, March 19, 2003.

**No. 939** By Representatives BROWNE, BAKER, BARRAR, BENNINGHOFF, BISHOP, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, COSTA, COY, FICHTER, FORCIER, FREEMAN, GABIG, GEIST, GEORGE, GOODMAN, HARHAI, HARHART, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HORSEY, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LEVDANSKY, MARKOSEK, McCALL, McILHATTAN, MELIO, R. MILLER, S. MILLER, MUNDY, NAILOR, PETRARCA, REICHLEY, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SAYLOR, SCHRODER, SHANER, T. STEVENSON, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WALKO, WASHINGTON, WILT and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, further providing for exclusions from the sales and use tax.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, March 19, 2003.

**No. 940** By Representatives BROWNE, ADOLPH, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BUNT, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CLYMER, CRUZ, CURRY, DeWEESE, EACHUS, GRUCELA, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HORSEY, JAMES, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LEH, LEVDANSKY, LYNCH, MANDERINO, MARKOSEK, McCALL, MELIO, R. MILLER, NAILOR, PETRARCA, PICKETT, REICHLEY, ROSS, SAINATO, SATHER, SCHRODER, SCRIMENTI, SOLOBAY, STABACK, STERN, TANGRETTI, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WILT, WOJNAROSKI and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending the act of March 28, 1984 (P.L.150, No.28), known as the Automobile Lemon Law, further providing for manufacturer's duty for refund or replacement.

Referred to Committee on CONSUMER AFFAIRS, March 19, 2003.

**No. 941** By Representatives PISTELLA, BEBKO-JONES, BROWNE, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CORRIGAN, COSTA, CRUZ, CURRY, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, FABRIZIO, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HORSEY, JAMES, KELLER, KIRKLAND, KOTIK, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LEDERER, McGEEHAN, MELIO, MYERS, PALLONE, PRESTON, READSHAW, ROONEY, SHANER,

SOLOBAY, SURRA, THOMAS, WALKO, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, J. WILLIAMS, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

An Act establishing the Enhanced Senior Services Demonstration Program; and conferring powers and imposing duties on the Department of Aging, the Department of Public Welfare and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.

Referred to Committee on AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES, March 20, 2003.

**No. 942** By Representatives PISTELLA, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BROWNE, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, COSTA, CRUZ, DALEY, DeLUCA, DERMODY, DeWEESE, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GERGELY, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HORSEY, JAMES, KIRKLAND, KOTIK, LAUGHLIN, LEDERER, MELIO, MYERS, PALLONE, PETRONE, PRESTON, READSHAW, ROONEY, RUBLEY, SAMUELSON, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STABACK, THOMAS, WALKO, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, J. WILLIAMS, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

An Act establishing the Direct Care Advanced Training Program; providing for tuition reimbursement and financial payments for direct care employees upon program completion; and conferring powers and duties on the Department of Education.

Referred to Committee on AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES, March 20, 2003.

**No. 943** By Representatives GODSHALL, BELFANTI, CAPPELLI, CRAHALLA, DeLUCA, FICHTER, HERSHEY, LaGROTTA, NAILOR, SHANER, TIGUE and WASHINGTON

An Act regulating the licensure of electrical contractors; establishing the State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors and providing for its powers and duties; providing penalties; and making an appropriation.

Referred to Committee on PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, March 20, 2003.

**No. 944** By Representatives GODSHALL, DeLUCA, GRUCELA, LaGROTTA, NAILOR, SHANER, TIGUE and WILT

An Act amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, changing the date of certain general primaries.

Referred to Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, March 20, 2003.

**No. 945** By Representatives FRANKEL, MANN, BEBKO-JONES, CURRY, DALEY, D. EVANS, JAMES, LEACH, MUNDY, MYERS, PALLONE, STURLA and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act authorizing human embryonic stem cell research.

Referred to Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, March 20, 2003.

**No. 946** By Representatives B. SMITH, SURRA, FEESE, STABACK, DeWEESE, R. MILLER, COY, MAJOR, GEORGE, S. MILLER, HALUSKA, NAILOR, SHANER, BUNT, LEVDANSKY, WILT, SATHER, THOMAS, McILHATTAN, MAITLAND, SOLOBAY, GABIG, BELARDI, LAUGHLIN, CAPPELLI, WASHINGTON, BROWNE, HERSHEY, PALLONE, HESS, REICHLEY, YOUNGBLOOD, LEWIS, BASTIAN, FABRIZIO, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, WALKO, GRUCELA, WANSACZ, BELFANTI, HARHAI, HORSEY, BENNINGHOFF, FRANKEL, GERGELY and PETRARCA

An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further defining "enforcement officer" to include certain Pennsylvania Game Commission employees.

Referred to Committee on GAME AND FISHERIES, March 20, 2003.

**No. 947** By Representatives GANNON, BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI, BUNT, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CIVERA, COSTA, COY, DALEY, DeWEESE, J. EVANS, FRANKEL, GOODMAN, HARHAI, HARRIS, HASAY, HESS, HORSEY, KENNEY, LEACH, LEDERER, LEWIS, MARSICO, McGEEHAN, MELIO, S. MILLER, NAILOR, SAINATO, SCAVELLO, B. SMITH, SURRA, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, WALKO, WATSON and WEBER

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for terroristic threats and for penalties.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 21, 2003.

**No. 948** By Representatives ARMSTRONG, BROWNE, COLEMAN, CREIGHTON, FRANKEL, GEIST, JAMES, LAUGHLIN, R. MILLER, REICHLEY, ROHRER, SATHER, SAYLOR, SHANER, SOLOBAY, THOMAS and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act regulating the amount of property insurance coverage required by certain lenders.

Referred to Committee on COMMERCE, March 21, 2003.

**No. 949** By Representatives ARMSTRONG, CAPPELLI, COLEMAN, FLEAGLE, FORCIER, LAUGHLIN, R. MILLER, S. MILLER, REICHLEY, RUBLEY, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, S. H. SMITH, STERN, R. STEVENSON, T. STEVENSON and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for restraint systems.

Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION, March 21, 2003.

**No. 950** By Representatives GODSHALL, E. Z. TAYLOR, ALLEN, ARMSTRONG, HARHAI, MACKERETH, REICHLEY, ROHRER, SCAVELLO, SHANER, SURRA and THOMAS

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for restraint systems.

Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION, March 20, 2003.

**No. 951** By Representatives TANGRETTI, FRANKEL, ARGALL, BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI, BROWNE, BUXTON, CORRIGAN, COSTA, COY, CREIGHTON, DAILEY, DeWEESE, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARPER, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HORSEY, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KELLER, KOTIK, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LEDERER, MANDERINO, MANN, McCALL, MELIO, S. MILLER, MUNDY, PALLONE, PETRARCA, PISTELLA, PRESTON, READSHAW, ROEBUCK, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SCHRODER, SHANER, STABACK, STETLER, R. STEVENSON, STURLA, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRAVAGLIO, VANCE, WALKO, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, further providing for sales and use tax definitions, for sales and use tax exclusions, for personal income tax definitions and for classes of personal income; providing for a credit against personal income tax; further providing for realty transfer tax definitions, for realty transfer tax exclusions and for penalties for failing to fulfill a historic covenant; and conferring powers and duties on the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, March 21, 2003.

**No. 952** By Representatives FRANKEL, TANGRETTI, BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI, BROWNE, BUXTON, CORRIGAN, COSTA, COY, CREIGHTON, DAILEY, DeWEESE, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARPER, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HORSEY, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KELLER, KOTIK, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LEDERER, MANDERINO, MANN, McCALL, MELIO, S. MILLER, MUNDY, PALLONE, PETRARCA, PISTELLA, PRESTON, READSHAW, ROEBUCK, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SCHRODER, SHANER, STABACK, STETLER, R. STEVENSON, STURLA, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRAVAGLIO, VANCE, WALKO, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

An Act providing for tax credits for historic commercial sites; and conferring powers and duties on the Department of Community and Economic Development, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Department of Revenue.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, March 21, 2003.

**No. 953** By Representatives VEON, YEWIC, WOJNAROSKI, HARHAI, BUXTON, DALEY, DERMODY, GEIST, SOLOBAY, MELIO, TANGRETTI, HALUSKA, PETRARCA, WALKO, READSHAW, CAPPELLI, COSTA,

THOMAS, CAWLEY, YUDICHAK, CORRIGAN, HORSEY, CURRY, GEORGE, LaGROTTA, PISTELLA, DeLUCA, GOODMAN, EACHUS, LAUGHLIN, SAINATO, BELARDI, ROONEY, MARKOSEK, FRANKEL, YOUNGBLOOD, GRUITZA, GERGELY, PRESTON, BEBKO-JONES, FABRIZIO, JAMES, McGEEHAN, CLYMER, LEACH and PALLONE

An Act amending the act of June 26, 2001 (P.L.755, No.77), known as the Tobacco Settlement Act, providing for health care assistance for certain retirees; establishing the Securing Health Care Assistance For Retired Employees Board and the Securing Health Care Assistance Retired Employees Trust Fund; providing for issuance of bonds; and making an appropriation.

Referred to Committee on LABOR RELATIONS, March 21, 2003.

**No. 954** By Representatives ROBERTS, HORSEY, KIRKLAND, McCALL, MELIO, PALLONE, PISTELLA, SAINATO, SHANER, R. STEVENSON, THOMAS, WASHINGTON and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending the act of July 10, 1990 (P.L.404, No.98), known as the Real Estate Appraisers Certification Act, further providing for the State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers; and making editorial changes.

Referred to Committee on PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, March 21, 2003.

**No. 955** By Representatives ROBERTS, DALEY, HORSEY, KIRKLAND, McCALL, MELIO, PALLONE, PISTELLA, SAINATO, SHANER, THOMAS, TIGUE, WASHINGTON and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act authorizing payment for school property tax increases to certain claimants who occupied homesteads; and providing for the powers and duties of the Department of Revenue.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, March 21, 2003.

**No. 956** By Representatives ROBERTS, DeWEESE, HORSEY, KIRKLAND, LEVDANSKY, McCALL, PISTELLA, SAINATO, SHANER, STEIL, THOMAS, TIGUE, WASHINGTON and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending the act of May 25, 1945 (P.L.1050, No.394), known as the Local Tax Collection Law, further providing for installment payment of taxes.

Referred to Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT, March 21, 2003.

**No. 957** By Representatives ARMSTRONG, SOLOBAY, DeWEESE, ROHRER, BALDWIN, BARRAR, BROWNE, COLEMAN, CURRY, FLEAGLE, FORCIER, FRANKEL, GILLESPIE, GOODMAN, GORDNER, HARHAI, HARRIS, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HUTCHINSON, LAUGHLIN, LEWIS, McCALL, McILHATTAN, MUNDY, O'NEILL, PICKETT, REED, REICHLEY, SATHER, SAYLOR, SCHRODER, B. SMITH, THOMAS, TIGUE, TURZAI, WALKO, WEBER, WILT and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, further providing for prompt payment to health care providers of clean claims.

Referred to Committee on INSURANCE, March 21, 2003.

**No. 958** By Representatives ARMSTRONG, BAKER, BELFANTI, BUXTON, CAPPELLI, CLYMER, COLEMAN, CURRY, DALLY, FABRIZIO, FORCIER, GRUCELA, HARHAI, LaGROTTA, LAUGHLIN, MACKERETH, MANN, McILHATTAN, R. MILLER, MUNDY, NAILOR, O'NEILL, PISTELLA, ROEBUCK, SAINATO, SATHER, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SHANER, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STERN, SURRA and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, repealing provisions relating to professional teacher assessment.

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION, March 21, 2003.

**No. 959** By Representatives PALLONE, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, COY, FABRIZIO, GERGELY, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HORSEY, LAUGHLIN, MANN, MARKOSEK, McILHATTAN, ROONEY, RUFFING, SAINATO, SCRIMENTI, SHANER, THOMAS and WALKO

An Act amending the act of July 10, 1981 (P.L.214, No.67), known as the Bingo Law, further providing for rules for licensing and operation and for revocation of licenses and abrogating regulations.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, March 25, 2003.

**No. 960** By Representatives PALLONE, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, COY, DERMODY, FABRIZIO, GERGELY, HARHAI, LAUGHLIN, MARKOSEK, McILHATTAN, PETRARCA, ROONEY, RUFFING, SAINATO, SHANER, THOMAS and WALKO

An Act amending the act of December 19, 1988 (P.L.1262, No.156), known as the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, further providing for sales limited and for revocation of licenses.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, March 25, 2003.

**No. 961** By Representatives PALLONE, BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI, BARRAR, BENNINGHOFF, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, CAWLEY, CREIGHTON, DAILEY, DALEY, DALLY, DERMODY, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GODSHALL, GRUCELA, HALUSKA, HARHAI, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, LaGROTTA, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, MANDERINO, MARKOSEK, METCALFE, PETRARCA, READSHAW, ROBERTS, SAINATO, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SHANER, SOLOBAY, R. STEVENSON, SURRA, TANGRETTI, TRAVAGLIO, WALKO, WANSACZ and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act amending the act of December 23, 2002 (P.L.1982, No.229), entitled, "An act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for definitions, for grounds for refusing registration and for renewal of registration; providing for motor carrier vehicles; further providing for operation following suspension of registration and for suspension of registration; providing for suspension of motor carrier vehicle registration; further

providing for suspension of operating privilege, for schedule of convictions and points, for occupational limited license, for duty of driver in construction and maintenance areas, for special speed limitations, for availability of benefits, for trucks and truck tractors and for speed timing devices; providing for accidents involving certain vehicles; further providing for unlawful activities; providing for lighted head lamps in work zones; further providing for restraint systems, for operation of vehicle without official certificate of inspection and for inspection by police or Commonwealth personnel; providing for designation of highway safety corridors; further providing for erection of traffic-control devices while working; requiring certain traffic-control devices in highway work zones; and requiring a study by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee," directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study relating to motor vehicle restraint systems for certain children; providing for applicability; and making a repeal.

Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION, March 25, 2003.

**No. 962** By Representatives ROBERTS, HORSEY, LEVDANSKY, McCALL, MELIO, MUNDY, STETLER, THOMAS, TIGUE and WASHINGTON

An Act requiring counties to establish assessment guidelines and grading processes; and providing for penalties.

Referred to Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT, March 25, 2003.

**No. 963** By Representatives ROBERTS, HORSEY, McCALL, MELIO, THOMAS, TIGUE and WASHINGTON

An Act amending the act of May 22, 1933 (P.L.853, No.155), known as The General County Assessment Law, further providing for appeal to court from assessments.

Referred to Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT, March 25, 2003.

**No. 964** By Representatives ROBERTS, McCALL, HORSEY, MELIO, THOMAS and WASHINGTON

An Act amending the act of May 21, 1943 (P.L.571, No.254), known as The Fourth to Eighth Class County Assessment Law, providing for a property tax increase phase-in period for certain property owners.

Referred to Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT, March 25, 2003.

**No. 965** By Representatives ROBERTS, HORSEY, LEVDANSKY, McCALL, MELIO, THOMAS and WASHINGTON

An Act amending the act of May 21, 1943 (P.L.571, No.254), known as The Fourth to Eighth Class County Assessment Law, providing for special hardship provisions relating to countywide reassessment.

Referred to Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT, March 25, 2003.

**No. 966** By Representatives ROBERTS, HORSEY, McCALL, MELIO, THOMAS and WASHINGTON

An Act prohibiting school districts from imposing and collecting real property tax; establishing a special sales and use tax for school district funding and the Special Sales and Use Tax for Education Fund; and imposing duties on the Department of Education and the Department of Revenue.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, March 25, 2003.

**No. 967** By Representatives ROBERTS, HORSEY, McCALL, MELIO, THOMAS and WASHINGTON

An Act amending the act of May 22, 1933 (P.L.853, No.155), known as The General County Assessment Law, providing for cause of action for assessment violations.

Referred to Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT, March 25, 2003.

**No. 968** By Representatives ROBERTS, HORSEY, MELIO, THOMAS and WASHINGTON

An Act amending the act of May 21, 1943 (P.L.571, No.254), known as The Fourth to Eighth Class County Assessment Law, imposing penalty on chief assessor and assistant assessor for failure to perform duty; and providing for a cause of action for assessment violations.

Referred to Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT, March 25, 2003.

**No. 969** By Representatives VITALI, CURRY, FABRIZIO, FREEMAN, GABIG, JAMES, LEACH, LEVDANSKY, PALLONE, RUBLEY and TIGUE

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing for the power of the General Assembly to regulate lobbying and lobbyists.

Referred to Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, March 25, 2003.

**No. 970** By Representatives REED, ARGALL, CAPPELLI, COLEMAN, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, DAILEY, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HORSEY, HUTCHINSON, MANN, McCALL, RUBLEY, SAYLOR, STERN, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WALKO, WASHINGTON, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

An Act amending the act of June 22, 2000 (P.L.318, No.32), known as the Downtown Location Law, further providing for definitions.

Referred to Committee on URBAN AFFAIRS, March 25, 2003.

**No. 971** By Representatives HARRIS, BASTIAN, BENNINGHOFF, CAPPELLI, CREIGHTON, DeWEESE, EGOLF, GEIST, GORDNER, HERSHEY, KELLER, LEWIS, McILHATTAN, O'NEILL, PALLONE, REED, SATHER, SEMMEL, STERN, THOMAS, TIGUE, WASHINGTON and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act providing for grain dealer bonding; imposing penalties; and providing remedies.

Referred to Committee on AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, March 25, 2003.

**No. 972** By Representatives BIRMELIN, BAKER, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BUXTON, CLYMER, COSTA, CRAHALLA, FICHTER, GEIST, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HORSEY, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, LEACH, LEH, LEWIS, MELIO, S. MILLER, PICKETT, READSHAW, REICHLEY, SATHER, SCAVELLO, SOLOBAY, STABACK, STERN, TANGRETTI, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WASHINGTON, WATSON, WILT and YOUNGBLOOD

An Act establishing the Privately Employed Agents Training and Certification Program; regulating privately employed agents; and providing for powers and duties of the Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 25, 2003.

**No. 973** By Representatives GANNON, BAKER, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BROWNE, CAPPELLI, CORRIGAN, DALEY, DeLUCA, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HERSHEY, HORSEY, JAMES, KELLER, KIRKLAND, LEACH, McGEEHAN, MELIO, MUNDY, NAILOR, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PETRARCA, REICHLEY, SHANER, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STABACK, E. Z. TAYLOR, TIGUE, WALKO, WASHINGTON, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, prohibiting pharmaceutical price gouging and profiteering; and imposing a penalty.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 25, 2003.

**No. 974** By Representatives YOUNGBLOOD, TIGUE, LAUGHLIN, HORSEY, CURRY, HARHAI, JAMES, KELLER, PISTELLA, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WASHINGTON, WATSON, PALLONE and FRANKEL

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for civil claim for damages intercept.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 25, 2003.

**No. 975** By Representatives COSTA, GRUCELA, MANN, PALLONE, SOLOBAY, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BROWNE, CAWLEY, CURRY, DALEY, DERMODY, GOODMAN, HORSEY, KELLER, LEACH, PETRARCA, PRESTON, SURRA, WALKO, YOUNGBLOOD, EACHUS, DeLUCA, FABRIZIO, HARHAI, JAMES, KOTIK, MELIO, PISTELLA, STABACK, THOMAS, WANSACZ and YUDICHAK

An Act requiring long-term care nursing homes to maintain certain staffing levels in order to protect the health and safety of residents and employees; providing for enforcement by the Department of Health; and imposing civil penalties.

Referred to Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, March 25, 2003.



### HOUSE RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

**No. 146** By Representatives METCALFE, GEIST, CREIGHTON, CAPPELLI, WILT, LEWIS, CRUZ, COLEMAN, LEH, ROHRER, TURZAI, ROBERTS, JAMES, CORNELL, S. MILLER and CRAHALLA

A Resolution to abolish the alternative minimum tax.

Referred to Committee on INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, March 13, 2003.

**No. 147** By Representatives SCRIMENTI, GEORGE, DONATUCCI, ROONEY, CAWLEY, MARKOSEK, BISHOP, SURRA, T. STEVENSON, D. EVANS, BELARDI, GODSHALL, WASHINGTON, CRUZ, CAPPELLI, LAUGHLIN, GRUCELA, LEH, BARRAR, HERMAN, DeWEESE, HENNESSEY, WOJNAROSKI, McGEEHAN, JAMES, YUDICHAK, HESS, GOODMAN, SHANER, BELFANTI, READSHAW, CORRIGAN, TIGUE, BROWNE, BEBKO-JONES, DALEY, LEACH, BAKER, BUNT, FRANKEL, GEIST, HERSHEY, HARHAI, STABACK, HUTCHINSON, J. WILLIAMS, PICKETT, JOSEPHS, MELIO, YOUNGBLOOD, McCALL, STURLA, STERN, HORSEY, HARPER, PALLONE, FREEMAN, J. TAYLOR, COSTA, MAHER and DeLUCA

A Resolution providing for the appointment of a select committee to study autism in this Commonwealth, focusing primarily on the availability, or lack thereof, of services to autistic children.

Referred to Committee on RULES, March 13, 2003.

**No. 148** By Representatives SAYLOR, BARRAR, T. STEVENSON, BROWNE, CRAHALLA, CRUZ, CURRY, FAIRCHILD, GEIST, HARPER, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HORSEY, JAMES, LAUGHLIN, LESCOVITZ, MACKERETH, R. MILLER, PETRONE, READSHAW, REICHLEY, RUBLEY, SOLOBAY, STABACK, R. STEVENSON, TIGUE, WASHINGTON, YOUNGBLOOD and YUDICHAK

A Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study on the feasibility of regionalization for volunteer fire departments and to submit a report.

Referred to Committee on RULES, March 18, 2003.

**No. 150** By Representatives SOLOBAY, WASHINGTON, GEORGE, DeWEESE, COSTA, DALEY, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BUXTON, CAWLEY, COY, BEBKO-JONES, BISHOP, BARRAR, CAPPELLI, GRUCELA, JAMES, KELLER, KOTIK, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LEDERER, LESCOVITZ, LEVDANSKY, MANN, McCALL, McGEEHAN, MELIO, MUNDY, READSHAW, ROEBUCK, SAINATO, SCRIMENTI, STABACK, SURRA, TANGRETTI, TIGUE, TRAVAGLIO, WALKO, WANSACZ, WHEATLEY, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, HENNESSEY, CURRY and FRANKEL

A Resolution urging the Department of Public Welfare to reconsider its decision to earmark contingency funds for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for households that heat with deliverable fuels.

Referred to Committee on RULES, March 19, 2003.

**No. 151** By Representatives O'BRIEN, LEDERER, T. STEVENSON, BEBKO-JONES, THOMAS, GRUCELA, PISTELLA, TIGUE, BARRAR, COY, HERMAN, CAPPELLI, LAUGHLIN, PIPPY, WOJNAROSKI, SATHER, JOSEPHS, CIVERA, PAYNE, CURRY, HERSHEY, READSHAW, SCHRODER, KIRKLAND, E. Z. TAYLOR, CRUZ, ZUG, WASHINGTON, ROSS, HARHART, LEACH, HORSEY, PALLONE, CORRIGAN, SHANER, SEMMEL and LESCOVITZ

A Concurrent Resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct an additional study on the importance of biomedical research in Pennsylvania and report its findings to the General Assembly.

Referred to Committee on RULES, March 19, 2003.

**No. 152** By Representatives VITALI, CAWLEY, CURRY, DeWEESE, FABRIZIO, FREEMAN, GABIG, JAMES, JOSEPHS, LEACH, LEVDANSKY, PALLONE, RUBLEY and TIGUE

A Resolution adopting the Rules of the House of Representatives relating to the practice of lobbying.

Referred to Committee on RULES, March 25, 2003.

**No. 155** By Representatives GEORGE, BELARDI, BISHOP, CORRIGAN, CRUZ, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, FABRIZIO, FREEMAN, GERGELY, GOODMAN, HARHAI, HERSHEY, HORSEY, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LESCOVITZ, MELIO, MUNDY, PALLONE, PETRARCA, PISTELLA, READSHAW, ROONEY, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STABACK, SURRA, THOMAS, WALKO and YOUNGBLOOD

A Resolution memorializing the Governor to request the pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline to end all of their efforts to keep Pennsylvanians from being able to purchase mail-order prescription drugs from retailers in Canada.

Referred to Committee on RULES, March 25, 2003.

### SENATE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following bills for concurrence:

**SB 57, PN 57**

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 18, 2003.

**SB 97, PN 96**

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 13, 2003.

**SB 153, PN 158**

Referred to Committee on COMMERCE, March 13, 2003.

**SB 277, PN 284**

Referred to Committee on URBAN AFFAIRS, March 18, 2003.

**SENATE MESSAGE****ADJOURNMENT RESOLUTION  
FOR CONCURRENCE**

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following extract from the Journal of the Senate, which was read as follows:

In the Senate  
March 24, 2003

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate adjourns this week, it reconvene on Monday, April 21, 2003, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That when the Senate adjourns the week of April 21st, it reconvene on Monday, April 28, 2003, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That when the House of Representatives adjourns this week, it reconvene on Monday, April 7, 2003, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, That when the House of Representatives adjourns the week of April 7th, it reconvene on Monday, April 14, 2003, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, That when the House of Representatives adjourns the week of April 14th, it reconvene on Monday, April 28, 2003, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

On the question,  
Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate?  
Resolution was concurred in.  
Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM GOVERNOR****APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL  
WITH EXCEPTIONS**

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House communications in writing from the office of His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, advising that the following House bill had been approved and signed by the Governor, with exceptions:

**HB 648.**

Said bill having been returned with the following messages:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Office of the Governor  
Harrisburg

March 20, 2003

To the Honorable, The House of Representatives  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

I have transmitted under separate cover my approval of House Bill 648, Printer's Number 898, providing appropriations for the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2003-2004. Before signing this Bill, however, I took two actions that deserve a fuller explanation. First, I disapproved the entire basic education subsidy, in addition to disapproving certain other items in the Bill. Second, I signed the official revenue estimate for Fiscal Year 2003-04. That new, and lower, revenue estimate will now govern our work in completing the budget.

On March 4th, I asked the General Assembly not to enact my proposed budget until – and I quote – “we can complete it with a realistic plan to revitalize our economy, our public schools, and our state and local tax structure.” I made this request because while it contains substantially less severe cuts than have been enacted or proposed in most other states facing budget deficits, the budget I proposed will do “nothing to change the condition we find ourselves in at the present and it will doom us to repeat the past.” I asked the General Assembly to wait three weeks so that I could present my Plan for a New Pennsylvania, designed to change our future and provide the economic growth that could lessen much of the hardship this budget imposes on our Commonwealth.

Acting without a single public hearing, the General Assembly chose to ignore my request and enact the budget largely, but not entirely, as proposed. By bypassing the traditional hearing process and passing the budget almost four months before the end of the fiscal year – by far the earliest budget enactment in recent history – the General Assembly not only eliminated all public comment on my proposal but also forced my administration to issue today, more than three months earlier than we had anticipated, an official estimate of the amount of revenues that will be legally available to support Commonwealth spending after July 1, 2003.

Under Pennsylvania law, the Governor may not sign a general appropriations bill until an official revenue estimate has been certified. Once the revenue estimate is certified, the Governor may not sign any further legislation that would increase spending above the estimate unless the General Assembly also provides new revenues to cover those expenditures. The General Assembly's precipitous action on the budget means that my administration must certify General Fund revenues at a time of great economic uncertainty because of looming war in the Mideast and a heightened potential for terrorist attacks in our own country. Twelve years ago, a similar war, and even rumors of war, sent our economy into a tailspin as American resources were diverted overseas and the price of oil skyrocketed. Moreover, economic forecasts received since March 4th show a worrisome decline in consumer sales and rise in unemployment. This week, the Federal Reserve Bank, citing uncertainties caused by the war, declined to characterize the risks to the economy or to offer guidance on its future course.

Our uncertainty is compounded because we must now certify the official revenue estimate without the benefit of actual tax receipts for the end of March and the last three months of the fiscal year. The next several weeks are particularly crucial, because over 25 percent of the state's General Fund revenues are typically collected in this period. In briefing legislative leaders and members of the press on the morning of March 4th, the administration noted the uncertainty hanging over the economy and the revenue estimates. We noted that the administration would carefully monitor our tax collections and other economic data as the legislature was considering the budget over what we thought would be the next several months, in the event that revisions to our revenue estimate were necessary.

The enactment of House Bill 648 requires the Budget Secretary and the Revenue Secretary to certify the official revenue estimate today, 15 months before the end of the next fiscal year and in the face of unprecedented economic uncertainty. Acting out of prudence, they have today certified an official estimate that reduces revenues available to support state spending next year from existing General Fund revenue sources by 3.3 percent, or \$700 million, below the amount originally projected.

Additionally, while House Bill 648 appropriates most of the funds necessary for the operation of state government, it does not alone fully enact my proposed budget, even given our original revenue estimates. My March 4th budget proposal called for more than \$500 million in recurring and non-recurring General Fund revenue enhancements to balance the budget. Dozens of statutory changes are needed to implement these proposed enhancements. Examples include the transfer of funds from the Tobacco Settlement Fund to the General Fund, increases in a variety of fees and licenses, and the delay of scheduled reductions in the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax. None of the legislation to implement these proposed enhancements has been enacted. When this missing legislation is coupled with the lower revenue estimates I cited above, the budget the legislature has sent me is effectively out of balance by \$1.2 billion. Under the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am permitted to sign this budget under these circumstances only if I take corrective action and reduce spending by at least that amount.

House Bill 648 is not a complete spending plan for the state. On the expenditure side, the General Assembly must still enact separate bills appropriating over \$700 million for dozens of non-preferred institutions – universities, museums, and other important entities that depend heavily on state support. I have no doubt that the General Assembly will approve the non-preferred appropriations before the end of the fiscal year, but that action may not insulate them from harm. Under the Pennsylvania Constitution, the state Treasurer must reduce or even eliminate grants to these institutions if insufficient revenues are available. This process of abating non-preferred appropriations would occur without any action by the governor or General Assembly.

Therefore, on March 25th, when I present to the General Assembly my plan for reforming our schools, reducing property taxes, and revitalizing our economy, I also will recommend measures to protect these institutions and other state-funded programs from the potential adverse consequences of inadequate revenues.

In the meantime, I am signing this budget because it provides the funds needed to operate state government. I also believe that the expenditure reductions included in this budget, while painful, are fair and equitable, and absolutely essential to restoring our fiscal stability. Moreover, enactment of this budget will enable the General Assembly to focus, as its leaders have said they want to do, on my plan for a New Pennsylvania.

As a first step in realizing my plan, I have today disapproved the entire \$4 billion basic education subsidy proposed in this budget. This subsidy, which I inherited from last year's state budget, is both inadequate for the education of our children and unfair to thousands of Pennsylvania homeowners who struggle to pay unreasonably high property taxes. If this subsidy is allowed to stand, school districts all across the Commonwealth will be raising property taxes again this spring to pay for ordinary cost increases in school district operations and for the extraordinary cost of higher pension contributions for their teachers. These pension fund increases are caused by both the plunging stock market and the decision of the previous administration and General Assembly to change the law to impose higher pension contributions requirements – not just in Fiscal 2003-04, but also for years to come. We must, and we will, help school districts cope with these looming costs now while we search for longer term remedies to the pension funding dilemma. Last year's subsidy will not do that. My plan will.

On March 25th, I will present my plan to the General Assembly. I will ask that a new approach be substituted for the inadequate subsidy

that I have disapproved today. My plan will provide all 501 school districts with a substantial increase in resources to undertake proven educational programs and to reduce school property taxes by an average of 30 percent statewide. It will also provide resources to cut substantially the resident and nonresident wage tax paid by workers in Philadelphia. It will move state support for schools from 35 percent in the plan I have disapproved toward my goal of 50 percent of actual instructional costs. The plan will include tough measures to hold schools accountable for classroom results and provide citizens with stronger tools to hold down property taxes in the future.

This reduction in property taxes and increase in state spending for education, however, will require an increase in state taxes. But I believe that the people of Pennsylvania will, on balance, judge this plan to be a fairer and more effective way to invest in the future of our children.

My disapproval of the basic education subsidy in House Bill 648 thus frames for the General Assembly the choices we face in public education. It is, as I have said before, a choice between things as they are and things as they ought to be.

As a co-equal branch of government, the General Assembly may not accept my plan, although I again ask that the plan be afforded due consideration and ample opportunity for the public to be heard. I believe completely in the validity of this approach, and I will fight hard for my vision of how to fund and improve our schools. I remain open to the ideas of members of the General Assembly, many of whom have been working for school and tax reform for many years. I also want to make it clear that my actions will not deprive any school district of the funds needed to open its doors in September. I believe most of the parents, teachers, and school board directors in Pennsylvania will prefer my plan to the old way. If they do, I invite them to join me in asking the General Assembly to treat our taxpayers more fairly and to put our children on a path to a brighter future.

Sincerely,  
Edward G. Rendell  
Governor

\* \* \*

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Office of the Governor  
Harrisburg

March 20, 2003

To the Honorable, The House of Representatives  
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day approved and signed House Bill 648, Printer's No. 898, "AN ACT To provide from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth, the public debt and for the public schools for fiscal year July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2004, 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, 2003; to provide appropriations from the State Lottery Fund, the Energy Conservation and Assistance Fund, 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 Payment Fund, the Banking Department Fund, the Firearm Records Check Fund, the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority Fund and the Tobacco Settlement 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, 2003, to June 30, 2004; to provide appropriations from the Motor License Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2004, for the proper operation of the several departments of the Commonwealth and the

Pennsylvania State Police authorized to spend Motor License Fund moneys; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive Department of the Commonwealth and for the establishment of restricted receipt accounts for the fiscal year July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2004, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND, FOR THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2002, TO JUNE 30, 2003, AND FOR THE PAYMENT OF BILLS INCURRED AND REMAINING UNPAID AT THE CLOSE OF THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2002; AND MAKING A REPEAL," except as to the following:

PART II  
GENERAL FUND AND FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS  
FOR 2003-2004  
SUBPART A  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
\* \* \*

SECTION 202. EXECUTIVE OFFICES.—THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS ARE APPROPRIATED TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICES:

\* \* \*

(24) "VICTIM ASSISTANCE TRAINING ACADEMY."  
FEDERAL APPROPRIATION ..... 1,200,000  
\* \* \*

This item is approved in the sum of \$120,000.

SECTION 209. DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.—THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS ARE APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

\* \* \*

FOR THE OPPORTUNITY GRANT PROGRAM. FOR AMOUNTS EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED IN SECTION 209 OF THE ACT OF JUNE 29, 2002 (P.L.2106, NO.7A), KNOWN AS THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION ACT OF 2002, SUCH AMOUNT MAY NOT BE ENCUMBERED OR EXPENDED UNTIL THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROMULGATES REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR THE AMOUNTS IN EXCESS OF THE AFOREMENTIONED FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003 APPROPRIATION.  
STATE APPROPRIATION..... 50,000,000  
\* \* \*

This item includes language of a substantive nature and which is of the type which has been held unconstitutionally improper in an appropriation bill. I am expressly withholding my approval from the following language within this appropriation:

"FOR AMOUNTS EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED IN SECTION 209 OF THE ACT OF JUNE 29, 2002 (P.L.2106, NO.7A), KNOWN AS THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION ACT OF 2002, SUCH AMOUNT MAY NOT BE ENCUMBERED OR EXPENDED UNTIL THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROMULGATES REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR THE AMOUNTS IN EXCESS OF THE AFOREMENTIONED FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003 APPROPRIATION."

SECTION 212. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.—THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS ARE APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

\* \* \*

FOR PAYMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION FUNDING TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN AMOUNTS TO EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT EQUAL TO THE ALLOCATION RECEIVED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR BASIC EDUCATION FUNDING DURING FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003: PROVIDED, THAT THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR, MAY MAKE PAYMENTS FROM THIS APPROPRIATION IN ADVANCE OF THE DUE DATE PRESCRIBED BY LAW TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHICH ARE FINANCIALLY HANDICAPPED, WHENEVER THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION SHALL DEEM IT NECESSARY TO MAKE SUCH ADVANCE PAYMENTS TO ENABLE THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO KEEP THEIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPEN; AND PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT NO SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT HAS APPROVED AN INCREASE IN REAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE 2003-2004 SCHOOL YEAR SHALL RECEIVE PAYMENT UNDER THIS APPROPRIATION UNTIL IT HAS PROVIDED THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WITH INFORMATION CERTIFYING THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ESTIMATED ENDING UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE IS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 8% OF ITS TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURES FOR THAT SCHOOL YEAR.  
STATE APPROPRIATION..... 4,086,326,000  
\* \* \*

I withhold my approval from this entire item. I am making this reduction in order to assure that an appropriate level of funding is provided for education in the 2003-2004 fiscal year, accompanied by a reduction in local property tax.

FOR PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF THE FIRST CLASS SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS IDENTICAL TO THOSE SET FORTH IN SECTION 34 OF THE ACT OF JUNE 29, 2002 (P.L.524, NO.88).  
STATE APPROPRIATION..... 25,000,000  
\* \* \*

I withhold my approval from this entire item. I consider this appropriation to be part of the basic education funding total.

FOR PAYMENTS TO PENNSYLVANIA CHARTER SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND. THIS APPROPRIATION SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO RECIPIENTS IN AMOUNTS TO EACH RECIPIENT EQUAL TO THE ALLOCATION

RECEIVED BY THE RECIPIENT FOR PAYMENTS TO PENNSYLVANIA CHARTER SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND FUNDING DURING FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003.

STATE APPROPRIATION..... 25,749,000  
\* \* \*

This item includes language of a substantive nature and which conflicts with substantive law. Under law, these payments are subject to periodic revisions as a result of current enrollment and cost data. I am expressly withholding my approval from the following language within this appropriation:

“THIS APPROPRIATION SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO RECIPIENTS IN AMOUNTS TO EACH RECIPIENT EQUAL TO THE ALLOCATION RECEIVED BY THE RECIPIENT FOR PAYMENTS TO PENNSYLVANIA CHARTER SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND FUNDING DURING FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003.”

FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION – APPROVED PRIVATE SCHOOLS. THIS APPROPRIATION SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO RECIPIENTS IN AMOUNTS TO EACH RECIPIENT EQUAL TO THE ALLOCATION RECEIVED BY THE RECIPIENT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION – APPROVED PRIVATE SCHOOLS FUNDING DURING FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003.

STATE APPROPRIATION..... 63,450,000  
\* \* \*

This item includes language of a substantive nature and which conflicts with substantive law. Under law, these payments are subject to periodic revisions as a result of current enrollment and cost data. I am expressly withholding my approval from the following language within this appropriation:

“THIS APPROPRIATION SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO RECIPIENTS IN AMOUNTS TO EACH RECIPIENT EQUAL TO THE ALLOCATION RECEIVED BY THE RECIPIENT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION – APPROVED PRIVATE SCHOOLS FUNDING DURING FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003.”

FOR REIMBURSEMENTS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR THEIR CHARTER SCHOOL PAYMENTS. FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF THE FIRST CLASS THAT HAVE BEEN DECLARED DISTRESSED PURSUANT TO SECTION 691(C) OF THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949, FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THIS APPROPRIATION MUST FIRST BE EXPENDED BY THE SCHOOL REFORM COMMISSION FOR ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OPERATION OF SCHOOLS GOVERNED BY EXISTING TERMS OF AGREEMENTS CURRENTLY IN EFFECT PURSUANT TO SECTION 696(I)(2) OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949 AND FOR THE OPERATION OF SCHOOLS PREVIOUSLY DESIGNATED AS PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS UNDER THE SCHOOL REFORM COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NUMBER 10 OF APRIL 17, 2002, BEFORE THE FUNDS CAN BE EXPENDED ON ANY OTHER SCHOOL IDENTIFIED FOR TARGETED REFORM BY THE SCHOOL REFORM COMMISSION PURSUANT TO THE AFOREMENTIONED RESOLUTION. SUCH EXPENDITURES SHALL INCLUDE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TARGETED REFORM EFFORTS SUCH AS: ENHANCEMENTS IN CURRICULUM; ENHANCEMENTS OR IMPROVEMENTS IN INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE USED TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTION; ENHANCEMENTS IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS; IMPROVED OR NEWLY ESTABLISHED ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES; AND OTHER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH AGREEMENTS. THESE FUNDS SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE SCHOOL REFORM COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FUNDING METHODOLOGY APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, AND SHALL BE SUPPLEMENTAL AND IN ADDITION TO ANY AMOUNT OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL FUNDS ALLOCATED TO SUCH SCHOOLS BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT UNDER ITS STANDARD BUDGETING PROCESS. RECEIPT OF THESE FUNDS SHALL IN NO WAY BE DEEMED TO AUTHORIZE THE SCHOOLS TO BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN TERMS OF SERVICES OR OTHER FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. THE SECRETARY SHALL NOT PAY THESE FUNDS TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE FIRST CLASS UNTIL THE SECRETARY HAS DETERMINED THAT THESE CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN MET.

STATE APPROPRIATION..... 52,940,000  
\* \* \*

This item includes language of a substantive nature and which is of the type which has been held unconstitutionally improper in an appropriation bill. I am expressly withholding my approval from the following language within this appropriation:

“FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF THE FIRST CLASS THAT HAVE BEEN DECLARED PURSUANT TO SECTION 691(C) OF THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, NO.14), KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949, FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THIS APPROPRIATION MUST FIRST BE EXPENDED BY THE SCHOOL REFORM COMMISSION FOR ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OPERATION OF SCHOOLS GOVERNED BY EXISTING TERMS OF AGREEMENTS CURRENTLY IN EFFECT PURSUANT TO SECTION 696(I)(2) OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949 AND FOR THE OPERATION OF SCHOOLS PREVIOUSLY DESIGNATED AS PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS UNDER THE SCHOOL REFORM COMMISSION RESOLUTION NUMBER 10 OF

APRIL 17, 2002, BEFORE THE FUNDS CAN BE EXPENDED ON ANY OTHER SCHOOL IDENTIFIED FOR TARGETED REFORM BY THE SCHOOL REFORM COMMISSION PURSUANT TO THE AFOREMENTIONED RESOLUTION. SUCH EXPENDITURES SHALL INCLUDE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TARGETED REFORM SUCH AS: ENHANCEMENTS IN CURRICULUM; ENHANCEMENTS OR IMPROVEMENTS IN INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE USED TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTION; ENHANCEMENTS IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS; IMPROVED OR NEWLY ESTABLISHED ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES; AND OTHER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH AGREEMENTS. THESE FUNDS SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE SCHOOL REFORM COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FUNDING METHODOLOGY APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, AND SHALL BE SUPPLEMENTAL AND IN ADDITION TO ANY AMOUNT OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL FUNDS ALLOCATED TO SUCH SCHOOLS BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT UNDER ITS STANDARD BUDGETING PROCESS. RECEIPT OF THESE FUNDS SHALL IN NO WAY BE DEEMED TO AUTHORIZE THE SCHOOLS TO BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN TERMS OF SERVICES OR OTHER FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT. THE SECRETARY SHALL NOT PAY THESE FUNDS TO A SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE FIRST CLASS UNTIL THE SECRETARY HAS DETERMINED THAT THESE CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN MET.”

FOR PAYMENT OF APPROVED OPERATING AND CAPITAL EXPENSES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES. THIS APPROPRIATION SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO EACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE ALLOCATION RECEIVED BY THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR APPROVED OPERATING AND CAPITAL EXPENSES DURING FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003. AN INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT FOR THE PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR, WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES AS PRESCRIBED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY BUSINESS OFFICERS, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, OR BY THEIR SUCCESSORS, OR BY ANY OTHER RECOGNIZED AUTHORITATIVE BODY, AND THE FINANCIAL REPORTING POLICIES AND STANDARDS PROMULGATED BY THE COMMONWEALTH AND BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT APPLY TO

COMMUNITY COLLEGES, SHALL BE SUBMITTED BY EACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NOT LATER THAN 120 DAYS AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MAY WITHHOLD WHATEVER FUNDS APPROPRIATED HEREIN IT FEELS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT SUCH AUDIT REPORTS ARE SUBMITTED IN THE PRESCRIBED FASHION.

STATE APPROPRIATION..... 210,277,000

\*\*\*

This item includes language of a substantive nature and which conflicts with substantive law. Under law, these payments are subject to periodic revisions as a result of current enrollment and cost data. I am expressly withholding my approval from the following language within this appropriation:

“THIS APPROPRIATION SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO EACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE ALLOCATION RECEIVED BY THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR APPROVED OPERATING AND CAPITAL EXPENSES DURING FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003.”

SECTION 215. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.—THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS ARE APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

\*\*\*

FOR SERVICES TO CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. THIS APPROPRIATION INCLUDES FUNDING FOR SPINA BIFIDA SERVICES, \$944,000 FOR THE VENTILATOR-ASSISTED CHILDRENS HOME PROGRAM INCLUDING CASE MANAGEMENT AND RESPITE CARE SERVICES, AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES RELATED TO FOLIC ACID INGESTION.

STATE APPROPRIATION..... 1,645,000

\*\*\*

The dollar amount earmarked for ventilator-assisted childrens home program within this appropriation is approved in the sum of \$896,000. This total appropriation has been reduced by 5% from the 2002-2003 amount and therefore I have made the same reduction in the earmarked amount.

SECTION 225. PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS ARE APPROPRIATED TO THE PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY:

\*\*\*

THE FOLLOWING FEDERAL AMOUNTS ARE APPROPRIATED TO SUPPLEMENT THE SUM APPROPRIATED FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS:

\*\*\*

(4) “DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS – FIRST RESPONDERS.”

FEDERAL APPROPRIATION ..... 23,160,000

I withhold my approval from this entire item. This Federal appropriation should be an executive authorization rather than an appropriation.

(5) "HOMELAND SECURITY ACTIVITIES."  
FEDERAL APPROPRIATION ..... 11,760,000

I withhold my approval from this entire item. This Federal appropriation should be an executive authorization rather than an appropriation.

PART XVIII  
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR  
FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003  
\* \* \*

SUBPART B  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
\* \* \*

SECTION 1816. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE.—THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS ARE APPROPRIATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE:  
\* \* \*

THE FOLLOWING FEDERAL AMOUNTS ARE APPROPRIATED TO SUPPLEMENT THE SUM APPROPRIATED FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE — CAPITATION PLANS:

(1) "MEDICAL ASSISTANCE — CAPITATION." THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE SHALL NOT REQUIRE A RECIPIENT TO OBTAIN A PHYSICIAN REFERRAL IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES.  
FEDERAL APPROPRIATION ..... 2,484,679,000  
\* \* \*

I withhold my approval from this entire item. This is a reduction from current 2002-2003 appropriation. Federal funds can only be spent to the extent they are received and, in the event that additional funds are received, the higher appropriation level should be retained.

THE FOLLOWING FEDERAL AMOUNTS ARE APPROPRIATED TO SUPPLEMENT THE SUM APPROPRIATED FOR LONG-TERM CARE:

(1) "MEDICAL ASSISTANCE — LONG-TERM CARE."  
FEDERAL APPROPRIATION ..... 2,200,440,000

I withhold my approval from this entire item. This is a reduction from current 2002-2003 appropriation. Federal funds can only be spent to the extent they are received and, in the event that additional funds are received, the higher appropriation level should be retained.

Edward G. Rendell  
Governor

**BILL AND VETO MESSAGE TABLED**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. PERZEL. Madam Speaker, I move that the Governor's line item veto of HB 648, PN 898, be placed upon the table.

On the question,  
Will the House agree to the motion?  
Motion was agreed to.

**BILLS REMOVED FROM TABLE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair again recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. PERZEL. Madam Speaker, I move that the following bills be taken off the table:

- HB 46;
- HB 106;
- HB 239;
- HB 274;
- HB 485;
- HB 506;
- HB 709; and
- HB 770.

On the question,  
Will the House agree to the motion?  
Motion was agreed to.

**BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION**

The following bills, having been called up, were considered for the second time and agreed to, and ordered transcribed for third consideration:

- HB 46, PN 50; HB 106, PN 126; HB 239, PN 268; HB 274, PN 312; HB 485, PN 994; HB 506, PN 600; HB 709, PN 995; and HB 770, PN 897.**

**BILLS RECOMMENDED**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair again recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. PERZEL. Madam Speaker, I move that the following bills be recommended to the Appropriations Committee:

- HB 46;
- HB 106;
- HB 239;
- HB 274;
- HB 485;
- HB 506;
- HB 709; and
- HB 770.

On the question,  
Will the House agree to the motion?  
Motion was agreed to.

**BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE, CONSIDERED FIRST TIME, AND TABLED**

**HB 598, PN 700**

By Rep. GEIST

An Act amending the act of December 23, 2002 (P.L.1982, No.229), entitled "An act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the

Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for definitions, for grounds for refusing registration and for renewal of registration; providing for motor carrier vehicles; further providing for operation following suspension of registration and for suspension of registration; providing for suspension of motor carrier vehicle registration; further providing for suspension of operating privilege, for schedule of convictions and points, for occupational limited license, for duty of driver in construction and maintenance areas, for special speed limitations, for availability of benefits, for trucks and truck tractors and for speed timing devices; providing for accidents involving certain vehicles; further providing for unlawful activities; providing for lighted head lamps in work zones; further providing for restraint systems, for operation of vehicle without official certificate of inspection and for inspection by police or Commonwealth personnel; providing for designation of highway safety corridors; further providing for erection of traffic-control devices while working; requiring certain traffic-control devices in highway work zones; and requiring a study by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee," providing for applicability.

## TRANSPORTATION.

### RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A communication from former member John Pippy, which the clerk will read.

The following communication was read:

House of Representatives  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

March 24, 2003

Honorable Matthew J. Ryan  
Speaker  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
139 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Speaker Ryan:

Effective upon taking the oath of office as a member of the Pennsylvania Senate, I hereby resign from the House of Representatives.

It has been a distinct honor to serve in the House and represent the fine people of the 44th Legislative District. I look forward to continuing our work on behalf of the citizens of our great Commonwealth.

With respect and appreciation,  
John Pippy

### LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Are there requests for leaves of absence?

The Chair recognizes the majority whip, who moves that the following members be placed on leave: the lady from Montgomery County, Mrs. DAILEY; the lady from York County, Mrs. MACKERETH; the gentleman from Chester County, Mr. HERSHEY; the gentleman from Erie County, Mr. BOYES; the gentleman from Cumberland County, Mr. NAILOR; the gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. TAYLOR; and the gentleman from Delaware County, Mr. RYAN. Without objection, the leaves of absence are granted.

The Chair recognizes the minority whip, who moves that leaves be granted to the gentleman from Bucks County, Mr. CORRIGAN, and the gentleman from Lancaster County, Mr. STURLA. Without objection, the leaves are granted.

### MASTER ROLL CALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is about to take the master roll call. Members will proceed to vote.

The following roll call was recorded:

#### PRESENT—192

Adolph	Evans, D.	Lescovitz	Rubley
Allen	Evans, J.	Levdansky	Ruffing
Argall	Fabrizio	Lewis	Sainato
Armstrong	Fairchild	Lynch	Samuelson
Baker	Feese	Maher	Santoni
Baldwin	Fichter	Maitland	Sather
Bard	Fleagle	Major	Saylor
Barrar	Flick	Manderino	Scavello
Bastian	Forcier	Mann	Schroder
Bebko-Jones	Frankel	Markosek	Scrimenti
Belardi	Freeman	Marsico	Semmel
Belfanti	Gabig	McCall	Shaner
Benninghoff	Gannon	McGeehan	Smith, B.
Biancucci	Geist	McGill	Smith, S. H.
Birmelin	George	McIlhattan	Solobay
Bishop	Gergely	McIlhinney	Staback
Blaum	Gillespie	McNaughton	Stairs
Boyd	Gingrich	Melio	Steil
Browne	Godshall	Metcalfe	Stern
Bunt	Goodman	Micozzie	Stetler
Butkovitz	Gordner	Miller, R.	Stevenson, R.
Buxton	Grucela	Miller, S.	Stevenson, T.
Caltagirone	Gruitza	Mundy	Surra
Cappelli	Habay	Myers	Tangretti
Casorio	Haluska	Nickol	Taylor, E. Z.
Causer	Hanna	O'Brien	Thomas
Cawley	Harhai	Oliver	Tigue
Civera	Harhart	O'Neill	Travaglio
Clymer	Harper	Pallone	True
Cohen	Harris	Payne	Turzai
Coleman	Hasay	Perzel	Vance
Cornell	Hennessey	Petrarca	Veon
Costa	Herman	Petri	Vitali
Coy	Hess	Petrone	Walko
Crahalla	Hickernell	Phillips	Wansacz
Creighton	Horsey	Pickett	Washington
Cruz	Hutchinson	Pistella	Waters
Curry	James	Preston	Watson
Daley	Josephs	Raymond	Weber
Dally	Keller	Readshaw	Wheatley
DeLuca	Kenney	Reed	Williams, J.
Dermody	Kirkland	Reichley	Wilt
DeWeese	Kotik	Rieger	Wojnaroski
DiGirolamo	LaGrotta	Roberts	Wright
Diven	Laughlin	Roebuck	Yewwic
Donatucci	Leach	Rohrer	Youngblood
Eachus	Lederer	Rooney	Yudichak
Egolf	Leh	Ross	Zug

#### ADDITIONS—0

#### NOT VOTING—0

#### EXCUSED—9

Boyes	Hershey	Sturla	Ryan,
Corrigan	Mackereth	Taylor, J.	Speaker
Dailey	Nailor		



**FILMING PERMISSION**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair wishes to advise the members that there will be many photographers on the floor during this session.

**SENATE MESSAGE****JOINT SESSION**

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following extract from the Journal of the Senate, which was read as follows:

In the Senate  
March 24, 2003

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate and House of Representatives meet in Joint Session, Tuesday, March 25, 2003, at 1:30 p.m., in the Hall of the House of Representatives for the purpose of hearing an address by His Excellency, Governor Edward G. Rendell; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a committee of three, on the part of the Senate, be appointed to act with a similar committee, on the part of the House of Representatives, to escort His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to the Hall of the House of Representatives.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

On the question,  
Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate?  
Resolution was concurred in.  
Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

**COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNOR****REQUEST FOR JOINT SESSION**

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication in writing from the office of His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Office of the Governor  
Harrisburg

March 17, 2003

The Honorable Matthew J. Ryan  
Speaker  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
139 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

To the Honorable, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

If it meets with the approval of the General Assembly, I would like to address the Members in Joint Session on Tuesday, March 25, 2003, at a time convenient to the General Assembly.

Edward G. Rendell  
Governor

**RESOLUTION****COMMITTEE TO ESCORT GOVERNOR**

Mr. PERZEL offered the following resolution, which was read, considered, and adopted:

In the House of Representatives  
March 25, 2003

RESOLVED, That the Speaker appoint a committee of three to escort the Governor to the Hall of the House for the purpose of attending a Joint Session of the General Assembly.

**COMMITTEE TO ESCORT GOVERNOR APPOINTED**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair appoints as a committee to wait upon the Governor, the gentleman from York County, Mr. Saylor; the lady from Montgomery County, Mrs. Crahalla; the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Gergely.

The committee will proceed with the performance of its duties.

**ARRIVAL OF SENATE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Senate is now entering the hall of the House. Members and guests will please rise.

The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms of the House.

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Madam Speaker, the Senate is now present in the hall of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair requests the Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Catherine Baker Knoll, to preside over the proceedings of the joint session of the General Assembly.

The President pro tem of the Senate, the Honorable Robert C. Jubelirer, is invited to be seated on the rostrum. The members of the House and Senate will please be seated.

**JOINT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY****THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (CATHERINE BAKER KNOLL) PRESIDING**

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. This being the day and the hour agreed upon by a concurrent resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives to hear an address by His Excellency, the Governor, the Honorable Edward G. Rendell, this joint session will please come to order.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ESCORTING GOVERNOR

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The General Assembly will come to order.

The Governor is entering the hall of the House. Members and guests will please rise.

The Chair recognizes the chairperson of the committee to escort the Governor, the gentlewoman from Erie, Senator Earll.

Ms. EARLL. Thank you very much.

Madam President, Madam Speaker, members of the General Assembly, as chairperson of the committee to escort the Governor, I wish to report that His Excellency, the Governor, is present and is prepared to address this joint session.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair thanks Senator Earll, Chairman Earll, and the committee.

Members of the General Assembly, I now have the honor and privilege of presenting His Excellency, the Governor, the Honorable Edward G. Rendell, who will now address the joint session.

## FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004 BUDGET ADDRESS OF GOV. EDWARD G. RENDELL

The GOVERNOR. Thank you. Thank you all very much. Thank you. Thank you all very much.

Good afternoon. Good afternoon.

Let me begin by asking all of you to join with me and stand for a moment of silent respect for the brave men and women of our coalition forces, including 4,000 members of the Pennsylvania National Guard, who as we speak are putting their lives on the line in the Middle East and around the world for the cause of freedom, and that in particular we honor the memory of United States Army Captain Christopher Scott Seifert of Williams Township, who lost his life defending the cause of freedom in Kuwait at Camp Pennsylvania.

(A moment of silence was observed.)

The GOVERNOR. Thank you.

And let me assure the people of Pennsylvania that we are taking all the necessary steps to ensure our safety and security throughout the entire Commonwealth. In these very difficult days, I encourage each of us to support our troops, and just as importantly, to go about our daily routine just as we always have. The best way to stand up to terrorism is to refuse to allow it to change our way of life.

And now to the budget.

The philosopher Sophocles once said, "One must wait until the evening to see how splendid the day has been." Clearly, the Greeks never tried to do a budget in Pennsylvania.

But today I do not want to spend any time looking back. I want to look forward to Pennsylvania's future. Once again, I call on the members of the General Assembly to work with me in tackling the critical issues of our time.

So far, this budget debate has been about things as they are – yet another round of painful budget cutting in response to yet another year of economic decline – traditional but necessary answers to recurring problems. Today, I call on the Republicans and Democrats alike to change the way we conduct

the public's business and to build a Pennsylvania the way it ought to be.

These are the elements of my Plan for a New Pennsylvania – a plan that calls for Pennsylvania to take charge of its own destiny; a plan that recognizes that tax reform and education reform are not simply important in and of themselves, but they are also critical elements in the effort to revitalize Pennsylvania's economy.

It starts, as it must, with property taxes. They are a statewide disgrace, and local taxpayers have made it clear: The time to act is now.

In the last 10 years, Pennsylvania's property taxes have increased by an average of 54.9 percent. We all know that these tax increases have occurred to make up for a declining share of State revenue for public education. Clearly, local taxpayers value public education, or else they never would have supported these increases. But it is simply not fair to ask them to continue to shoulder more and more of this tax burden.

Frankly, the numbers are shocking. In the Spring-Ford School District in Montgomery County, for example, property taxes have increased 185 percent since 1991. In the Pocono Mountain District, the increase since 1991 is 114 percent. Now, it would be bad enough if these districts were the exception, but unfortunately, they are increasingly the rule when it comes to property tax hikes. Consider these facts: 40 school districts in Pennsylvania have increased property taxes by more than 100 percent since 1992, another 130 local school districts have implemented increases of more than 70 percent, and a whopping 255 districts have hiked their property taxes by more than 50 percent in the last 10 years.

What is more, these statistics hide a distasteful and growing pattern of tax inequity statewide. More and more, Pennsylvanians who are poor or living on limited incomes are paying larger and larger proportions of their livelihoods to property taxes, which are flat taxes that unfairly impact the poor and the elderly. And when their fellow citizens tire of paying higher taxes and move away, the burden on those who cannot afford to move gets even bigger. In the end, this so-called race to the bottom destroys any hope for community revitalization, and it has to stop.

If we enact this plan, school property taxes would drop by an average of 30 percent this year throughout Pennsylvania. They will drop because we will invest \$1.5 billion of new State funds to make it happen. In fact, 391 of our districts, a full 78 percent of all the districts in the State, will be able to offer property tax relief averaging 30 percent or greater. In the communities where property tax increases have devastated local economies, senior citizens and others will get the tax relief they richly deserve, and at the same time, we can help to forge a new bond between older and younger taxpayers in support of our local schools and unite our communities for a better quality of life.

Let me be clear. This proposal does not raise school spending by \$1.5 billion. Instead, it shifts the burden from local communities back to the State. For every dollar the State sends to a school district under this plan, the school district must cut its property taxes by the exact same amount. This is a straight dollar-for-dollar exchange – nothing more and nothing less. More importantly, it is tax relief that Pennsylvanians deserve now, and I urge that we work together to get it done in this year's budget.

Statewide property tax relief is critical, but we must do more to build a New Pennsylvania. By directing \$1.5 billion in State funds to our schools, we can return to the days when Harrisburg was a full partner in funding public education. But even that is not enough, particularly in the face of funding inequities that exist throughout Pennsylvania's 501 public school districts. Today we are one of the worst States in the nation when it comes to equity in public school funding. The gap between our richest and poorest districts is over \$193,000 per class, and we should all be ashamed of the fact that that gap is growing year by year.

In Philadelphia, property taxes will not go down. They will not go down because we have decided to use the State resources to cut the long-reviled city wage tax that has inhibited growth in our largest city for far too long. This package will bring the wage tax down to 3.89 for residents and 3.38 for Pennsylvanians working in Philadelphia. That is a 13 1/2-percent reduction in the wage tax in 1 year that will increase the competitive position of southeastern Pennsylvania immeasurably. This means from the time that I began as mayor the reductions in 1995, the wage tax will have been reduced by over 21 1/2 percent. It is my expectation that this reduction will be augmented even further by the incremental annual tax rates codified in the recent Philadelphia city council ordinance, which will reduce the rate a total of 24.6 percent by the year 2008.

Now, many members of the General Assembly have proposed methods to prevent local taxes from spiraling upwards once school districts begin to receive additional State funds for education. I look forward to working with the members of the General Assembly to ensure that once we bring property taxes under control, they stay under control for good.

Property tax reform, however, is only the beginning of this plan. Last week I vetoed the entire basic education subsidy in the budget, which presents us with a unique opportunity. We can start over, and this time we can fund a comprehensive reform of public education that serves our children fully and fairly. For starters, we propose to increase the basic education subsidy for next year by 2.5 percent just to keep pace with inflation. We will do the same thing for special education and vocational education as well. And because our schools are obligated to pay substantial new pension costs, over \$120 million next year alone, I propose that we work together with local school officials to address this growing obligation, including consideration of amortizing the costs of these increases over the next several years. We will also provide technical assistance to school districts to realize management and productivity savings in overhead costs, ensuring that our investment is focused on education, not administration.

Let there be no doubt. When it comes to public education, I am serious about leaving no child behind.

To achieve this goal, I am proposing an unprecedented new investment in proven educational practices that can produce demonstrable results in Pennsylvania's public schools – more than \$550 million in new investments this year, over \$1 billion in new funding for FY04-05, and over 1.25 billion in new dollars for education in FY05-06. Under my plan, every school district in the State will receive funding that is dramatically higher than the current basic education subsidy.

When he was asked how he became a war hero, President Kennedy answered that it was simple: "They sank my boat." Pennsylvania's public schools, why should we invest in

them? It is simple: They are sinking fast, and they need our help.

The time to act is now. What choice do we have when 50 percent of our 11th grade students cannot pass our standardized math tests? These students are only 2 years away from the job market, and we have not sufficiently prepared them to compete in this increasingly high-tech global economy. And 41 percent of our 11th graders, a full 50,000 students, cannot read well enough to pass our standardized reading tests. Of course, these disturbing numbers do not even include those students who dropped out long before even getting to 11th grade. Think about it for a minute: 50,000 students, equivalent to the population of Harrisburg or Altoona, or 10,000 more people than live in York. The future of this State is linked to the skills of our graduates, and we have no choice but to act to change this situation.

Our public schools are falling behind, and no reasonable person can conclude otherwise. The problem reaches virtually every area of the State. Even in suburban Delaware County, for example, 41 percent of the 11th grade students in the county's 15 school districts scored below proficient in reading on the State test. In Montgomery County, the second wealthiest county in Pennsylvania, 29 percent of 11th graders in the county's 21 school districts fell below the passing grade on the reading assessments. Absolutely unbelievable.

I realize that money alone will not solve the problems of our public schools, and later today I will talk about the need for stricter accountability and for holding our schools to strict performance standards. But make no mistake, without increased funding to targeted programs that we know work, we have no chance to improve public education, and our downward spiral will only continue.

The good news for all of us is that investment in education can produce dramatic results. In States like Kentucky, North Carolina, and Texas, significant investment in public schools is working. All of these States are showing tremendous improvement in the skills of their students, and their State economies are the primary beneficiaries of education reform, because it is preparing their young people for the type of qualified workforce that the global economy truly demands.

Now, my plan starts with early childhood education. Studies have shown that investment in early education can make all the difference for a young child.

The extraordinary impact of early childhood education is well established. In a 2001 Chicago study of the impact of pre-K on youngsters, they tracked the progress of more than 1,000 students over the course of their school careers. More than a decade after these children left preschool, as high school graduation age approached, the results were startling. The rates of juvenile arrest, grade retention, and special education entrants were lower for those who were enrolled in pre-K programs. This study confirmed the results of a groundbreaking study of children enrolled in pre-K in 1963 and then tracked for 30 years in Ypsilanti, Michigan. This study found that for every dollar invested in quality pre-K programming, we saved \$7 down the road in other public costs.

And none of us need studies to know that this is true. Just think of your own experience. Midge and I were fortunate enough to be able to afford to send our son, Jesse, to Montessori School when he was 3 and when he was 4, and by the time he finished 2 years of Montessori School and entered

kindergarten, his mind was percolating with ideas. His intellectual curiosity was at a peak. He was bursting with excitement and enthusiasm to learn more. Shame on us that every child in Pennsylvania could not have had the advantages that Jesse had.

These are proven practices that can and do make a difference, and it is long time past for Pennsylvania to implement these programs. The research on early childhood intervention is compelling, as are the results, and I am therefore proposing that over the next 3 years we provide enough funding to enroll over 40,000 4-year-old children in high-quality prekindergarten programs beginning first in school districts with the highest concentration of children coming from low-income families. If we do this, if we do this, we can remove Pennsylvania's name from the roster, the sorry roster, of the nine States in America that provide no funding for prekindergarten education.

Next, full-day kindergarten is another program that has produced stunning results. Our own soon-to-be Secretary of Education, Vicki Phillips, saw this impact firsthand when she took over as superintendent of the Lancaster School District. After the introduction of full-day kindergarten in Lancaster, the rate of students reading at grade level moving from first to second grade rose from 56 percent to an astounding 85 percent. Before learning of Secretary Phillips's program, though, I was familiar with the experience in Montgomery County, Maryland, where they tracked the impact of full-day kindergarten on 7,800 students. They found that those children who attended full-day kindergarten rather than half-day kindergarten made far greater gains, regardless of race or family income levels.

I know from firsthand experience that full-day kindergarten works for our children. When I was mayor of Philadelphia, we implemented full-day kindergarten in 1995, and by the end of my term in January of 2000, according to the Council of the Great City Schools, Philadelphia's elementary school test scores were rising the fastest of any big city school district in America.

Today in Pennsylvania, only 30 percent of our schoolchildren have access to full-day kindergarten. We need to do better, much better. So today I am proposing that we scale up our funding to ensure full-day kindergarten for every kindergarten student in our State. This is a program that works, and let us implement it for our children and we will reap the benefit of this for generations to come.

But we should not stop there. A large body of research confirms that reducing class size in grades kindergarten through third grade can make a dramatic difference in student performance. A Tennessee study of 6,000 students per grade from kindergarten to third found that in every grade, in every grade, students in smaller classes outscored those in larger classes, and best of all, they found that these children sustained this academic growth throughout their entire school careers.

So today I propose that we invest in our children's education by reducing class size in kindergarten through third grade and that we work to ensure that no child will go to class in Pennsylvania with more than 17 students to each teacher. This investment alone over the next 3 years will help elementary school students in schools statewide get the attention they need in school to improve their learning skills. I realize that some of our districts may need to renovate or build additions to accommodate new classes, and I am proposing a school

construction fund to help accommodate this new school construction demand, and I will talk about that briefly later.

I am also proposing that we make a determined effort to improve the skills of the students who are struggling the most. Again, the evidence makes it clear that tutoring programs for failing students can make the difference in allowing them to catch up to their peers. My plan for Pennsylvania's schools includes funding specially earmarked for tutoring students who score the lowest on their standardized tests. Some of our schools have already begun to offer tutoring, and it works. In the Palisades School District in Bucks County, they have a "Meet the Standard" club. Palisades' terrific superintendent, Francis Barnes, recruited teachers who would stay after school and work in small groups with willing students. In every case – I repeat, every case – the failing students were able to perform at grade level by the end of the academic year.

I expect similar results statewide from this investment, which over the next 3 years will grow to provide funding to permit all school districts in the State to offer tutoring to over 300,000 students who were not able to reach the basic threshold on our State assessment. And let us not forget, President Bush's ambitious Federal education initiative, No Child Left Behind, requires States to close the performance gap for every student in every school. This tutoring program works, and it is time to implement it in Pennsylvania.

Additionally, additionally, I am today proposing that we invest in Pennsylvania's teachers. States that are producing demonstrable results in public education share a common trait. That trait is that they are all investing in high-quality continuing professional development for their teachers. To achieve this goal, I propose that we fund an additional 6 days of training and professional development programs for public school teachers working in our poorest school districts. My plan also provides funds to place expert reading and math coaches in the districts that need them the most – those districts working with our poorest children. These coaches will work with our teachers to help improve their teaching techniques so that we can help all of our students improve. It is another proven approach that we should employ for the benefit of our children right now.

I also ask for your support to target resources directly to our rural schools. During my campaign, whenever I went into a rural area, I was repeatedly asked to provide help for the challenges confronting our rural schools, particularly regarding the difficulties those schools have in attracting qualified high school math and science teachers. Our rural communities need extra resources to attract teachers with high school math and science certification. This plan puts those resources in place.

We also face significant challenges recruiting and retaining teachers in our urban districts. I will be working hard to craft solutions that enable our urban districts to compete for and keep good teachers. I believe our rural teacher recruitment component can be expanded to urban areas in the years to come.

We will also expand upon the grant programs for struggling districts now used to help those on the empowerment list. I do not think we should wait until the ship is sinking to do repairs. This expanded struggling district fund will provide targeted, time-limited resources to districts that are close to empowerment status to do our very best to make sure no more districts are ever added to the empowerment list. On the other side of the coin, I believe that as a result of this package, more

and more of our districts will exceed their performance goals. Therefore, I also propose to expand the funds we allocate for performance incentives.

Finally, I propose that we allocate \$50 million for a competitive grant program to help our districts upgrade their science and technology labs and to purchase software and other instructional supplies necessary to deliver a high-quality instruction. A few weeks ago, in fact, the day after I delivered my March 4 budget address, I met Paul Perry. Paul is the student council president at Norristown High School. He asked why that in some schools kids started out with palm pilots and in other schools they did not even start out with books. As an elected official, as an adult, and as a parent, I was ashamed that he could even make that comparison. This fund will be used to level the playing field so that kids in all districts have access to the supplies, labs, and materials needed for a 21st century education.

These are the programs that work, and the new funding that I propose would be used solely for the proven programs that I have described. I urge the members of the General Assembly to consider these reforms as one comprehensive program. The effectiveness of each new program depends on the implementation of all of these proven techniques. For example, a good prekindergarten program is wasted if we do not follow up with full-day kindergarten and reduced class sizes. All of these programs work, but they work best when they work together.

If our children are going to take their place as productive members of our society, we have an obligation to educate them to meet the challenges they will face. This investment of over \$1 billion, in addition to the \$1.5 billion in funds to replace the property tax on local communities, offers an unprecedented opportunity for us to dramatically improve public education in Pennsylvania.

But I do not propose that we give public schools a blank check and simply hope for a positive outcome. Today, I am also putting forward a comprehensive accountability system. Not only do I believe that the status quo is a recipe for disaster for our State in general, I am convinced it will be the demise of our public schools. This system has a clear set of expectations for progress for every school and every district in this State. It offers incentives and supports, and it also outlines consequences. Schools that fail our kids will be restarted with new leadership, new teachers, and new controls.

Our superintendents and principals need to be judged and given contracts based on the performance of their district. In my judgment, principal tenure is an outdated concept that must be replaced with a contracting system that affords principals reasonable protection but places the performance of students in their schools squarely in their hands. And if we are going to hold our principals and superintendents accountable for results, they need the authority necessary to do the job. We need to give these leaders the right to assign teachers, schedule their days, cluster their classes, and manage student assessments as they see fit. Like the tenure system for principals, the pay-for-longevity system of our teacher union contracts is, in my judgment, a relic of the past. Teachers receive a great deal of support in my plan, and this accountability system should provide teachers with rewards based on a mix of experience, skills, and performance.

I have the greatest respect for our teachers and their union leaders. I believe that they share my passion for making public education the very best it can be. This endeavor, however, is too important for compromise. Accountability is more than a test, but this plan will test our commitment to our children. It provides a template for a serious discussion about reforming public education in this State.

It is time to change things as they are in Pennsylvania's public schools. The plan I submit to you today gives us the chance to create schools as they ought to be – leaving no child behind, investing in proven techniques to get results, and breaking the vicious cycle of local property tax increases to fund our schools. Most importantly, this plan gives us a real chance to educate our children to take their place in the 21st century Pennsylvania economy.

Growing that economy, providing Pennsylvania with jobs and opportunity, is the third critical element of the Plan for a New Pennsylvania.

No one disputes the fact that the real reason for the budget deficit we face is that State revenues have declined dramatically, reflecting the fact that Pennsylvania's economy continues to show no sign of recovery. We are not alone in this regard. As I said on March 4, many other States face similar or even worse problems than we do. In fact, the combined budget deficit of the States now approaches \$85 billion, the surest sign that the national economy remains stagnant.

Our problems are not new, but we cannot continue to wait for help from Washington or for some hoped-for rising economic tide that lifts all boats, including ours. We need to take action now.

Consider these facts: Pennsylvania's economy ranks 47th out of 50 States in job growth. We have lost 74,000 jobs since December, and our February unemployment rate was 6.2 percent, the highest it has been at in 9 years. This slow, steady climb in unemployment spells turmoil for our communities. The local economies of many of our boroughs and townships are literally dying for lack of investment that can generate jobs and opportunity for our citizens.

At the same time, we have become the second oldest State in the Union, and each year, thousands of our young women and men who graduate from Pennsylvania's great universities and colleges choose to leave us for better opportunities elsewhere. And as I said on inauguration day, if our young people continue to leave, if they do not see a future here, then Pennsylvania has no future.

My Plan for a New Pennsylvania is built on the premise that we cannot afford to wait for a national economic recovery. Instead, we must jump-start a Pennsylvania recovery, and that is why I am proposing an economic stimulus program that will inject nearly \$2 billion in economic development funds into Pennsylvania's economy, an initiative that will conservatively leverage more than \$5 billion in additional investment in cities, boroughs, and townships all across the Commonwealth. This plan also contemplates that these dollars will be infused into our economy in the next 30 to 36 months to stimulate growth now.

This investment will provide the much-needed capital to fuel Pennsylvania's economic engine. My goal is to target investment all across the State, investments that create jobs for Pennsylvanians and help to generate economic momentum in local communities. Our plan targets two basic areas: first, rebuilding Pennsylvania's infrastructure to prepare for and to

support economic growth; and second, making capital available for investment in every region of the State.

For the last 2 years I have traveled to small cities and towns across this State, and all I saw was signs of missed opportunities. I saw old factories that could have been retrofitted to become business incubators, old industrial sites that could have been cleared for high-tech industry, and abandoned manufacturing plants that, as we are doing with the International Paper mill in Lock Haven, can and must be brought back to life. I saw opportunity lost for lack of capital. After 8 years in Philadelphia working to attract business, I learned firsthand that the hardest capital to get is predevelopment funding. For this reason I ask you to enact the Business in our Sites revolving loan fund. This fund would be capitalized with \$300 million for site acquisition and remediation. Loans from this fund could be used for site clearance and cleanup and to pay for the critical infrastructure improvements like new sidewalks, curbs, roads, and telecommunications infrastructure. It will help build an inventory of potential sites ready for new development, and best of all, it will reduce urban blight and curtail suburban sprawl.

Our Main Streets are the very heart and soul of our small communities. They are the retail transaction centers that also bind our communities in ways that malls can never replace. We want to continue investing in Main Streets all across Pennsylvania, but we also want to provide help for the residential corridors nearby, and so we are proposing the creation of a new \$5 million Elm Street residential improvement program as a companion to the important Main Street Program.

I talked briefly about the need to fund more school construction. We intend to work with our local school boards to accelerate school construction without spending an additional dime of State money. By refinancing existing debt and flattening out future payments on school construction bonds, we can generate substantial savings in our School Construction Sinking Fund line item. Let us invest these savings to modernize our schools and stimulate our local economies right now so that we can help schools build additions and new facilities to support advances like full-day kindergarten and smaller class sizes.

My final infrastructure component is the expansion of housing construction. Our housing stock is among the oldest in the nation. Thirty percent of our houses were built before the end of the Second World War. I propose that we increase the funds for housing rehabilitation and new construction by adding \$15 million this year and an additional \$35 million over the next 3 years to the Housing and Redevelopment Assistance Grant Program. We also propose an additional \$10 million to the Homeownership Choice Loan Program.

As I said throughout my campaign, our biggest challenge is finding the funds to make development a reality. This is especially true for our small and mid-sized communities. To meet this challenge, we propose creating two new initiatives that will earmark capital reinvestment directly to smaller and mid-sized communities.

First, the plan will take advantage of Federal resources. Pittsburgh and Philadelphia have had terrific experience with the Federal HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) 108 loan program. I want to help our smaller cities access this powerful tool for development. Through a combination of technical assistance and loan guarantees,

I believe we can leverage an additional \$288 million from the Federal HUD 108 loan program by using our State direct entitlement that we get to create this loan program and make this capital available specifically for smaller communities that as of now cannot use the HUD 108 loan program because they receive no direct community development block grant entitlement funds. This innovative idea has already been endorsed by the Secretary of HUD, Mel Martinez, at a recent meeting we had with him in Washington, DC.

Second, tax increment financing. Tax increment financing also offers communities across the State an innovative and important resource for development. We need to give local officials in smaller cities and towns help in packaging development programs in a way that taps the power of TIFs responsibly for their communities without forcing them to lose a significant portion of these funds to soft costs for lawyers and underwriters. I propose that we provide a loan guarantee pool of up to \$100 million to give our communities the leverage and the confidence to use these resources to stimulate development. These resources will strengthen development by using this State fund as a new and much cheaper TIF resource.

We all know the discouraging statistics that I had referred to earlier about Pennsylvania's brain drain. I believe we can keep Pennsylvania's best and brightest students from leaving this State after college graduation by attracting more high-tech and research-oriented companies and by encouraging those students who are going to start up their own companies to start them right here in Pennsylvania. That is why I announced in February the creation, or the proposed creation, of the Keystone Innovation Zone program. The KIZs will provide cutting-edge companies with early-stage capital, an educated workforce, and modern facilities. And I propose that every KIZ have the opportunity to apply for KOZ (keystone opportunity zone) status. To further demonstrate our commitment to keeping college graduates here, we must increase the tax credits available for growth companies that invest in research and development from \$15 million to \$60 million over the next 2 years. I also propose that we enact a statute that will allow young, startup companies to sell their research and development net operating losses to obtain capital from older, established companies that can credit these NOLs to offset some of their profits.

Now, let me turn to what I believe are the most innovative aspects of this package. I propose that we use State resources to become a direct investor in development projects. I ask for your support in creating two investment funds – one, to enable the State to be a financial partner in real estate development, and the other, an equity investment fund to invest in companies with growth potential that can create more jobs.

The first fund would allow us to bring back to life older, abandoned buildings that currently stand as monuments to our economic failures. The revitalization of these buildings will reenergize growth in many of our struggling urban communities. We saw this happen in the early 1980s when the Federal low-income housing tax credit program revitalized many of Pennsylvania's cities and boroughs.

The second fund can be used to invest in a wide array of businesses – new, startup high-technology companies; research-driven life science enterprises; new small businesses that contribute so much to our job growth; and existing

companies, including manufacturing firms that need capital to modernize and acquire new technologies.

Each of these funds would be capitalized with \$250 million from the State. The State funds would be matched dollar for dollar by private investors and foundations. Separate venture fund managers would administer these two portfolios – each with a half a billion dollars to invest. Each fund would have a strong expert board to direct investments. The State would have a presence on these boards to ensure that the public's interests are in fact protected. The State would retain veto power over any project. I believe that by becoming an investor and breaking from the traditional sideline role in development, Pennsylvania will become a Mecca for innovative startup companies and successful real estate development.

Our ability to attract university-related research companies is crucial to the future of the State. But so, too, is the expansion of our sturdiest and largest economic sectors – agriculture and tourism. For our farmers I want to provide special eligibility criteria that will help them access loans from the very successful Machinery and Equipment Loan Fund and support from our Small Business First program. By allowing more of our farmers to be eligible for this program, we can spur renewed investment in Pennsylvania farms and farming industries for years to come. Today I am also proposing \$100 million in additional incentives to stabilize and expand our tourism and agricultural opportunities through existing DCED (Department of Community and Economic Development) programs.

I have always found it querulous that a family printing business in Pittsburgh could apply to the MEL Fund for an upgrade in machinery – if they need a laser printer to stay competitive – and they would be granted that money, but a family farmer from Perry County could not apply to the MEL Fund for robotic milkers to stay competitive. Our plan changes that.

I also propose a major expansion of the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Budget Program, providing an additional \$500 million for economic development grants. This program has provided significant capital to important community and economic development projects throughout the Commonwealth, and the demand continues to exceed the funds available. Though all of us want to aid community projects throughout the State, I believe that the economic challenges that currently confront us are so severe that they dictate that every dollar of investment under this program must have a direct economic development, job-creating benefit. Restricted in this fashion, redevelopment assistance capital can be a powerful stimulant to growth in every sector of our State.

As I have said before, I believe that Pennsylvania can be the comeback story of the decade. More importantly, we have no option but to try. In the end, the only way we can get out of our deficit and the horrible situation we find ourselves in today is to grow our way out. If our stimulus plan succeeds in growing our economy, it will broaden our tax base. The increasing revenues from that growth will allow us to restore cuts and do even more.

Most importantly, if we invest in our future, we can build a Pennsylvania economy that allows us to break out of the vicious budget cycle that has dominated our deliberations for the last few years – a cycle in which, thanks to declining State revenues, we worry more about how to eliminate deficits than how to stimulate the type of long-term growth that can prevent deficits from occurring in the first place.

We can grow our way out of this crisis, and in the process, we can break out of the pack of States whose problems are even worse than ours. When it comes to economic recovery, Pennsylvania should be America's Keystone. Pennsylvanians, we do have a choice.

Although our economic stimulus program will have almost no immediate impact on our operating budget because almost all of its funds come from economic development bonds or Federal programs, the rest of the Plan I have outlined for a New Pennsylvania is not without cost. It represents a significant set of investments – in our families, in our children, and in our economic future. And while I am confident that these investments can work for Pennsylvania, I insist that we invest only in proven practices and that we take extraordinary care in how we spend taxpayers' dollars.

Three weeks ago, I stood at this rostrum and announced a painful series of budget cuts and spending reductions. My purpose was to demonstrate that my administration will do everything in its power to cut waste in government, to reduce the cost of government, and to balance a \$2.4 billion budget deficit that, if left unchecked, could stop us from making any of the progress that I have talked about before we even got started.

These cuts represent real hardship for thousands of Pennsylvanians, but this pain is short term, and if we are willing to make these sacrifices and to grow our way out of the deficit, there is every reason to believe that we can enjoy long-term growth.

As I said then, part one of the budget represented the first painful step in the process of investing in our future. Indeed, part one amounts to a down payment on the Plan for a New Pennsylvania, cutting the cost of government and closing the budget gap to position us to invest in tax relief, school reform, and economic revitalization.

I promise today that we will continue to squeeze every nickel of waste out of government. I have pledged that we will try to identify and implement \$1 billion in government savings, and we are well on our way to achieving that goal already, with initiatives that take advantage of our huge purchasing power for office supplies, parts and equipment, and even prescription drugs used by those on four different State-funded prescription drug programs. We are determined to buy smarter, to streamline the cost of many government services, and to find new ways to save taxpayer dollars.

But lowering the cost of government alone is not enough. We have got to continue to find ways to increase State revenues, because conservative estimates suggest that the Commonwealth could eventually realize an additional \$775 million a year in revenue from a moderate expansion of gaming. And think about what these revenues could mean for us. They could be used to fund more than 51 percent of my plan to reduce property taxes by \$1.5 billion in Pennsylvania this year. I realize that if this General Assembly approves legalizing slot machines at racetracks, we will not realize all of the revenues immediately, but my plan assumes that these revenues will phase in over the course of 3 years, growing from \$300 million this year to \$526 million in 2005 and reaching \$775 million by 2006.

So I am proposing today that Pennsylvania follow the lead of its neighbors in New Jersey, New York, Delaware, and West Virginia by enacting a limited expansion of gaming – specifically, by legalizing slot machine gaming. I recognize that concerns have been expressed about the moral dilemmas of

gaming. But we cannot continue to ignore the fact that Pennsylvanians are spending more than \$3 billion a year on gaming in other States. On this issue, Pennsylvanians are voting with their feet, leaving the Commonwealth by the thousands to spend these dollars in our neighboring States, and we get no benefit from it.

Legalizing slot machines at Pennsylvania's racetracks will also protect the interests of our horse racing industry statewide. Statewide, it is a \$1.2 billion industry that employs more than 35,000 people. So today I urge you to enact one of the several bills that have been proposed in the House and Senate so that we can begin to use these new revenues as part of our Plan for a New Pennsylvania.

When I became Governor, I promised that I would bring change to Pennsylvania. I pledged that we would invest in our future, and the Plan for a New Pennsylvania delivers on that promise. I said that I would not raise any taxes unless we reduced property taxes first, and the Plan for a New Pennsylvania delivers on that pledge. I also said that before I ever sought to raise taxes, I would pursue every opportunity to save money or seek other revenue enhancements. So let me be absolutely clear today: I will veto any tax increase bill that is not tied directly to property tax reduction legislation.

In March when we introduced the first portion of our budget package, we met with legislative leaders and members of the press, and we went to great pains to point out the uncertainty hanging over the economy and the State's revenue estimates. We noted that the administration would carefully monitor our tax collections and other economic data as the legislature was considering the budget. As you know, more than 25 percent of the State's revenue is still outstanding. And neither the national economy nor our State economy shows any signs of permanent economic recovery.

With the nation at war and with terrorism an ever-increasing possibility, it would be imprudent for us to expect that we will reach the levels of revenues originally projected. Therefore, as part of this proposal today, I have included revenues sufficient for us to close the revenue gap in the budget enacted last week. A full \$700 million of revenues from this package will be used to fund budget items already approved by this legislature.

While these measures have significantly closed the revenue gap, they do not get us all the way home in the effort to fund property tax reductions and investment in our public schools and our economy. That is why today I am submitting a proposal to realize new tax revenues from the following additional sources:

First, I propose that we increase the Pennsylvania personal income tax from 2.8 to 3.75 percent, effective July 1. Like all of you, like all of you, I have no enthusiasm, like all of you, like all of you, I have no enthusiasm for raising taxes, but just as the Republican majority in this legislature did last year when it increased taxes by nearly \$700 million, you did what you had to, and now we must do the same. The pressing nature of the budget crisis, combined with the shifting of the tax burden from local property to personal income, as well as the need to fund investments that will stimulate long-term growth in our economy and our schools, compel me to join the ranks of 26 other Governors, Republicans and Democrats alike, who have reluctantly concluded that tax increases are necessary to fund critical State services.

After running for reelection on a no-tax program, Republican Governor John Rowland of Connecticut went before the legislature asking for new taxes, and when they were approved, he said, and I quote, "It was a long and difficult process. For 120 days, we stared at a \$2 billion deficit – and for 120 days, that deficit stared us down. We all knew what was at stake, and I thank you for doing the right thing. You acted to secure our future, by putting the people's agenda ahead of your own political or philosophical agendas. The approval of last week's package sent a clear signal that the overall welfare of this state is more important than any of the issues that swirled around this budget. The bottom line is that we must all focus on the next generation rather than the next election," end of quote.

I ask you, I ask you to listen to the words of Republican Governor Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho, who recently called for increased taxes because he refused to cut education funding. Governor Kempthorne said, and I quote, "I did not look forward to delivering this type of message. It is not in my fiber. But in the end, I concluded that this is in the best interest of our citizens.... We are not asking our citizens to pay more to expand government. We are asking them to participate in ensuring that we can meet the critical needs of the people of Idaho today and into the future."

Like Governors Rowland and Kempthorne, we are determined to keep this increase as low as possible and to ensure that the poorest among us are not further jeopardized. To do so, we will increase the so-called poverty exemption of the State income tax by another \$1,000. And it is important to note that even with our proposed increases, Pennsylvania's personal income tax will be the third lowest of all 41 States that have a personal income tax. Let me repeat that: Even with our proposed increase, Pennsylvania will be the third lowest in tax rate of the 41 States who have a personal income tax.

What is the impact of all this? Well, for a family of four earning \$32,000, they will pay nothing under this approach, compared with having to pay \$746 if they lived in Ohio and \$613 if they lived in New York. Another way to look at it is that for a family of four in Pennsylvania earning \$75,000, they would pay 713 more dollars in income taxes due to this tax increase. But if the same family lived in New York or West Virginia, in comparison to our new rate, they would pay \$1,113 more in income tax. This proposed increase amounts to about \$1.95 a day – less than the price of a bottle of water or a pack of cigarettes and far less than a Philadelphia cheesesteak or a Primanti Brothers sandwich. And remember that that Pennsylvania family will be able to deduct, will be able to deduct, the additional amount they pay in State income taxes on their Federal tax return, lowering the financial impact even further.

This revenue package supports— If you were assessing the impact on a Pennsylvania family, that is a very relevant fact, a very relevant fact. That drives the \$713 for the family of \$75,000 down to almost \$500. That is a very relevant fact, and you should receive it as such.

Remember, remember, remember, you raised taxes last year to keep the status quo. I am proposing an increase in taxes this year to make Pennsylvania a better place. So behave yourselves.

This revenue package, this revenue package supports our education and economic development goals and funds Pennsylvania's long-term growth. And remember that fully half of this new revenue will be used to cover the cost of cutting



local property taxes throughout Pennsylvania. In other words, when you talk about raising taxes, let us talk about the fact that we are cutting taxes today, too, because 58 percent, 58 percent of the personal income tax increase, will be used to reduce local property taxes. So in a very real sense, we are talking about tax shifting as well as tax increases.

We are also going to increase revenues by imposing a “reckless driving” surcharge that increases fines and fees for the most dangerous drivers on the road. We anticipate, we anticipate that this initiative will generate \$100 million in new revenue for the Commonwealth on an annual basis. A similar initiative started in New Jersey has raised over \$120 million annually in new revenue.

I am proposing today also an increase – sorry to have to say this to the legislature – an increase of approximately \$55 million in taxes on beer, marking the first, marking, marking the first increase in beer taxes since 1947 – from 8 cents to 25 cents per gallon. If that same 8 cents had been raised regularly to keep pace with inflation, today this tax would be 66 cents. Although this is a big jump to 25 cents, it is long overdue. At 25 cents per gallon, Pennsylvania would rank 19th among all States that tax malt liquor. In South Carolina the tax is 77 cents per gallon, and it is more than twice our new rate in North Carolina and in Alabama.

Next – you may like this one a little better – next, next, I believe it is time to treat all businesses fairly. Today in Pennsylvania, some businesses pay corporate taxes, while others use the protection of loopholes in our corporate tax system to escape paying their fair share to the State. In particular, I propose that we restrict the corporate net income tax deductibility of intangible and interest expenses paid to third parties – the so-called Delaware Subsidiary loophole. Other States are closing this loophole, and we want to do the same. We also want to require pass-through entities to withhold corporate tax for nonresident owners. Closing these two loopholes will generate \$100 million in additional tax revenue.

We must also begin to address another business tax issue – specifically, we must find ways to broaden the corporate tax base in Pennsylvania. Today, only 22 percent of all Pennsylvania businesses actually pay the CNI tax. In other words, almost four out of five of our businesses pay no CNI whatsoever. That is unfair, and the practice must stop.

To address this problem, I am convening a task force of tax experts, business leaders, and legislators to assist us in developing a more equitable business tax structure in Pennsylvania. By closing loopholes in business taxes and broadening the tax base, we can ensure greater fairness in business taxation and a more competitive business climate, because doing so will allow us to significantly reduce our corporate net income tax rate in the years to come. It is my hope that we will broaden the base, enabling us to cut the rate of the CNI, which has been such a disincentive for business, and this will be a dollar-for-dollar tradeoff. This will not be a revenue enhancement. It will rather be a way to cut the CNI, to increase our competitiveness and increase fairness for corporations all over the State. I will ask this task force to report back to me by December 31 of this year.

I am also proposing that we modernize our tax system to capture revenues from the rapidly growing wireless communications industry. We expect to generate more than

\$200 million in new revenue this year and more than \$300 million next year from these changes. There are three components to this plan.

First, as you know, the gross receipts tax is now imposed only on telephone calls that are both made and received in Pennsylvania. This plan expands the tax to interstate phone calls as well. Seven other States follow this approach today.

Secondly, under current law, the GRT does not apply to revenue generated through cell phone and pager services. Our proposal treats cell phones the same as traditional landline phones by subjecting cell phone service to the gross receipts tax. Phone use is fundamentally the same whether the telephone is connected to the wall or is wireless; this plan brings Pennsylvania’s tax approach in line with that reality. Eight other States have already implemented this measure, which is the wave of the future for all State governments, because think about it: In 5 to 10 years, in my judgment, there will be very few landlines left. Everyone is converting, even in their houses, to using wireless phones. So this not only increases our taxes but is a way of preventing a significant decline in the tax that we get already.

But at the same time, we will rationalize the way cell phone providers pay sales and use taxes. Under the current law, cell phone providers pay sales and use tax on equipment purchases but sales and use tax is not imposed on landline equipment. Under this plan, cell phone providers would not pay sales and use tax on equipment used directly in providing service, whether it was wireless or landline. So this approach would level the competitive playing field for all of the telecommunications companies.

These proposals will be the subject of comprehensive public discussion in the weeks ahead. That is as it should be. I can see that ours is an ambitious agenda, and I welcome the debate that begins today.

The cost of these programs will be a major element of our deliberations, and we are prepared to discuss them in detail. And while some undoubtedly will question the cost of these initiatives, I submit to you that the cost of doing nothing is even greater.

If we fail to invest in Pennsylvania’s families by providing critically needed property tax relief, we threaten local taxpayers with the exclusive burden of paying for the rising costs of public education, pitting community against community, young against old, and haves against have-nots.

If we fail to fund real education reform in Pennsylvania, we threaten our children’s future, leaving them ill prepared to become productive members of a vibrant 21st century Pennsylvania economy we hope to create.

And if we fail to stimulate our economy and jump-start a Pennsylvania recovery, then we close the door on the chance to create Pennsylvania jobs and opportunities for thousands of families across the Commonwealth.

During my campaign I promised to bring change to Pennsylvania, and my Plan for a New Pennsylvania represents exactly that. I believe that we can make Pennsylvania great again, if we are willing to work together to fund meaningful reforms in taxation, education, and economic development.

Pennsylvanians, we do have a choice.

Now is the time for us to implement a vision that emphasizes growth, investment, and confidence that the best is yet to come.

So I ask you to join me in this effort. Working together, we cannot fail. And in the end, all of Pennsylvania will see how splendid that day can be.

Thank you. Thank you all.

Could I have your attention for a second. Thank you.

Thank you all very much.

They have turned the TelePrompter off, and it was my hope to go down on the floor to talk to you for just a brief moment about something that I have been wanting to say personally, but I understand there is a longstanding House tradition that proscribes that process. So let me just talk to you for a minute from up here.

You know, what we have proposed is an ambitious agenda; I know that. And I know that change is always hard, because people and all of us fear change; we fear the unknown. And I know I am asking of you a lot.

I wanted to come down off this podium because this podium represents separation, separation of the Governor from members of the legislature, and my belief is, if we are going to effectively meet the challenges of Pennsylvania, we cannot do it as a divided government; we have to do it as one government, putting aside, as Governor Rowland said, our philosophical agendas, putting aside our political agendas, and concentrating on what is good for the people.

I have no pride in authorship in this plan, no pride whatsoever, and I want you to know that I feel about it very passionately, as you can tell, but I understand that there are members of this body that have been working on these proposals long before I got here.

Good Lord, Representative Stetler is responsible for putting in legislation last year, or last session, for the increase in the R&D (research and development) from \$15 to \$60 million. Representative Stevenson was the one who first proposed allowing young, emerging companies to sell their NOLs to for-profit companies.

The education work that has been done has been spectacular by Senator Rhoades, Representative Micozzie, Senator Hughes, Senator Schwartz, Representative Veon.

Representative Perzel has told me many ways already, since the day after my election, he has sent to me idea after idea after idea to cut costs and improve management and productivity, and some of them have been very good.

And gosh, Senator Tomlinson has been working hard to get a bill for responsible but limited expansion in gaming. And Senator Brightbill and Senator Piccola have long talked about the need to lower the CNI.

So these are not Ed Rendell's ideas; they are all of our ideas. And what has bothered me about what has happened since March 4, it is not the turmoil and the hubbub that was created but that it all concentrated on process.

I guess I am a little bit of an outsider still. I have only been here for 7 or 8 weeks, and looking at Harrisburg from someone who worked with Harrisburg as district attorney and then mayor for 16 years, it seemed to me that maybe this is media driven, but we all get caught up in the process; we all get caught up in our philosophy, our rigid positions. You know, you should not hiss when I suggest a tax increase; you should consider it, because we had to raise taxes last year, and you did so, and it was the right thing to do. We should not react instinctively or

effectively, just as I should not react when you suggest that we would be better off cutting the CNI, and I think we would, and I hope we will.

We should not count up winners and losers. Let us leave that for the media. Did the legislature win on March 6 when it enacted a budget in 2 days and forced the Governor's hand? Did the Governor win back leverage last week when he line-item vetoed education? Who cares. Let me tell you, the people of Pennsylvania do not care; they just do not care.

So I do not ask you, obviously I do not ask you to just take this plan and pass it because I am passionate about it and I believe it is time for Pennsylvania to change. I ask you to work with me. Let us try to get a document passed that achieves these goals at the lowest possible cost for our citizens, and if we do that, if we do that at the end, it will not be a victory for the Democratic Party; it will not be a victory for the Republican Party; it will not be a victory for Ed Rendell. It will be a victory for our children; it will be a victory for our senior citizens; it will be a victory for the workers of this State.

Thank you very much.

### JOINT SESSION ADJOURNED

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. The Chair asks the members of the House and the visitors to please remain seated for just a moment while the members of the Senate leave the hall of the House.

The members of the Senate will please reassemble immediately in the Senate upon adjournment of this meeting.

The business for which the joint session has been assembled having been transacted, this session is now adjourned.

### THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE (PATRICIA H. VANCE) PRESIDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House will be in order. Would the House please be in order. Members will take their seats, please.

### MOTION TO PRINT PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT SESSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. PERZEL. Madam Speaker, I move that the proceedings of the joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives held this 25th day of March 2003 be printed in full in this day's Legislative Journal.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to.

**CALENDAR****RESOLUTION**

Mr. METCALFE called up **HR 39, PN 1018**, entitled:

A Resolution requesting the Pennsylvania Delegation in the Congress of the United States to support meaningful legal reform legislation in the 108th Congress.

On the question,  
Will the House adopt the resolution?

**RESOLUTION RECOMMITTED**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. PERZEL. Madam Speaker, I move that HR 39, PN 1018, be recommitted to the Committee on Rules.

On the question,  
Will the House agree to the motion?  
Motion was agreed to.

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the lady, Mrs. Rubley, from Chester County for the purpose of an announcement.

Mrs. RUBLEY. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

On behalf of Representative Art Hershey, I am calling a meeting of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee immediately upon adjournment in the rear of the House. It will be a very brief meeting, and I urge all members to attend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The lady, Mrs. Rubley, announces a meeting of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee at the end of this session at the rear of the House.

**DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Cohen.

Mr. COHEN. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, for the Democrats, we have a two-prong process for the rest of the afternoon. First, there are going to be regional caucuses to which all or virtually all members should have been invited, and then at 4 o'clock, 4 o'clock, there will be a Democratic caucus to go over what we know about the budget as Governor Rendell spoke to us today. Four o'clock Democratic caucus meeting; immediate regional caucus meetings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

**STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks County, Mr. Clymer.

Mr. CLYMER. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Just to remind the members of the State Government Committee that we will meet at 11 o'clock tomorrow, I believe it is room 39, just so they have it on their calendars. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman, Mr. Clymer, announces a meeting of the State Government Committee tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock in room 39.

Tomorrow's session will be nonvoting, and there are no further votes today.

**REPUBLICAN CAUCUS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Feese.

Mr. FEESE. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the Republicans will caucus immediately upon adjournment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

**BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS PASSED OVER**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, any remaining bills and resolutions on today's calendar will be passed over. The Chair hears no objection.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dauphin County, Mr. Payne.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I move that this House do now adjourn until Wednesday, March 26, 2003, at 10 a.m., e.s.t., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

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

Motion was agreed to, and at 3:10 p.m., e.s.t., the House adjourned.