

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2005

SESSION OF 2005

189TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 52

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House convened at 12:10 a.m., e.d.t.

**THE SPEAKER (JOHN M. PERZEL)
PRESIDING**

PRAYER

HON. LOUISE WILLIAMS BISHOP, member of the House of Representatives, offered the following prayer:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Let us pray:

This is the day the Lord hath made, and we will rejoice and be glad in it.

O God, our Heavenly Father, You are the shepherd of the sheep on a thousand hills, and we thank You that You stretch out Your wings and You take care of each and every one of us. Even when we are weary, You strengthen us, and when we are down, You lift us, and when we are discouraged, You encourage us. So we thank You now as we conclude one chapter of our lives here and open a brand-new book and begin a brand-new page.

God, we thank You for new opportunities – new opportunities to serve our constituents even better; new opportunities to serve the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania continually with dignity and with integrity.

And so we ask as we come to the conclusion of this day that You will grant unto us Your peace and Your prosperity and that You will grant unto us Your wisdom, but most of all Your love and Your understanding, Your grace and Your mercy. And keep us now in perfect peace, and as we go, we pray, O God, that You will bless each and every one of us and that You will mount us up on wings like eagles, even when we are weary and impatient, and You will carry us to that place of rest and peace in You.

We ask these and all blessings in Your name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

JOURNAL APPROVAL POSTPONED

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the approval of the Journal of Wednesday, July 6, 2005, will be postponed until printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The dilemma we are facing is that the Growing Greener bill is still at the Reference Bureau. It should be, we were told a half-hour ago, 15 minutes. At the maximum it will be 45 minutes; it could be less. But if the members would like to go back to their offices, we have to wait for that bill, so—

For the information of the members, the Growing Greener II is ready but we have to do I first.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. The House will be in recess to the call of the Chair.

AFTER RECESS

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

SENATE MESSAGE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE
ADOPTED BY SENATE

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, informed that the Senate has adopted the report of the committee of conference on the subject of the differences existing between the two Houses on **HB 815, PN 2568**.

SENATE MESSAGE

AMENDED HOUSE BILLS RETURNED
FOR CONCURRENCE AND
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, returned **HB 3, PN 2571; HB 107, PN 2567; HB 823, PN 2569; and HB 1802, PN 2566**, with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendment in which the concurrence of the House of Representatives is requested.

RULES COMMITTEE MEETING

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader, who calls for an immediate meeting of the Rules Committee.

**BILLS ON CONCURRENCE
REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

HB 3, PN 2571 By Rep. S. SMITH

An Act amending Title 27 (Environmental Resources) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for definitions, for allocation of Environmental Stewardship Fund and for administrative expenses; deleting provisions relating to environmental infrastructure grants; providing for fee deposits; authorizing indebtedness for environmental initiatives; authorizing sale of bonds, temporary financing and debt retirement; further providing for disposal fee for municipal waste landfills and deposit of disposal fee; deleting certain sunset provisions; and making a repeal relating to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

RULES.

HB 107, PN 2567 By Rep. S. SMITH

An Act authorizing the establishment and maintenance of health savings accounts; providing for special tax provisions; and imposing restrictions on health savings accounts.

RULES.

HB 823, PN 2569 By Rep. S. SMITH

An Act providing for the capital budget for the fiscal year 2005-2006, itemizing public highway projects to be constructed or acquired by the Department of Transportation, together with their estimated financial costs; authorizing the incurring of debt without the approval of the electors for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed or acquired by the Department of Transportation; stating the estimated useful life of the projects; and making appropriations.

RULES.

HB 1802, PN 2566 By Rep. S. SMITH

An Act amending the act of February 9, 1999 (P.L.1, No.1), known as the Capital Facilities Debt Enabling Act, further defining "redevelopment assistance capital project"; further providing for procedures for capital budget bill and debt-authorizing legislation and for appropriation for and limitation on redevelopment assistance capital projects; and providing for quarterly reports related to redevelopment assistance capital projects and for the refunding of debt issued under previous authorized acts.

RULES.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. The leaves of absence taken in yesterday's session will be the leaves used in today's session.

MASTER ROLL CALL

The SPEAKER. For the information of the members, the same master roll from yesterday will be used in today's session.

VOTE CORRECTIONS

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Maher.
Mr. MAHER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to correct the record.

On the conference committee report for HB 1168, I was recorded in the affirmative. I wish to be recorded in the negative.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

For what purpose does the gentleman, Mr. Turzai, rise?

Mr. TURZAI. Mr. Speaker, on HB 835, which we voted on, my button malfunctioned. I wish to be in the negative. I was here and the vote did not get recorded.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman. The gentleman's remarks will be spread across the record.

SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR B

**BILL ON CONCURRENCE
IN SENATE AMENDMENTS**

The House proceeded to consideration of concurrence in Senate amendments to **HB 107, PN 2567**, entitled:

An Act authorizing the establishment and maintenance of health savings accounts; providing for special tax provisions; and imposing restrictions on health savings accounts.

On the question,

Will the House concur in Senate amendments?

The SPEAKER. It is moved by the gentleman, Mr. Payne, that the House do concur in the amendments inserted by the Senate.

On the question recurring,

Will the House concur in Senate amendments?

The SPEAKER. Agreeable to the provisions of the Constitution, the yeas and nays will now be taken.

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—198

Adolph	Fairchild	Mackereth	Rubley
Allen	Feeze	Maher	Ruffing
Argall	Fichter	Maitland	Sainato
Armstrong	Fleagle	Major	Samuelson
Baker	Flick	Manderino	Santoni
Baldwin	Forcier	Mann	Sather
Barrar	Frankel	Markosek	Saylor
Bastian	Freeman	Marsico	Scavello
Bebko-Jones	Gabig	McCall	Schroder
Belardi	Gannon	McGeehan	Semmel
Belfanti	Geist	McGill	Shaner
Benninghoff	George	McIlhattan	Shapiro
Biancucci	Gerber	McIlhinney	Sipthoth
Birmelin	Gergely	McNaughton	Smith, B.
Bishop	Gillespie	Melio	Smith, S. H.
Blackwell	Gingrich	Metcalfe	Solobay
Blaum	Godshall	Micozzie	Sonney
Boyd	Good	Millard	Staback
Bunt	Goodman	Miller, R.	Stairs
Butkovitz	Grell	Miller, S.	Steil
Buxton	Grucela	Mundy	Stern
Caltagirone	Gruitza	Mustio	Stetler
Cappelli	Habay	Myers	Stevenson, R.
Casorio	Haluska	Nailor	Stevenson, T.
Causer	Hanna	Nickol	Sturla
Cawley	Harhart	O'Brien	Surra
Civera	Harper	Oliver	Tangretti

Clymer	Harris	O'Neill	Taylor, E. Z.
Cohen	Hasay	Pallone	Taylor, J.
Cornell	Hennessey	Payne	Thomas
Corrigan	Herman	Petrarca	Tigue
Costa	Hershey	Petri	Turzai
Crahalla	Hess	Petrone	Veon
Creighton	Hickernell	Phillips	Vitali
Cruz	Hutchinson	Pickett	Walko
Curry	James	Pistella	Wansacz
Daley	Josephs	Preston	Waters
Dally	Kauffman	Pyle	Watson
DeLuca	Keller, M.	Quigley	Wheatley
Denlinger	Keller, W.	Ramaley	Williams
Dermody	Kenney	Rapp	Wilt
DeWeese	Killion	Raymond	Wojnaroski
DiGirolamo	Kirkland	Readshaw	Wright
Diven	Kotik	Reed	Yewcic
Donatucci	LaGrotta	Reichley	Youngblood
Eachus	Leach	Roberts	Yudichak
Ellis	Lederer	Roebuck	Zug
Evans, D.	Leh	Rohrer	
Evans, J.	Lescovitz	Rooney	Perzel,
Fabrizio	Levdansky	Ross	Speaker

NAYS-0

NOT VOTING-0

EXCUSED-3

Harhai	Rieger	True
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The majority required by the Constitution having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the amendments were concurred in.

Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR A

**BILLS ON CONCURRENCE
IN SENATE AMENDMENTS**

The House proceeded to consideration of concurrence in Senate amendments to **HB 823, PN 2569**, entitled:

An Act providing for the capital budget for the fiscal year 2005-2006, itemizing public highway projects to be constructed or acquired by the Department of Transportation, together with their estimated financial costs; authorizing the incurring of debt without the approval of the electors for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed or acquired by the Department of Transportation; stating the estimated useful life of the projects; and making appropriations.

On the question,
Will the House concur in Senate amendments?

The SPEAKER. It is moved by the gentleman, Mr. Feese, that the House do concur in the amendments inserted by the Senate.

On the question recurring,
Will the House concur in Senate amendments?

The SPEAKER. Agreeable to the provisions of the Constitution, the yeas and nays will now be taken.

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS-197

Adolph	Fairchild	Mackereth	Ruffing
Allen	Feese	Maher	Sainato
Argall	Fichter	Maitland	Samuelson
Armstrong	Fleagle	Major	Santoni
Baker	Flick	Manderino	Sather
Baldwin	Forcier	Mann	Saylor
Barrar	Frankel	Markosek	Scavello
Bastian	Freeman	Marsico	Schroder
Bebko-Jones	Gabig	McCall	Semmel
Belardi	Gannon	McGeehan	Shaner
Belfanti	Geist	McGill	Shapiro
Benninghoff	George	McIlhattan	Siptroth
Biancucci	Gerber	McIlhinney	Smith, B.
Birmelin	Gergely	McNaughton	Smith, S. H.
Bishop	Gillespie	Melio	Solobay
Blackwell	Gingrich	Micozzie	Sonney
Blaum	Godshall	Millard	Staback
Boyd	Good	Miller, R.	Stairs
Bunt	Goodman	Miller, S.	Steil
Butkovitz	Grell	Mundy	Stern
Buxton	Grucela	Mustio	Stetler
Caltagirone	Gruitza	Myers	Stevenson, R.
Cappelli	Habay	Nailor	Stevenson, T.
Casorio	Haluska	Nickol	Sturla
Causer	Hanna	O'Brien	Surra
Cawley	Harhart	Oliver	Tangretti
Civera	Harper	O'Neill	Taylor, E. Z.
Clymer	Harris	Pallone	Taylor, J.
Cohen	Hasay	Payne	Thomas
Cornell	Hennessey	Petrarca	Tigue
Corrigan	Herman	Petri	Turzai
Costa	Hershey	Petrone	Veon
Crahalla	Hess	Phillips	Vitali
Creighton	Hickernell	Pickett	Walko
Cruz	Hutchinson	Pistella	Wansacz
Curry	James	Preston	Waters
Daley	Josephs	Pyle	Watson
Dally	Kauffman	Quigley	Wheatley
DeLuca	Keller, M.	Ramaley	Williams
Denlinger	Keller, W.	Rapp	Wilt
Dermody	Kenney	Raymond	Wojnaroski
DeWeese	Killion	Readshaw	Wright
DiGirolamo	Kirkland	Reed	Yewcic
Diven	Kotik	Reichley	Youngblood
Donatucci	LaGrotta	Roberts	Yudichak
Eachus	Leach	Roebuck	Zug
Ellis	Lederer	Rohrer	
Evans, D.	Leh	Rooney	
Evans, J.	Lescovitz	Ross	Perzel,
Fabrizio	Levdansky	Rubley	Speaker

NAYS-1

Metcalf

NOT VOTING-0

EXCUSED-3

Harhai	Rieger	True
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The majority required by the Constitution having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the amendments were concurred in.

Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

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The House proceeded to consideration of concurrence in Senate amendments to **HB 3, PN 2571**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 27 (Environmental Resources) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for definitions, for allocation of Environmental Stewardship Fund and for administrative expenses; deleting provisions relating to environmental infrastructure grants; providing for fee deposits; authorizing indebtedness for environmental initiatives; authorizing sale of bonds, temporary financing and debt retirement; further providing for disposal fee for municipal waste landfills and deposit of disposal fee; deleting certain sunset provisions; and making a repeal relating to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

On the question,
Will the House concur in Senate amendments?

The SPEAKER. It is moved by the gentleman, Mr. Quigley, that the House do concur in the amendments inserted by the Senate.

On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Mr. Vitali.

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Would someone stand for interrogation, because I just have a couple of questions.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Adolph, indicates he will stand for interrogation. The gentleman, Mr. Vitali, is in order and may proceed.

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This obviously is Growing Greener, an important piece of legislation, and it among other things distributes \$625 million in bond proceeds. My first question is repaying the bond. What is the source of funds to repay the bond debt?

Mr. ADOLPH. Tipping fee, the existing tipping fee.

Mr. VITALI. Are we sure on that point, because I think it may be a variance with some information I have previously received.

Mr. ADOLPH. Yes.

Mr. VITALI. Okay. And when does that start? In other words, let us say—

Mr. ADOLPH. The second year.

Mr. VITALI. I am sorry?

Mr. ADOLPH. The second year will be the first payment.

Mr. VITALI. Now, would that be the \$4 per ton tipping fee on trash that goes to landfills?

Mr. ADOLPH. The tipping fee is currently at \$4.25, and a portion of that will be used to pay the debt.

Mr. VITALI. And right now that money goes toward Growing Greener projects, right?

Mr. ADOLPH. That is correct.

Mr. VITALI. I mean, and I want you to be sure on this, are you saying that since almost right away the bond proceeds will be taken from that, repaid by the tipping fee then, will that money be taken away from existing Growing Greener programs? In other words, the moneys going to the bond debt?

Mr. ADOLPH. There is a net increase.

Mr. VITALI. You are not suggesting the tipping fee is increasing in this, are you?

Mr. ADOLPH. No, I am not suggesting that at all.

Mr. VITALI. Okay.

Mr. ADOLPH. We are increasing the spending. I saw your e-mail earlier, and if we can work from your e-mail—

Mr. VITALI. No, I do not want to work from my e-mail; I just want to ask questions about the bill. My question—

Mr. ADOLPH. Because your e-mail is completely incorrect.

Mr. VITALI. That would be a time for another discussion. But my point—

Mr. ADOLPH. Well, let us discuss it.

The SPEAKER. Would the gentleman suspend.

The gentleman, Mr. Vitali, is entitled to ask any questions that he would like about the amendments inserted by the Senate.

The gentleman, Mr. Vitali.

Mr. VITALI. What I am trying to get at is, will moneys to pay off the bond in years 1, 2, 3, 4 be taken from existing Growing Greener programs?

Mr. ADOLPH. No.

Mr. VITALI. Is it going to be taken from the tipping fee, which currently funds existing Growing Greener programs?

Mr. ADOLPH. Yes.

Mr. VITALI. So is it going to be a loss then to those—

Mr. ADOLPH. No.

Mr. VITALI. And how do you reconcile those two apparently irreconcilable facts?

Mr. ADOLPH. We get back to your e-mail.

Mr. VITALI. I am not asking— The e-mail is not under debate now.

Mr. ADOLPH. Okay. But your e-mail refers to whether there is going to be a net loss or a net gain, and I can show you where there will be a net gain in the environmental programs.

Mr. VITALI. What I am really trying to get at is, if the bonds are being paid from the tipping fee and the tipping fee is funding current Growing Greener programs, how come we are not taking money from existing Growing Greener programs?

Mr. ADOLPH. I believe you are not adding in to your calculation the proceeds from the bond that will go toward the environmental programs.

Mr. VITALI. Okay. Please explain that then.

Mr. ADOLPH. I will be glad to.

The \$625 million will be allocated – okay? – the following way: \$230 million to the Department of Environmental Protection for watershed protection, mine and acid mine remediation, oil and gas well plugging, advanced energy projects, flood protection, geological hazard mitigation, and brownfields remediation. Included in that \$230 million, Mr. Speaker, is at least \$60 million for acid mine drainage abatement and mine cleanup, also up to \$10 million annually to the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority for advanced energy projects. Also in that allocation to DEP will be up to \$5 million annually to DCED (Department of Community and Economic Development) for brownfields remediation. We also have \$217 1/2 million to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for improvements to our State parks and State forests, community parks and recreation programs, and open space preservation. Out of that \$217 1/2 million, at least \$100 million for improvements to State parks and State forests, \$90 million for open space conservation—

Mr. VITALI. Excuse me. Could I stop you there for just a second?

Mr. ADOLPH. Sure.

The SPEAKER. Mr. Vitali, the gentleman was answering a question. I asked him to stop when he was doing that to you; you will have to wait for the gentleman to be finished.

The gentleman, Mr. Adolph.
 Mr. ADOLPH. I am trying to explain how the \$625 million from the bond is going to be allocated into these environmental programs.

Mr. VITALI. But that is not really my question.
 Mr. ADOLPH. I believe it was; I believe it was. I think the gentleman was—

Mr. VITALI. Would it be better if I restated my question?
 Mr. ADOLPH. Well, we have existing tipping fees and we have new money of \$625 million. You have to combine those two in order to find out whether you are going to have a net increase or a net decrease. In your calculations, you do not include the existing tipping fees in your calculation, and I refer to your e-mail—

Mr. VITALI. Again, my e-mail is irrelevant here. I am just trying to ask you to explain the bill.

The SPEAKER. Mr. Vitali, Mr. Vitali, address the Chair. You do not address Mr. Adolph.

Mr. VITALI. Shall I ask another question?
 The SPEAKER. If the gentleman would like to ask another question, ask the question.

Mr. VITALI. Let me move on to the capital improvement projects designation. This, I believe, is \$90 million that the counties can earmark for projects in their counties to be paid for by the bond proceeds. What I really want to get at is and I want to get the record clear as to whether the county can substitute Growing Greener money for projects they heretofore have been using county dollars for. Could you speak to whether under this bill counties can or cannot substitute State Growing Greener bond moneys for county dollars?

Mr. ADOLPH. No.
 Mr. VITALI. In other words, you are saying if a county has a—

The SPEAKER. He answered the question, Mr. Vitali. If the gentleman has another question, you may ask that question.

Mr. VITALI. I just wanted to make the record clear that it is the intent—

The SPEAKER. Mr. Vitali, you asked a question. The gentleman answered your question. He made the record perfectly clear. If you have another question, ask the question.

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That concludes my interrogation. I have no further questions.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question recurring,
 Will the House concur in Senate amendments?
 The SPEAKER. Agreeable to the provisions of the Constitution, the yeas and nays will now be taken.

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—180

Adolph	Fabrizio	Maitland	Samuelson
Allen	Fairchild	Major	Santoni
Argall	Feese	Manderino	Sather
Armstrong	Fichter	Mann	Saylor
Baker	Fleagle	Markosek	Scavello
Baldwin	Flick	Marsico	Schroder
Barrar	Frankel	McCall	Semmel
Bastian	Freeman	McGeehan	Shaner
Bebko-Jones	Gannon	McGill	Shapiro
Belardi	Geist	McIlhattan	Siptroth
Belfanti	George	McIlhinney	Smith, B.

Benninghoff	Gerber	Melio	Smith, S. H.
Biancucci	Gergely	Micozzie	Solobay
Birmelin	Gillespie	Millard	Sonney
Bishop	Gingrich	Miller, R.	Staback
Blackwell	Godshall	Miller, S.	Stairs
Blaum	Good	Mundy	Steil
Boyd	Goodman	Mustio	Stern
Bunt	Grell	Myers	Stetler
Butkovitz	Grucela	Nailor	Stevenson, R.
Buxton	Gruitza	Nickol	Stevenson, T.
Caltagirone	Haluska	O'Brien	Sturla
Cappelli	Hanna	Oliver	Surra
Casorio	Harhart	O'Neill	Tangretti
Cawley	Harper	Pallone	Taylor, E. Z.
Civera	Harris	Payne	Taylor, J.
Clymer	Hasay	Petrarca	Thomas
Cohen	Hennessey	Petri	Tigue
Cornell	Herman	Petrone	Veon
Corrigan	Hershey	Phillips	Vitali
Costa	Hess	Pickett	Walko
Crahalla	Hickernell	Pistella	Wansacz
Cruz	James	Preston	Waters
Curry	Josephs	Quigley	Watson
Daley	Keller, W.	Ramaley	Wheatley
Dally	Kenney	Raymond	Williams
DeLuca	Killion	Readshaw	Wojnaroski
Denlinger	Kirkland	Reed	Wright
Dermody	Kotik	Roberts	Yewcic
DeWeese	LaGrotta	Roebuck	Youngblood
DiGirolamo	Leach	Rooney	Yudichak
Diven	Lederer	Ross	Zug
Donatucci	Leh	Rubley	
Eachus	Lescovitz	Ruffing	
Evans, D.	Levdansky	Sainato	Perzel,
Evans, J.	Mackereth		Speaker

NAYS—18

Causer	Habay	McNaughton	Reichley
Creighton	Hutchinson	Metcalfe	Rohrer
Ellis	Kauffman	Pyle	Turzai
Forcier	Keller, M.	Rapp	Wilt
Gabig	Maher		

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—3

Harhai	Rieger	True
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The majority required by the Constitution having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the amendments were concurred in.

Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

STATEMENT BY MR. ADOLPH

REMARKS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Adolph.

Mr. ADOLPH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, because of the hour I would like to submit my remarks for the record, and I would like to thank my staff, Chairman George, my members of the Environmental Committee, Senator White and her staff, for working very hard on this. I hope I did not leave anybody out, and I think we have a good bill here and we are going to improve the environment in Pennsylvania for the entire Commonwealth.

Thank you very much.

Mr. ADOLPH submitted the following remarks for the Legislative Journal:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HB 3, otherwise known as Green PA, builds upon the already successful Growing Greener Program signed into law in 1999 under the Ridge administration.

Green PA will provide \$625 million over 6 years to continue the funding of essential environmental initiatives in the Commonwealth. We will do this without imposing any new fees or taxes on Pennsylvania families and businesses.

Green PA was created following public hearings conducted by the Green Ribbon Commission, which was a bipartisan committee including members from the House, Senate, and administration.

In May, Pennsylvania voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of investing \$625 million in the State's top environmental programs, including open space and farmland preservation, watershed protection, mine reclamation, water and sewer system support, and the State's Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

With this allocation we will be able to provide some impressive increases in funding for many of our environmental programs. For example, farmland preservation, which is currently receiving \$20 million annually, will, under Green PA, receive more than \$43 million annually, more than double the current amount. Open space preservation, which now receives \$11 million, will get \$21 million under Green PA, and acid mine drainage, which will receive \$2.4 million this year, will receive an impressive and much-needed \$10 million under Green PA.

The best part of the Green PA plan, of course, is that it will place no additional financial burdens on Pennsylvania residents, as no new fees or taxes will be needed to fund these programs. This is responsible environmental stewardship!

It is worth noting that HB 3 has several common points that were contained in the original Green PA proposal first introduced in February. Those common points include 1) dedicated funding for open space; 2) dedicated funding for acid mine drainage; 3) continued funding for agriculture based on the original Growing Greener funding formula; 4) extending the tipping fee; and the most important component, 5) no new taxes or fees! These are all important elements of HB 3 that will continue to make Pennsylvania a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

This has been a long work in progress and would not be possible without the hard work and support of many dedicated people. At this time I would like to thank the staff of the House Environmental Committee, Joe Deklinski and Mark Brown, for all of their hard work; Senator Mary Jo White and her staff; the members of the House Environmental Committee; Democratic chairman of the Environmental Committee, Representative Bud George, and last but not least, Representative Tom Quigley, the prime sponsor of HB 3.

REMARKS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

The SPEAKER. The gentlelady, Mrs. Rubley.

Mrs. RUBLEY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I also would like to submit my remarks for the record. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentlelady.

Mrs. RUBLEY submitted the following remarks for the Legislative Journal:

HB 3 is far from perfect, and many of us would like to see more money put into our environmental programs. I am, however, supporting HB 3 because it includes numerous projects that will improve our environment throughout the Commonwealth.

Many have been asking whether the \$2-per-ton fee from waste disposal that has been dedicated to our recycling programs is being used for the bond debt service. I am pleased to say that that proposal is not part of HB 3, and the recycling moneys remain intact.

I am also pleased that dollars will not be diverted from Growing Greener for housing projects. Although they are worthy, they are already funded from other sources. An amendment has been included to divert money to DCED for downtown revitalization projects which can contribute to environmental improvements. By helping to restore our boroughs and small cities, we are encouraging residents and businesses to remain in or move to these communities, thus helping to protect our farms and greenfields. Also, moneys are earmarked for improvements to our existing sewer and water facilities. This is an opportunity to continue and expand funding for our popular and effective PENNVEST (Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority) program.

HB 3 – Growing Greener II – includes funding for projects that will improve our environment throughout the Commonwealth. Mr. Speaker, I urge members to support HB 3.

REMARKS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

The SPEAKER. The gentlelady, Ms. Harper.

Ms. HARPER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have remarks to submit for the record on this occasion as well. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentlelady.

Ms. HARPER submitted the following remarks for the Legislative Journal:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favor of HB 3, my Montgomery County colleague Representative Tom Quigley's bill, that will allocate the proceeds of the environmental bond recently approved by Pennsylvania's voters by an overwhelming margin.

The whole reason that I am here in the PA House of Representatives and the whole reason that I became involved in politics was the strong commitment I felt to Pennsylvania's beautiful natural environment and the historic character of our communities.

Twenty years ago I started out by going to township meetings to advocate for managing development and saving open spaces and trails. I served as a volunteer on my township's planning commission and realized that while development was inevitable in my home county of Montgomery, good, well-managed growth was not. I realized that if we did not work hard to save the places that should be saved, they would inevitably be paved over, plowed under, or cut down, and our community would lose its sense of place and the woods, meadows, streams, and glades that gave it its soul. Every day, even every hour of every day, in our communities in southeastern Pennsylvania, we are losing our farms, losing our woods, losing our streams, losing our quiet and peaceful natural areas, losing what matters, and losing cannot be replaced.

In my first term here in the House, I sponsored and championed a bill to create a perpetual funding stream for environmental programs here in the State called Making Trash Pay. The bill levied a \$4-per-ton fee on trash dumped in Pennsylvania landfills, and all of the money raised was deposited into the Environmental Stewardship Fund to pay for Governor Ridge's environmental initiative called Growing Greener. It has been very successful, providing about \$84 million a year for Pennsylvania environmental programs. Now we propose to rededicate that fund to its environmental mission in a new way.

Governor Rendell, taking a page from the Ridge administration playbook, proposed ramping up our environmental spending and asked the voters to approve an environmental bond. This ballot question, requesting permission from the voters to borrow \$625 million for "the maintenance and protection of the environment, open space and farmland preservation, watershed protection, abandoned mine

reclamation, acid mine drainage rededication and other environmental initiatives," passed with a resounding "yes."

Tonight we put in the place the authorization to borrow that money and spend it to save our farmland and important natural areas, to revitalize our State parks and create new community parks, to clean up our waterways, and rededicate funds to the important job of being wise stewards of our land and water resources. We have carefully crafted this legislation so that it was not necessary to raise fees or enact new taxes or to raid the Recycling Fund, which will continue to reward communities that recycle their trash. By directing a portion of the existing trash tax to debt service and leaving the balance in the Environmental Stewardship Account, we can ramp up spending while we need it and still continue our pay-as-you-go programs. Nonetheless, this bill allows us to double the amount of money we will have available for open space and farmland easement purchases for each of the next 6 years and to quadruple the money available for acid mine drainage issues that plague the rural areas of our State.

Mr. Speaker, tonight is a historic night for Pennsylvania's natural resources and for my neighbors back in Montgomery County who are losing an acre an hour to suburban sprawl. This funding comes not one moment too soon for us and provides us with the opportunity to work with our county and municipal governments who have already committed funds to these efforts and know full well that doing nothing is not an option for us or the special places and communities we care about.

I urge a "yes" vote on this bill to echo that big "yes" our voters gave this question in May on election day.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

VOTE CORRECTIONS

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Metcalfe.

Mr. METCALFE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to correct the record.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is in order.

Mr. METCALFE. On HB 823 I was recorded as a "no." I would like to be recorded as a "yes."

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The gentleman, Mr. McNaughton.

Mr. McNAUGHTON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To correct the record.

On HB 182 my button malfunctioned, and I would like to be recorded in the negative. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

STATEMENT BY MR. QUIGLEY

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Quigley.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At this late hour I would just ask for brief indulgence of the members, as this important legislation has been passed. I just want to thank Chairman Adolph for his leadership in getting this bill through the process; thank his staff, Joe Deklinski and Mark Brown; thank Chairman Brett Feese and his Appropriations staff.

Again, this was a long process. I think it was something that was worked out in a bipartisan manner, and I think that in the long run it will benefit the citizens of Pennsylvania for years to come, and I just appreciate everyone's help and guidance in this process. As a new member, it has been a great learning experience for me.

Again, I think we have done something good for the future of Pennsylvania. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

STATEMENT BY MR. TIGUE

VOTE CORRECTION

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Tigue.

Mr. TIGUE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, Representative Gruitza asked for all of us to thank the staff who has been staying with us these last couple days for their work and getting everybody prepared. So thank you to the staff, especially those up in the Legislative Reference Bureau who are probably crazy by now.

But I am standing to correct the record. On the final passage of HR 177, I was inadvertently voted in the affirmative and I should have been voted in the negative.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

STATEMENT BY MR. GEORGE

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. George.

Mr. GEORGE. Mr. Speaker, very simply, I echo Chairman Adolph's proffer in that most bills that we work with very diligently very seldom have all we would want within them. The truth of the matter is that Pennsylvania for a long time has been neglected in its environmental matters. This is the start of something that is most necessary. This bill will provide the necessary environmental remediation for all of Pennsylvania.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

VOTE CORRECTION

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Myers.

Mr. MYERS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to correct the record.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is in order.

Mr. MYERS. On HB 489 I was recorded in the negative. I would like to be recorded in the affirmative.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman. The gentleman's remarks will be spread across the record.

SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR C

RULES SUSPENDED

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I move that the rules of the House be immediately suspended for HB 1521, PN 2570.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—169

Adolph	Fabrizio	Mackereth	Santoni
Allen	Fairchild	Maher	Sather
Argall	Feese	Maitland	Saylor
Armstrong	Fichter	Major	Scavello
Baker	Fleagle	Manderino	Schroder

Baldwin	Flick	Markosek	Semmel
Barrar	Forcier	Marsico	Shaner
Bastian	Frankel	McCall	Siptroth
Bebko-Jones	Gabig	McGeehan	Smith, B.
Belardi	Gannon	McGill	Smith, S. H.
Belfanti	Geist	McIlhinney	Solobay
Biancucci	George	McNaughton	Sonney
Birmelin	Gergely	Melio	Staback
Bishop	Gillespie	Micozzie	Stairs
Blackwell	Gingrich	Millard	Steil
Blaum	Godshall	Miller, R.	Stern
Bunt	Good	Miller, S.	Stetler
Butkovitz	Goodman	Mundy	Stevenson, R.
Buxton	Grell	Mustio	Stevenson, T.
Caltagirone	Gruitza	Myers	Sturla
Cappelli	Haluska	Nailor	Surra
Causer	Hanna	Nickol	Taylor, E. Z.
Cawley	Harhart	O'Brien	Taylor, J.
Civera	Harper	Oliver	Thomas
Clymer	Harris	O'Neill	Tigue
Cohen	Hasay	Payne	Veon
Cornell	Hennessey	Petri	Walko
Corrigan	Herman	Petrone	Wansacz
Costa	Hershey	Phillips	Waters
Crahalla	Hess	Pickett	Watson
Cruz	James	Pistella	Wheatley
Curry	Josephs	Preston	Williams
Daley	Keller, M.	Quigley	Wilt
Dally	Keller, W.	Ramaley	Wojnaroski
DeLuca	Kenney	Raymond	Wright
Dermody	Killion	Reichley	Yewcic
DeWeese	Kirkland	Roberts	Youngblood
DiGirolamo	Kotik	Roebuck	Yudichak
Diven	LaGrotta	Rohrer	Zug
Donatucci	Leach	Rooney	
Eachus	Lederer	Ross	
Evans, D.	Leh	Rubley	Perzel,
Evans, J.	Lescovitz	Ruffing	Speaker

NAYS—29

Benninghoff	Grucela	McIlhattan	Reed
Boyd	Habay	Metcalfe	Sainato
Casorio	Hickernell	Pallone	Samuelson
Creighton	Hutchinson	Petrarca	Shapiro
Denlinger	Kauffman	Pyle	Tangretti
Ellis	Levdansky	Rapp	Turzai
Freeman	Mann	Readshaw	Vitali
Gerber			

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—3

Harhai	Rieger	True
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A majority of the members required by the rules having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the motion was agreed to.

**REPORT OF
COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE**

Mr. VEON called up for consideration the following report of the committee of conference on **HB 1521, PN 2570**, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), 46 (Legislature) and 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for compensation; and making an inconsistent repeal.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the report of the committee of conference?

The SPEAKER. Agreeable to the provisions of the Constitution, the yeas and nays will now be taken.

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—119

Adolph	Donatucci	LaGrotta	Ruffing
Allen	Eachus	Leach	Santoni
Argall	Evans, D.	Lederer	Sather
Baker	Evans, J.	Leh	Scavello
Baldwin	Fairchild	Lescovitz	Schroder
Barrar	Feese	Maher	Semmel
Bebko-Jones	Fichter	Maitland	Smith, B.
Belardi	Fleagle	Major	Smith, S. H.
Belfanti	Flick	Manderino	Solobay
Birmelin	Frankel	Markosek	Staback
Bishop	Gannon	McCall	Stetler
Blackwell	Geist	McGeehan	Stevenson, T.
Blaum	George	McGill	Sturla
Bunt	Godshall	McNaughton	Surra
Butkovitz	Good	Micozzie	Taylor, E. Z.
Buxton	Goodman	Miller, S.	Taylor, J.
Caltagirone	Gruitza	Mundy	Thomas
Cappelli	Harper	Mustio	Tigue
Cawley	Harris	O'Brien	Veon
Civera	Hasay	Oliver	Walko
Cohen	Hennessey	Petrone	Wansacz
Cornell	Herman	Phillips	Waters
Corrigan	Hershey	Pickett	Wheatley
Costa	Hess	Pistella	Williams
Crahalla	James	Preston	Wright
Creighton	Josephs	Raymond	Youngblood
Cruz	Keller, W.	Roberts	Zug
Curry	Kenney	Roebuck	
Daley	Killion	Rohrer	Perzel,
Dermody	Kirkland	Rooney	Speaker
DeWeese			

NAYS—79

Armstrong	Gillespie	Metcalfe	Sainato
Bastian	Gingrich	Millard	Samuelson
Benninghoff	Grell	Miller, R.	Saylor
Biancucci	Grucela	Myers	Shaner
Boyd	Habay	Nailor	Shapiro
Casorio	Haluska	Nickol	Siptroth
Causer	Hanna	O'Neill	Sonney
Clymer	Harhart	Pallone	Stairs
Dally	Hickernell	Payne	Steil
DeLuca	Hutchinson	Petrarca	Stern
Denlinger	Kauffman	Petri	Stevenson, R.
DiGirolamo	Keller, M.	Pyle	Tangretti
Diven	Kotik	Quigley	Turzai
Ellis	Levdansky	Ramaley	Vitali
Fabrizio	Mackereth	Rapp	Watson
Forcier	Mann	Readshaw	Wilt
Freeman	Marsico	Reed	Wojnaroski
Gabig	McIlhattan	Reichley	Yewcic
Gerber	McIlhinney	Ross	Yudichak
Gergely	Melio	Rubley	

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—3

Harhai	Rieger	True
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The majority required by the Constitution having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the report of the committee of conference was adopted.

Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

The SPEAKER. Would the gentleman, Mr. Smith, please come to the rostrum.

SENATE MESSAGE

HOUSE BILL CONCURRED IN BY SENATE

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, returned **HB 139, PN 1313**, with information that the Senate has passed the same without amendment.

SENATE MESSAGE

HOUSE AMENDMENTS CONCURRED IN BY SENATE

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, informed that the Senate has concurred in the amendments made by the House of Representatives to **SB 706, PN 1013**.

BILLS SIGNED BY SPEAKER

Bills numbered and entitled as follows having been prepared for presentation to the Governor, and the same being correct, the titles were publicly read as follows:

HB 3, PN 2571

An Act amending Title 27 (Environmental Resources) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for definitions, for allocation of Environmental Stewardship Fund and for administrative expenses; deleting provisions relating to environmental infrastructure grants; providing for fee deposits; authorizing indebtedness for environmental initiatives; authorizing sale of bonds, temporary financing and debt retirement; further providing for disposal fee for municipal waste landfills and deposit of disposal fee; deleting certain sunset provisions; and making a repeal relating to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

HB 107, PN 2567

An Act authorizing the establishment and maintenance of health savings accounts; providing for special tax provisions; and imposing restrictions on health savings accounts.

HB 815, PN 2568

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 the fiscal year July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2006, 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, 2005; 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, the Tobacco Settlement Fund, the Health Care Provider Retention Account and the Community Health Reinvestment Restricted Account to the Executive Department; to provide appropriations from the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account to the Judicial Department for the fiscal year July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2006; to provide appropriations from the Motor License Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2006, for the proper operation of the several departments of the Commonwealth and the Pennsylvania State Police authorized to spend Motor License Fund moneys; 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, 2005, to June 30, 2006, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005; to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds from the General Fund and the Motor License Fund, for the Executive and Legislative Departments of the Commonwealth for the fiscal year July 1, 2004, to June 30, 2005, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004.

HB 823, PN 2569

An Act providing for the capital budget for the fiscal year 2005-2006, itemizing public highway projects to be constructed or acquired by the Department of Transportation, together with their estimated financial costs; authorizing the incurring of debt without the approval of the electors for the purpose of financing the projects to be constructed or acquired by the Department of Transportation; stating the estimated useful life of the projects; and making appropriations.

SB 706, PN 1013

An Act designating the Main Street Bridge in Butler, Butler County, Pennsylvania, as the General Richard Butler Bridge.

Whereupon, the Speaker, in the presence of the House, signed the same.

REMARKS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman, Mr. James, rise?

Mr. JAMES. Submit some remarks for the record on HB 1168.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is in order.

Mr. JAMES submitted the following remarks for the Legislative Journal:

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

I would first like to applaud the budget negotiators and members of leadership that worked so diligently at medical assistance restoration.

Clearly, most members in this chamber share my concern for providing medical services to some of the State's most vulnerable residents.

Through the continued dedication to this issue, the Medicaid restoration of nearly \$143 million is commendable, and I am sure that the people of Pennsylvania thank you. A tremendous gap in Federal funding was bridged through compromise and perseverance.

That being said, there is more funding to make up. We may have been successful in maintaining eligibility to coverage, but there is always more to be done.

We will face similar funding challenges in coming years, and I hope this chamber will consider my proposal to increase the beer tax by supporting HB 1882.

By adjusting the tax, which has been left unchanged since 1947, I anticipate a profit of \$50 million.

By increasing the tax from 8 cents to 25 cents per gallon, which would translate into a few cents difference on our beer purchases, we could offset future Medicaid funding shortfalls.

Again, praise on a noteworthy job by our leadership team for maintaining eligibility for some of our neediest people; the people of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania thank you for that.

REMARKS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

The SPEAKER. Mr. Yudichak.

Mr. YUDICHAK. Mr. Speaker, on HB 3 I would like to submit remarks for the record.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman. The gentleman will submit the remarks.

Mr. YUDICHAK submitted the following remarks for the Legislative Journal:

Mr. Speaker, I commend the people of Pennsylvania for their commitment to preserving our environment for future generations, as indicated by their approval of the \$625 million bond issue on the May 17 primary ballot. Pennsylvanians have demanded a better environment, and today we answer their demands with a historic investment in the preservation and protection of Pennsylvania's environment.

Growing Greener II will clean up polluted rivers, streams, and abandoned mine sites; it will prepare old sites for redevelopment; invest in alternate sources of energy; improve State parks; preserve open space and farmland; and revitalize our distressed communities.

Under the legislation before us today, the State Departments of Environmental Protection, Conservation and Natural Resources, and Community and Economic Development will receive more than \$495 million to implement and continue acid mine drainage abatement and mine cleanup, watershed protection, flood protection, brownfield site remediation, open space conservation, improvement of State parks and forest lands, and community development projects across the State.

This funding is critical in order to continue the success already realized by the original Growing Greener plan. Under that initiative, over 220 local conservation organizations have received millions of dollars in funding, allowing them to finance their continuing efforts to clean up watersheds, enhance environmental protection, and revitalize communities across the Commonwealth.

In my district alone, nearly \$8 million in grant funding has been provided for projects that have resulted in the restoration and preservation of thousands of northeastern Pennsylvania's environment since the program was first established in 1998.

Groups like the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Earth Conservancy, and the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry have been instrumental in securing these grants and moving the projects forward.

The 2004 acquisition of 11,000 undeveloped acres from Theta Land Corp. to protect the area's main watershed and for outdoor recreational purposes is just one example of the projects that have benefited from the Growing Greener Program. In the small community of Warrior Run, a Growing Greener grant has empowered that community to restore an 11-acre parcel of abandoned surface mine land and remove over 2,345 feet of dangerous high wall. In other examples, Growing Greener dollars have leveraged private investments to jump-start the economy of struggling communities and create jobs.

It is imperative that we do not halt the momentum we have gained in completing these projects. The sooner we are able to provide our State agencies and community organizations with access to this funding, the sooner we will be able to continue making strides in the environmental upkeep and preservation that are crucial to the overall health of the Commonwealth and its citizens.

The successes we have enjoyed so far can now be continued as we prepare to implement the second phase of the Growing Greener

Program. I look forward to the future accomplishments we will make with this major investment in the future of Pennsylvania's environment, communities, and potential for economic development.

The Commonwealth's citizens have shown they are committed to making our State cleaner and greener, and the legislature needs to act on that commitment and get the ball rolling. I urge my colleagues to act promptly and enact this funding legislation.

Thank you.

REMARKS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Turzai.

Mr. TURZAI. Mr. Speaker, if I could submit remarks for the record on HB 3.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

Mr. TURZAI submitted the following remarks for the Legislative Journal:

I stand in opposition to HB 3. The Governor's initiative is another bond scheme that continues a trend leading the Commonwealth into more debt which ultimately has to be paid back by our children in taxes with their hard-earned money.

This bond scheme calls for the State to borrow and spend \$625 million for the Governor's pet projects over the next 5 years. However, we will be paying approximately an additional \$325 million in interest payments and fees on top of the \$625 million in principal borrowed for an approximated total cost of \$950 million. The debt service costs, which include principal, fees, and interest, have to be paid over the next 27 years. Governor Rendell's bond scheme diverts millions of tax dollars to be used to pay attorneys and bond underwriters.

Why was all the money borrowed to be spent over the next 5 years? Could it be because the Governor has 2 years left in this term and hopes to be reelected to another 4-year term? He is prohibited from being reelected to a third term by State law. And yet, we will be paying back the borrowed money and more for the next 27 years.

If proponents of this program honestly believe that the projects are worth the expenditures, then they should not be advocating for a bond scheme to be paid out of future tax dollars by the next generation. They should be advocating for a pay-as-you-go program and should have the courage to justify the necessary fees to pay for the wish list they want today.

The original Growing Greener Program was never designed as a bond scheme; it was always a pay-as-you-go program during Governor Ridge's administration. The Growing Greener Program was recently bolstered in 2002 by an increase in a trash disposal fee, primarily with respect to out-of-State waste. This was part of Act 90 of 2002 which was signed by Governor Schweiker. Act 90 provides an average of over \$85 million per year to the Growing Greener Program through 2012. This plan for Growing Greener is in effect today and will be through 2012, with or without the enactment of Governor Rendell's bond scheme in HB 3. There would appear to be no need to revisit Growing Greener until 2012, given the work done during Governor Schweiker's administration.

And what happens when all the money borrowed is used up? Are the proponents going to argue we need to borrow more money for more pet projects all to be paid by future taxpayers?

This bill sets a bad precedent. In the end, the bill creates just another pot of taxpayer money for the Governor to hand out checks for political pet projects at the cost of taxpayers, present and future.

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair would like to thank the members for their patience and indulgence over the last 11 or 12 days.

It has been a very fruitful session. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all very, very much. It was one heck of a week. Thank you.

The Chair would also at this time like to thank the staff, particularly our retiring member after 35 years; a great job, and again, thank you very much.

SENATE MESSAGE

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE ADOPTED BY SENATE

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, informed that the Senate has adopted the report of the committee of conference on the subject of the differences existing between the two Houses on **HB 1521, PN 2570**.

SENATE MESSAGE

HOUSE BILL CONCURRED IN BY SENATE

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, returned **HB 139, PN 1313**, with information that the Senate has passed the same without amendment.

BILLS SIGNED BY SPEAKER

Bills numbered and entitled as follows having been prepared for presentation to the Governor, and the same being correct, the titles were publicly read as follows:

HB 139, PN 1313

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, codifying the Optional County Affordable Housing Funds Act; and making a related repeal.

HB 1521, PN 2570

An Act amending Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), 46 (Legislature) and 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for compensation; and making an inconsistent repeal.

Whereupon, the Speaker, in the presence of the House, signed the same.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. The House is recessed to the call of the Chair.

AFTER RECESS

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

RESOLUTION TABLED

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.
Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I move that HR 43 be placed upon the table.

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

RESOLUTION REMOVED FROM TABLE

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.
Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I move that HR 43 be taken off the table.

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

The SPEAKER. For your information, you were the members that said "aye" and it was agreed to. So thank you for your help.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. The Chair at this time recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Mr. O'Neill.

Mr. O'NEILL. Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do now recess until Tuesday, August 2, 2005, at 1 p.m., e.d.t., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?
Motion was agreed to, and at 12:59 p.m., e.d.t., Tuesday, August 2, 2005, the House recessed.