

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006

SESSION OF 2006

190TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 19

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

**THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
(WILLIAM F. ADOLPH, JR.) PRESIDING**

PRAYER

BISHOP JOSEPH P. McFADDEN, Guest Chaplain of the House of Representatives, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, it is with thanks and praise we come together this morning, recognizing that You are the source of all life and goodness. We thank You for the gift of another day, and we ask that You make our work fruitful as we strive to fashion a true and just society that respects the human dignity of each person and allows the least among us to aspire to greatness.

On this day we are mindful of those men and women of Irish ancestry that have contributed to the building up of this Commonwealth and our nation. We salute their contribution in fashioning a society where the stranger is welcomed and given the opportunity to pursue a better life for themselves and their families. We know that this nation is built upon the mosaic of people of different races and ethnic origins and yet with the common goal of peace and prosperity and the pursuit of their inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We ask You, Lord, to send upon our legislators the gift of wisdom to be used in all their deliberations. May they have a true spirit of generosity in their service to their constituents. May they have the vision to forge a future for the Commonwealth that will always embrace the rich traditions of its ethnic communities while always calling us to a deeper awareness of being one people, one community, and one Commonwealth, promoting justice and peace for all our citizens.

In the spirit of the great patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick, and calling on him for his intercession, we ask now that Almighty God may bless this Assembly, and we ask this with this Irish blessing:

May the lilt of Irish laughter
Lighten every load,
May the mist of Irish magic
Shorten every road,
May you taste the sweetest pleasures
That fortune ere bestowed,
And may all your friends remember
All the favors you are owed.

May You always have these blessings:
A soft breeze when summer comes—
A warm fireside in winter—
And always the warm, soft smile of a friend.

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
The rain fall soft upon your fields,
And may God forever hold you in the hollow of
His hand.

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 Tuesday, March 14, 2006, will be postponed until printed.

COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker acknowledges receipt of the Public Employee Retirement Commission's 2005 Annual Report submitted pursuant to the Public Employee Retirement Commission Act.

(Copy of communication is on file with the Journal clerk.)

CALENDAR

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to third consideration of **HB 1554, PN 3151**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities Act, prohibiting third-party guarantees of payment for admission; imposing powers and duties upon the Department of Health; and imposing penalties for violation.

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

BILL TABLED

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

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I move that HB 1554 be placed on the table.

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

BILL REMOVED FROM TABLE

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

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I move that HB 1554 be taken off the table.

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

BILL REMOVED FROM TABLE

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

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I move that the following bill be taken off the table: HB 2144.

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

BILL TABLED

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

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I move that the following bill be placed on the table: HB 2144.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The clerk will read the appointments pursuant to HR 562.

The following appointments were read:

APPOINTMENTS PURSUANT TO HR 562
SELECT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED
TO EXAMINE MATTERS
RELATING TO INFLUENZA VACCINE SUPPLIES

Honorable Matthew Baker, Chairman
Honorable Sandy Major
Honorable Curt Sonney
Honorable Sue Cornell
Honorable Steve Cappelli
Honorable Fred McIlhattan
Honorable Carole Rubley
Honorable Tina Pickett
Honorable Tom Killion
Honorable Todd Eachus
Honorable John Siptroth
Honorable Jake Wheatley
Honorable Pete Daley
Honorable Linda Bebko-Jones
Honorable Cherielle Parker

SENATE MESSAGE

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

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, returned **HB 983, PN 3717**, with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendment in which the concurrence of the House of Representatives is requested.

HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

No. 2426 By Representatives SCHRODER, ARMSTRONG, BENNINGHOFF, BOYD, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, CORNELL, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, DALLY, DENLINGER, FORCIER, FREEMAN, GABIG, GEIST, GINGRICH, HERMAN, HESS, HUTCHINSON, KAUFFMAN, M. KELLER, MARSICO, McILHATTAN, METCALFE, R. MILLER, MUSTIO, NAILOR, PISTELLA, RAPP, REICHLEY, ROHRER, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SAYLOR, B. SMITH, STEIL, STERN, R. STEVENSON, T. STEVENSON, TANGRETTI, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRUE, TURZAI and ZUG

An Act amending Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, defining "background investigation"; providing for a code of conduct; further providing for establishment of Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, for Category 2 slot machine license, for Category 3 slot machine license and for supplier licenses; providing for manufacturer licenses; and further providing for public official financial interest and for political influence.

Referred to Committee on TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, March 15, 2006.

No. 2493 By Representatives SAYLOR, PETRI, WALKO, WILT, MACKERETH, CALTAGIRONE, BALDWIN, BELFANTI, BEYER, CAPPELLI, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, GINGRICH, HARRIS, KOTIK, R. MILLER, MYERS, RAPP, SONNEY and SURRA

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 22 (Detectives and Private Police) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the offense of impersonating a private investigator, security professional, fugitive recovery agent or employee; amending the heading of Title 22 and 22 Pa.C.S. Ch. 3; codifying and making extensive revisions to The Private Detective Act of 1953; providing for the

continuation of certain licenses; making an appropriation; and making related repeals.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 15, 2006.

No. 2536 By Representatives METCALFE, FORCIER, ARMSTRONG, BAKER, BARRAR, BASTIAN, BENNINGHOFF, BEYER, BUNT, CAPPELLI, CLYMER, CREIGHTON, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, ELLIS, FAIRCHILD, GERGELY, HANNA, HESS, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, LEH, McILHATTAN, McNAUGHTON, MUSTIO, NICKOL, PETRARCA, PHILLIPS, PYLE, RAPP, REED, ROHRER, SATHER, SIPTROTH, S. H. SMITH, R. STEVENSON, T. STEVENSON, E. Z. TAYLOR, TURZAI, WILT, YEWIC, ZUG, DIVEN, LESCOVITZ, MARKOSEK, DERMODY and CAUSER

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the offense of unlawful firearm records; and prescribing a penalty.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 15, 2006.

SENATE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

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

SB 243, PN 244

Referred to Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, March 15, 2006.

SB 773, PN 952

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 15, 2006.

SB 1062, PN 1514

Referred to Committee on LIQUOR CONTROL, March 15, 2006.

SENATE RESOLUTION FOR CONCURRENCE

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

SR 167, PN 1551

Referred to Committee on AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES, March 15, 2006.

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair welcomes the 11th and 12th grade civics class from the Conestoga Christian School located in Morgantown. These students are the guests of Representative Gordon Denlinger and Representative Sam Rohrer. They are located in the balcony.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Leaves for March 15, 2006.

Republicans: Representative TAYLOR of Chester County; the gentleman, Representative HERSHEY of Chester County; the gentlelady, Katie TRUE of Lancaster County.

Democrats: Representative WOJNAROSKI from Cambria and Representative RIEGER from Philadelphia County.

Without objection, the leaves of absence 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—196

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

ADDITIONS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—5

Hershey Taylor, E. Z. True Wojnaroski
Rieger

LEAVES ADDED—3

Evans, D. Kirkland Thomas

LEAVES CANCELED—1

True

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT REPRESENTATIVES INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes Representative Gingrich for a guest introduction.

Mrs. GINGRICH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We will have the great honor and privilege to vote on a resolution later to honor the Junior Achievement program and their special recognition time this week. We have several guests with us today, and I would like to introduce them, if you do not mind, Mr. Speaker. We have Allen Tate with us, who is the president of the Junior Achievement program of central Pennsylvania. Standing in the back we have Kristen Wynn Stellfox with us, who is the director of development, and we have Melissa Sweetz, program director.

Please give a welcome to some fine people running an excellent program, the Junior Achievement in Pennsylvania. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentledady.

USS PENNSYLVANIA CREW MEMBERS PRESENTED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes Representative Tom Tigue.

Mr. TIGUE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Okay; everyone will please take your seats, including the gentleman from Westmoreland. That could mean anyone.

It gives me great pleasure today to introduce a special group whom we have as guests here in the House. They are members of the crew of the USS Pennsylvania. It is a ballistic missile submarine that, as you know, has been throughout the years stationed in Georgia and now it is stationed in Bangor, Washington, and the crew is being represented here today by the following people. Standing here beside me is Ens. Jeffrey Bouton; we have Chief PO Ronald Cheney; Electronic Technician Todd Julius; Machinist Mate Michael Mathura; and Machinist Mate Michael Cox. Let us hear it for the crew of the USS Pennsylvania.

Just so we are all aware, the crew and the boat, the USS Pennsylvania, have been acknowledged by the United States Strategic Command as the best of the best. Just think about that – the best of the best – and the U.S. Strategic Command confers what is called the Omaha Trophy on deserving military

professionals who distinguish themselves, and in this case, the USS Pennsylvania, the officers and the sailors on that boat, were awarded the Omaha Trophy for excellence and far surpassing any standards set forth.

So on behalf of all of us and the Speaker, Mr. Perzel, I would like to congratulate the crew of the USS Pennsylvania not just for a job well done but for a job superbly done, and I would like to give Ensign Bouton a citation from the House, and it is signed by Speaker Perzel. Congratulations.

ENSIGN BOUTON. On behalf of both crews of the USS Pennsylvania, I am here to thank you all for recognizing us this morning. We are all very proud to serve on the USS Pennsylvania, which is named after the Commonwealth and this great State.

Thank you very much, everybody.

Mr. TIGUE. Just one last comment.

Ensign Bouton is a graduate of Penn State.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE CANCELED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the presence of the gentledady from Lancaster, Katie True, who will be put on the master roll call.

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes Mr. Robert Bender, who is sitting to the left of the Chair. Mr. Bender is president of the Navy League of Philadelphia and president of the USS Pennsylvania Foundation. Please rise.

The Chair also welcomes Becky Hoffman, who is here today serving as a guest page. Becky is in the 10th grade at Chambersburg Senior High School. She is the guest of Representative Rob Kauffman. She is located in the well of the House.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes Representative Tim Hennessey from Chester County, vice chairman of the Irish Caucus.

Mr. HENNESSEY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop McFadden, ladies and gentlemen, we have a bit of a treat for you this morning, but first let me just say a few words, if I may.

Over the centuries, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been blessed with a wonderful mix of peoples from all walks of life and from many traditions and cultures. Among those, waves of Irish immigrants helped to build our Commonwealth and create the strong social fabric of modern Pennsylvania.

Since today is the last session day before St. Patrick's Day, the Pennsylvania Irish Caucus would like to entertain you and our PCN (Pennsylvania Cable Network) viewers with just a bit of Irish culture.

MARINCE FAMILY INTRODUCED

Mr. HENNESSEY. Joining us today is a family of Irish dancers from Representative Mark Mustio's district in western

Pennsylvania, who will perform for us, and I will ask Representative Mustio to come forward and introduce the family. Representative Mustio.

Mr. MUSTIO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Gary and Mary Kay Marince of Moon Township and their children – Sarah, Christopher, and Elizabeth – are present in the hall of the House today.

The three siblings are all decorated medalists in Irish dance. Christopher, 13, a Moon Area eighth grade student, is a championship-level dancer who represented the United States at the Irish Dancing World Championships in Ireland last spring. He has qualified for the national championships in San Diego in July, where he will have an opportunity to again qualify for the world championships.

Sarah is a 15-year-old sophomore at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School, also in Moon. She and her 11-year-old sister, Elizabeth, a Moon Area sixth grader, are preliminary championship-level dancers.

All three Marince children regularly travel the United States and Canada to compete in Irish dance competitions. The Marince trio appears every March on area radio and TV shows, dancing and singing traditional Irish songs.

They come by their interests in Ireland through their grandparents, the O'Donoghues, who immigrated to the United States in the early 1950s. Sarah, Christopher, and Elizabeth are in their sixth year of instruction at the Bell School of Irish Dance in North Hills, and I invite all of you to be in the lower rotunda at 12:30 to see them not only dance but also sing.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome the Marince family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will please take their seats.

(Irish reels were performed.)

Mr. HENNESSEY. Thank you very much. You were wonderful, kids.

I know you are all wondering and the answer is no, I cannot dance like that, but there was a subtle message from Christopher in this whole thing, and that is if you work hard and become a good Irish dancer, it is not all that difficult to surround yourself with pretty girls, so—

McCLOSKEY FAMILY INTRODUCED

Mr. HENNESSEY. We also welcome back to the House floor today a good friend, Tom McCloskey. He has been with us before and sung for us on a number of occasions.

I will ask the chairman of the Pennsylvania Irish Caucus, Tom Corrigan from Bucks County, to introduce Tom.

Mr. CORRIGAN. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, before I introduce Tom McCloskey, I would like to introduce his family, some of his family who have traveled here together today. The family cannot all get in one car, so this is part of his family. His mother, Mary, is with us today. Will you stand, Mary, please? His son, Kevin, and his wife, Barbara.

At the break today, I would like to invite all of you to 60 East Wing. There will be an Irish luncheon down there, and Tom McCloskey will entertain there as well. So if you could come down, we would certainly enjoy having you.

TOM McCLOSKEY PRESENTED

Mr. CORRIGAN. With that, Tom McCloskey is going to entertain here. He has been back, I guess this is the fourth or fifth time. It is always great to have him. He is a gentleman from Bucks County that we are all proud of.

Tom, would you step forward. Thank you.

Mr. McCLOSKEY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, Tom Corrigan, many special thanks to you for this opportunity to share our Irish heritage, and happy St. Patrick's Day to you all.

(“Too Ra Loo Ral” was sung by Tom McCloskey.)

Mr. McCLOSKEY. Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

I will give you one more, and then we are off to the lunch down there.

Always by special request by Tom Corrigan, and I would like to in this year, in his final year in the House, dedicate it to him, and also a mutual good friend, Matt Ryan, Speaker Ryan.

(“O Danny Boy” was sung by Tom McCloskey.)

Mr. McCLOSKEY. God bless. Thank you very much.

Happy St. Patrick's Day. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Mr. HENNESSEY. Thank you, Tom. Thanks to the Marince family.

Ladies and gentlemen, we hope you have enjoyed this little taste of Irish culture. Top o' the mornin' to you.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Thank you.

GUEST INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair welcomes Angela Keller, an intern from Millersville University. Angela is the guest of Representative Mauree Gingrich, and Angela is in the back of the floor. Welcome.

STATEMENT BY MR. McGEEHAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would like to recognize the gentleman from Philadelphia, Representative Michael McGeehan.

Mr. McGEEHAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, if you grew up in an Irish-American family in Philadelphia, no self-respecting Irish-American family in Philadelphia would celebrate St. Patrick's Day without Irish potatoes, and I want to recognize, it has been my pleasure to provide to the members a little taste of that Philadelphia Irish experience to the members for lo this many 16 years. It would not be done, though, Mr. Speaker, without the tireless efforts of those special leprechauns that I would like to thank and ask you to thank as well, who toil every year to provide these. I want to thank my “Aunt Sis” Mary Kaeppler; my sisters, Megan DeRocini, Kerry Creelman, and my sister, Nora McGeehan. I want to thank my cousin, Elaine Brightcliff. I want to thank my cousin's

daughter, Karen Ashley Fota; and my two nieces, Erin DeRocini and Hannah Creelman.

Would you join me, Mr. Speaker, in thanking them for providing these delicious treats.

FILMING PERMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair wishes to advise the members that it has given permission to Mr. Andrew P. Blackburn of the news organization Lancaster New Era. He will be taking still photographs.

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would like to welcome the ninth grade civics students from Upper St. Clair. These students are the guests of Representative John Maher. They are located in the balcony. Would you please rise.

SOUTH PARK HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER AND FOOTBALL TEAMS PRESENTED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes Representative Levdansky for a citation presentation. Representative Levdansky.

Mr. LEVDANSKY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am a graduate of Penn State University, so blue and white normally means to me Penn State's colors. But back in the 39th Legislative District, blue and white stands for the South Park Eagles. I am proud and privileged to be able to stand here today to honor the football and soccer State champions, the South Park Eagles.

This year the soccer team compiled a record of 23 wins, no losses, and 3 ties. South Park is the State champion in soccer and football in Class AA, and the 3 ties that the soccer team had were all against AAA teams. In 26 games, in 26 soccer games, this team gave up 10 goals. These guys know how to play defense pretty darn good. This is a dedicated, talented, close, hardworking group of team members on the soccer team that never gave up.

The football team this year compiled a perfect 16 wins, no losses. No other team has ever done that, and on a cold winter day in December at Hershey Stadium, the South Park Eagles Football Team was in trouble. In the first half, things did not go their way and they were down 17-7 to Wilson, and the Wilson Area quarterback was having a heck of a game. But in the second half, the coach and the team rallied with composure and confidence and did what they had to do, and they pulled out an upset in a 28-to-17 victory that cold winter day in Harrisburg.

I am joined today, the head coach of the soccer team is Jon Cantwell. His assistant coaches are Marc Bellora, Matt Sampogna, and Andy Jackson. The senior team members, the senior team captains up here, are Kris Koepl, T. J. O'Brien, Reece Selzer, and Dan Gardner.

And the football team, the AA champs in State football, the head coach is Tom Loughran. His assistant coaches are John Dieterle, Bill Wright, John Moritz, Chris Stoicovy, Bob Sporio, Marty Rieck, Brian Abbey, Scott Shaw, and Jim Adams. And I am joined up here by the five football captains.

The team captains are Brandon Detwiler, Connor Dixon, Tyler Scruggs, Kirk Fulton, and Adam Gill.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a member of the General Assembly for going on 22 years now, and this is not the first time that a school district in my legislative district has won the State championship in a particular interscholastic sport, but it is certainly the first time in my career that I can remember that the State championship football team and the State championship soccer team both hailed from the same school district.

My congratulations to the team, to the coaches, to their staff, to the dedication and hard work of these young men that have brought so much pride to the community of South Park, to their school district, and to their parents as well. Please join me in congratulating the South Park Eagles for their outstanding and winning season in both soccer and football.

One final thing, Mr. Speaker, one final thing. This is an opportunity also to introduce, these are the team captains and the head coach, but let me also call attention and recognition to the about 120 team members of the football and soccer teams. Would you guys in the back stand for a round of applause.

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would like to thank the Irish Caucus for bringing their guests here today and entertaining us and keeping up this great tradition.

I would also like to thank Bishop McFadden for being our Chaplain today and keeping that tradition up.

I would also like to thank Speaker John Perzel for giving me this honor of presiding over the House of Representatives today on this special occasion. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE (ROBERT J. FLICK) PRESIDING

RESOLUTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE 35

Mrs. GINGRICH called up **HR 599, PN 3592**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of March 2006 as "Junior Achievement Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—196

Adolph	Fairchild	Maher	Ross
Allen	Feese	Maitland	Rubley
Argall	Fichter	Major	Ruffing
Armstrong	Fleagle	Manderino	Sainato
Baker	Flick	Mann	Samuelson
Baldwin	Forcier	Markosek	Santoni
Barrar	Frankel	Marsico	Sather
Bastian	Freeman	McCall	Saylor
Bebko-Jones	Gabig	McGeehan	Scavello
Belardi	Gannon	McGill	Schroder
Belfanti	Geist	McIlhattan	Semmel
Benninghoff	George	McIlhinney	Shaner
Beyer	Gerber	McNaughton	Shapiro

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

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—5

Hershey	Taylor, E. Z.	True	Wojnaroski
Rieger			

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

* * *

Mr. REICHLEY called up **HR 613, PN 3616**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of April 23 through 30, 2006, as "Animal Abuse Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—196

Adolph	Fairchild	Maher	Ross
Allen	Feese	Maitland	Rubley
Argall	Fichter	Major	Ruffing
Armstrong	Fleagle	Manderino	Sainato
Baker	Flick	Mann	Samuelson

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

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—1

EXCUSED—4

True

Hershey	Rieger	Taylor, E. Z.	Wojnaroski
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The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

* * *

Mr. SOLOBAY called up **HR 636, PN 3661**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of April 2006 as "Lupus Alert Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—196

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

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—1

Perzel,
Speaker

EXCUSED—4

Hershey	Rieger	Taylor, E. Z.	Wojnaroski
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The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

Mr. McGEEHAN called up **HR 637, PN 3662**, entitled:

A Resolution declaring March 2006 as "Irish American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—196

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

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—1

Bunt

EXCUSED—4

Hershey Rieger Taylor, E. Z. Wojnaroski

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

* * *

Mr. SAMUELSON called up **HR 645, PN 3680**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of April 2006 as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—197

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

Evans, J. Levdansky Rooney Perzel,
Fabrizio Mackereth Ross Speaker

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—4

Hershey Rieger Taylor, E. Z. Wojnaroski

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

* * *

Mr. STABACK called up **HR 647, PN 3682**, entitled:

A Resolution designating March 29, 2006, as “Helen Phillips CASUAL Day for Colon Cancer Awareness” in northeastern Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—197

Adolph	Fairchild	Maher	Rubley
Allen	Feese	Maitland	Ruffing
Argall	Fichter	Major	Sainato
Armstrong	Fleagle	Manderino	Samuelson
Baker	Flick	Mann	Santoni
Baldwin	Forcier	Markosek	Sather
Barrar	Frankel	Marsico	Saylor
Bastian	Freeman	McCall	Scavello
Bebko-Jones	Gabig	McGeehan	Schroder
Belardi	Gannon	McGill	Semmel
Belfanti	Geist	McIlhattan	Shaner
Benninghoff	George	McIlhinney	Shapiro
Beyer	Gerber	McNaughton	Sipthoth
Biancucci	Gergely	Melio	Smith, B.
Birmelin	Gillespie	Metcalfe	Smith, S. H.
Bishop	Gingrich	Micozzie	Solobay
Blackwell	Godshall	Millard	Sonney
Blaum	Good	Miller, R.	Staback
Boyd	Goodman	Miller, S.	Stairs
Bunt	Grell	Mundy	Steil
Buxton	Grucela	Mustio	Stern
Caltagirone	Gruitza	Myers	Stetler
Cappelli	Haluska	Nailor	Stevenson, R.
Casorio	Hanna	Nickol	Stevenson, T.
Causar	Harhai	O'Brien	Sturla
Cawley	Harhart	Oliver	Surra
Civera	Harper	O'Neill	Tangretti
Clymer	Harris	Pallone	Taylor, J.
Cohen	Hasay	Parker	Thomas
Cornell	Hennessey	Payne	Tigue
Corrigan	Herman	Petrarca	True
Costa	Hess	Petri	Turzai
Crahalla	Hickernell	Petrone	Veon
Creighton	Hutchinson	Phillips	Vitali
Cruz	James	Pickett	Walko
Curry	Josephs	Pistella	Wansacz
Daley	Kauffman	Preston	Waters
Dally	Keller, M.	Pyle	Watson
DeLuca	Keller, W.	Quigley	Wheatley
Denlinger	Kenney	Ramaley	Williams

Dermody	Killion	Rapp	Wilt
DeWeese	Kirkland	Raymond	Wright
DiGirolamo	Kotik	Readshaw	Yewcic
Diven	LaGrotta	Reed	Youngblood
Donatucci	Leach	Reichley	Yudichak
Eachus	Lederer	Roberts	Zug
Ellis	Leh	Roebuck	
Evans, D.	Lescovitz	Rohrer	
Evans, J.	Levdansky	Rooney	Perzel,
Fabrizio	Mackereth	Ross	Speaker

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—4

Hershey	Rieger	Taylor, E. Z.	Wojnaroski
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The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Feese, for a committee announcement.

Mr. FEESE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, at the declaration of the recess, the House Appropriations Committee will meet in the conference room.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Appropriations Committee will meet at the recess in the conference room.

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman, Representative Bunt, seek recognition?

Mr. BUNT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized.

Mr. BUNT. Mr. Speaker, at the declaration of the recess by the Speaker, there will be a Republican caucus meeting immediately in the majority caucus room.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman, Mr. Cohen, wish to be recognized? The gentleman is so recognized.

Mr. COHEN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there will be an immediate meeting of the Democratic caucus upon the call of the recess.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

Are there any further announcements?

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This House stands in recess until 1:15.

AFTER RECESS

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

THE SPEAKER (JOHN M. PERZEL) PRESIDING

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the minority whip, who moves for a leave of absence for the remainder of the day for the gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. THOMAS. Without objection, that leave will be granted.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE, CONSIDERED FIRST TIME, AND TABLED

HB 2499, PN 3673

By Rep. FEESE

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, 2006, to June 30, 2007, 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, 2006; 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, 2006, to June 30, 2007; to provide appropriations from the Motor License Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007, 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, 2006, to June 30, 2007, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006; to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds from the General Fund and the Motor License Fund, for the Executive Department of the Commonwealth for the fiscal year July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2006, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2504, PN 3684

By Rep. FEESE

A Supplement to the act of April 1, 1863 (P.L.213, No.227), entitled "An act to accept the grant of Public Lands, by the United States, to the several states, for the endowment of Agricultural Colleges," making appropriations for carrying the same into effect; and providing for a basis for payments of such appropriations, for a method of accounting for the funds appropriated and for certain fiscal information disclosure.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2505, PN 3685

By Rep. FEESE

A Supplement to the act of July 28, 1966 (3rd Sp.Sess., P.L.87, No.3), entitled "An act providing for the establishment and operation of the University of Pittsburgh as an instrumentality of the Commonwealth to serve as a State-related university in the higher education system of the Commonwealth; providing for change of name; providing for the composition of the board of trustees; terms of trustees, and the power and duties of such trustees; authorizing appropriations in amounts to be fixed annually by the General Assembly; providing for the auditing of accounts of expenditures from said appropriations; providing for public support and capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of bonds exempt from taxation within the Commonwealth; requiring the chancellor to make an annual report of the operations of the University of Pittsburgh," making appropriations for carrying the same into effect; providing for a basis for payments of such appropriations, for a method of accounting for the funds appropriated and for certain fiscal information disclosure.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2506, PN 3686

By Rep. FEESE

A Supplement to the act of November 30, 1965 (P.L.843, No.355), known as the Temple University-Commonwealth Act, making appropriations for carrying the same into effect; providing for a basis for payments of such appropriations; and providing a method of accounting for the funds appropriated and for certain fiscal information disclosure.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2507, PN 3687

By Rep. FEESE

A Supplement to the act of July 7, 1972 (P.L.743, No.176), known as the Lincoln University-Commonwealth Act, making an appropriation for carrying the same into effect; providing for a basis for payments of the appropriation; and providing a method of accounting for the funds appropriated and for certain fiscal information disclosure.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2508, PN 3688

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Trustees of Drexel University, Philadelphia.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2509, PN 3689

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making appropriations to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2510, PN 3690

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making appropriations to the Philadelphia Health and Education Corporation for the Colleges of Medicine, Public Health, Nursing and Health Professions and for continuation of pediatric services.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2511, PN 3691

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making appropriations to the Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2512, PN 3692

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Philadelphia.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2513, PN 3693

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, Erie.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2514, PN 3694

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Philadelphia.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2515, PN 3695

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the University of the Arts, Philadelphia, for instruction and student aid.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2516, PN 3696

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making appropriations to the Trustees of the Berean Training and Industrial School at Philadelphia for operation and maintenance expenses and for payment of debt service.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2517, PN 3697

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Johnson Technical Institute of Scranton for operation and maintenance expenses.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2518, PN 3698

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades in Delaware County for operation and maintenance expenses.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2519, PN 3699

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Fox Chase Institute for Cancer Research, Philadelphia, for the operation and maintenance of the cancer research program.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2520, PN 3700

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Wistar Institute, Philadelphia, for operation and maintenance expenses and for AIDS research.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2521, PN 3701

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Central Penn Oncology Group.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2522, PN 3702

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Lancaster Cleft Palate for outpatient-inpatient treatment.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2523, PN 3703

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Burn Foundation, Philadelphia, for outpatient and inpatient treatment.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2524, PN 3704

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to The Children's Institute, Pittsburgh, for treatment and rehabilitation of certain persons with disabling diseases.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2525, PN 3705

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for comprehensive patient care and general maintenance and operation of the hospital.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2526, PN 3706

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Beacon Lodge Camp.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2527, PN 3707

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making appropriations to the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh for operations and maintenance expenses and the purchase of apparatus, supplies and equipment.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2528, PN 3708

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Franklin Institute Science Museum for maintenance expenses.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2529, PN 3709

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Academy of Natural Sciences for maintenance expenses.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2530, PN 3710

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the African-American Museum in Philadelphia for operating expenses.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2531, PN 3711

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Everhart Museum in Scranton for operating expenses.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2532, PN 3712

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Mercer Museum in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, for operating expenses.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 2533, PN 3713

By Rep. FEESE

An Act making an appropriation to the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for operating expenses.

APPROPRIATIONS.

SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR B**RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO RULE 35**

Mr. PAYNE called up **HR 648, PN 3726**, entitled:

A Resolution honoring the Pennsylvania Capitol Police on the occasion of its 111th anniversary on March 26, 2006.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—196

Adolph	Fairchild	Maher	Ross
Allen	Feese	Maitland	Rubley
Argall	Fichter	Major	Ruffing
Armstrong	Fleagle	Manderino	Sainato
Baker	Flick	Mann	Samuelson
Baldwin	Forcier	Markosek	Santoni
Barrar	Frankel	Marsico	Sather
Bastian	Freeman	McCall	Saylor
Bebko-Jones	Gabig	McGeehan	Scavello
Belardi	Gannon	McGill	Schroder
Belfanti	Geist	McIlhattan	Semmel
Benninghoff	George	McIlhinney	Shaner
Beyer	Gerber	McNaughton	Shapiro
Bianucci	Gergely	Melio	Siptroth

Birmelin	Gillespie	Metcalfe	Smith, B.
Bishop	Gingrich	Micozzie	Smith, S. H.
Blackwell	Godshall	Millard	Solobay
Blaum	Good	Miller, R.	Sonney
Boyd	Goodman	Miller, S.	Staback
Bunt	Grell	Mundy	Stairs
Buxton	Grucela	Mustio	Steil
Caltagirone	Gruitza	Myers	Stern
Cappelli	Haluska	Nailor	Stetler
Casorio	Hanna	Nickol	Stevenson, R.
Causer	Harhai	O'Brien	Stevenson, T.
Cawley	Harhart	Oliver	Sturla
Civera	Harper	O'Neill	Surra
Clymer	Harris	Pallone	Tangretti
Cohen	Hasay	Parker	Taylor, J.
Cornell	Hennessey	Payne	Tigue
Corrigan	Herman	Petrarca	True
Costa	Hess	Petri	Turzai
Crahalla	Hickernell	Petrone	Veon
Creighton	Hutchinson	Phillips	Vitali
Cruz	James	Pickett	Walko
Curry	Josephs	Pistella	Wansacz
Daley	Kauffman	Preston	Waters
Dally	Keller, M.	Pyle	Watson
DeLuca	Keller, W.	Quigley	Wheatley
Denlinger	Kenney	Ramaley	Williams
Dermody	Killion	Rapp	Wilt
DeWeese	Kirkland	Raymond	Wright
DiGirolo	Kotik	Readshaw	Yewcic
Diven	LaGrotta	Reed	Youngblood
Donatucci	Leach	Reichley	Yudichak
Eachus	Lederer	Roberts	Zug
Ellis	Leh	Roebuck	
Evans, D.	Lescovitz	Rohrer	
Evans, J.	Levdansky	Rooney	Perzel,
Fabrizio	Mackereth		Speaker

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—5

Hershey	Taylor, E. Z.	Thomas	Wojnaroski
Rieger			

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

HARRISBURG LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Mr. GRUCELA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a request for Capitol leave for the gentleman from Luzerne, Mr. YUDICHAK, and the gentleman from Allegheny, Mr. GERGELY.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, those leaves will be granted.

Mr. GRUCELA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO RULE 35

Mr. CASORIO called up **HR 649, PN 3727**, entitled:

A Resolution honoring the 140th anniversary of the founding of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on April 10, 2006.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—196

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

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—5

Hershey Taylor, E. Z. Thomas Wojnaroski
Rieger

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR C

RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO RULE 35

Mr. McCALL called up **HR 651, PN 3731**, entitled:

A Resolution observing March 31, 2006, as “National Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Recognition Day” in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—196

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

Eachus	Lederer	Roberts	Zug
Ellis	Leh	Roebuck	
Evans, D.	Lescovitz	Rohrer	
Evans, J.	Levdansky	Rooney	Perzel,
Fabrizio	Mackereth		Speaker

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—5

Hershey	Taylor, E. Z.	Thomas	Wojnaroski
Rieger			

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

CALENDAR CONTINUED

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to third consideration of **HB 1526, PN 1859**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 8, 1937 (P.L.262, No.66), known as the Consumer Discount Company Act, further providing for powers conferred on licensees.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the bill on third consideration?
Bill was agreed to.

The SPEAKER. This bill has been considered on three different days and agreed to and is now on final passage.
The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Vitali.
Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
Would the maker of the bill give a brief explanation?
The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Allen, indicates that he will give a brief explanation of the bill.
The Chair apologizes. It is Representative Geist's bill.
Mr. GEIST. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
I have a question of the Chair.
Did the Democrats caucus on this bill?
The SPEAKER. The Democrats indicate they have caucused on the bill.

Mr. GEIST. Okay. It is a very simple bill. It is a technical amendment. It levels the playing field for all lenders, and it is a very easy “yes” vote.

The SPEAKER. Mr. Vitali.

Mr. VITALI. Regrettably, Mr. Speaker, I was in a series of committee meetings which kept me from caucus. I am just wondering if Representative Geist could just thresh out the contents of that in a little greater detail.

Mr. GEIST. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I could not hear him.

Mr. VITALI. I will repeat. Initially I said, regrettably because of a series of committee meetings this morning, I was not in caucus to hear that, so I am at a loss. But I wonder if you could just give a little more detailed explanation of the contents of this bill.

Mr. GEIST. This bill amends existing law to place a delinquency charge of \$20 or 10 percent of the payment, whichever is higher, for a default of more than 15 days. This is for closed-end loans. The current default charge which would be replaced is one-half of 1 percent or \$1 for a default exceeding 10 days. As far as we know, this levels the playing field with all other institutions, and that would be the simple explanation.

Mr. VITALI. Have any groups, for example, consumer advocacy groups or other groups, weighed in one way or the other on this one?

Mr. GEIST. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I am having a very difficult time hearing him.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman has every right to be heard. Please keep the noise levels down. Please.

Mr. VITALI. I am sorry. My question was, have any groups in particular, consumer advocacy groups or other groups, weighed in one way or the other on this legislation?

Mr. GEIST. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely nobody. It has been universally accepted, and we have had nobody oppose it. Nobody has come to see us that has been against it at all, and it is more of a technical amendment than anything that, I would say, would be drawing any kind of critical fire in this Capitol.

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SURRA. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Surra.

Mr. SURRA. If the gentleman would just stand for very brief interrogation.

Mr. GEIST. I would be delighted.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman indicates that he would be delighted.

Mr. SURRA. Thank you, my friend.

As I read this, we would be charging a 1 1/2 percent per month or a minimum of \$1 charge on top of the existing late-fee charge. Is that correct?

Mr. GEIST. This bill would bring it in compliance with all others in the industry, and everybody would be on the same playing field.

Mr. SURRA. I understand that, but under current law, it is a \$20 fee, late-fee charge, or — or — 10 percent, whichever is greater. This would be in addition to that \$20— Oh, it would do away with the \$20 fee?

Mr. GEIST. Yes. It is “or.”

Mr. SURRA. What the language says here in my brief, it says this subsection sets the additional charge. Okay? An additional charge, and as I read it, it is on top of the late fee that was changed in the 1994 law.

Mr. GEIST. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that you have a sidebar with Stacia Ritter, who does excellent work for Representative Markosek, who wrote the brief on this, and I believe that she would give you a very clear and concise explanation that would make your “yes” vote a very easy “yes” vote.

Mr. SURRA. Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If we could just suspend momentarily until I can get that clarified.

Mr. GEIST. Let me add one more thing here, Mr. Speaker: “...(15) days, which is in lieu of any default charge in clause K.” So it would be fine.

Mr. SURRA. Mr. Speaker, if we could just defer the vote momentarily.

The SPEAKER. The House will be at ease.

Mr. SURRA. Mr. Speaker?

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair returns to leaves of absence.

The minority whip requests a leave of absence for the gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. EVANS, for the remainder of the day. Without objection, that leave will be granted.

CONSIDERATION OF HB 1526 CONTINUED

The SPEAKER. Mr. Surra.

Mr. SURRA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On the bill.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is in order.

Mr. SURRA. First of all, I want to thank the members of the House for allowing that short break in time to clarify this piece of legislation, and as I understand it, it would probably be better than the current situation. And if you remember, back in 1994 I was very opposed to the changes in the banking law at that time, because a senior citizen that missed a \$15 monthly payment on their freezer that they borrowed money for to buy it from Sears would have been charged a \$20 minimum late-fee payment, and that was passed into law and it has been the law of the land since then. This would actually probably be a better situation for those people that default or miss one payment, and I would suggest that it is good for the consumer, and I am going to vote for the legislation.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The gentleman, Mr. Geist.

Mr. GEIST. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am in agreement with Representative Surra and would urge a “yes” vote on this so that we bring all banking in compliance under the same rules.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

Mr. Samuelson.

Mr. SAMUELSON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I also just had a question for the prime sponsor.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman indicates he will stand for interrogation. The gentleman is in order.

Mr. SAMUELSON. Under the existing law, as I understand it, a person can be charged a late fee of 1 1/2 percent a month. As I read this bill, this would change it so that there would be either a flat fee of \$20 or 10 percent of the balance. So if somebody was 1 month late, under the old law they might get 1 1/2 percent; under the new law they could get a 10-percent surcharge. Am I understanding that correctly?

Mr. GEIST. Yes, sir.

Mr. SAMUELSON. Even if you were only late 1 month, you would go from a 1 1/2-percent surcharge up to a 10-percent surcharge. Is that right?

Mr. GEIST. Yes, sir. That is the way it is for all others. The Banking Code has it; we have it everywhere other than here, and this would correct everything to put everybody on the same playing field.

Mr. SAMUELSON. Put all the financial institutions on the same playing field, but the consumer actually could face a higher surcharge if they were 1 month late.

Mr. GEIST. They could, but I agree with what Representative Surra said. This is actually, I think, proconsumer.

Mr. SAMUELSON. Okay. Thank you for answering my interrogation.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The gentleman, Mr. Freeman.

Mr. FREEMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, would the gentleman, Mr. Geist, please stand for a brief period of interrogation?

The SPEAKER. The gentleman indicates he will stand for interrogation. The gentleman is in order.

Mr. FREEMAN. Mr. Speaker, just to add a little more clarity, since I was not a party to the sidebar that was at the minority leader's desk. As I read this legislation, if a person's payment for the month is below \$200 a month, chances are they will end up paying a late fee of \$20 or slightly less. But the way the language reads, it says whichever is higher, so I assume \$20 is the bare minimum that they will be required to pay. Is that correct?

Mr. GEIST. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Would it be in order to ask you to give us about a 10-minute timeout here until we get some information to members that would be positive and definitive? If that would be okay with you, to hold this over for a couple of minutes, I would appreciate it.

Mr. FREEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I assume that was directed at the Speaker.

BILL PASSED OVER TEMPORARILY

The SPEAKER. The Chair will go over the bill temporarily.

Mr. GEIST. Thank you.

Mr. FREEMAN. Thank you.

HARRISBURG LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Mr. ARGALL. Mr. Speaker, if it is in order now, I would like to place the gentleman from Westmoreland, Representative STAIRS, on Capitol leave.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, that leave will be granted.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to third consideration of **HB 2443**, **PN 3519**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Public Welfare Code, providing for continuation of demonstration projects for cardiac care.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the bill on third consideration?

Bill was agreed to.

The SPEAKER. This bill has been considered on three different days and agreed to and is now on final passage.

The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

The gentleman, Mr. Curry.

Mr. CURRY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, can I interrogate the prime sponsor?

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

Mr. CURRY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that this bill intends to allow four hospitals to continue the elective angioplasty procedure?

Mr. KILLION. A little bit more than that.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would allow 11 hospitals that are currently in the program to continue on a permanent basis at the completion of the program. These are 11 hospitals that were placed in the program by the Department of Health and given the ability to perform elective as well as emergency angioplasty.

Mr. CURRY. But these are hospitals without a capacity to do heart surgery should something go wrong?

Mr. KILLION. The exact purpose of the study— There is currently a debate nationally as to whether or not you need to have a full cardiac unit backing up when angioplasty is done. Most folks believe that given the advances in angioplasty, it is no longer required. The purpose of this study and the purpose of these 11 hospitals being put into this program was to find that out, and what we are saying is, so far the results look very good and we would like to see the program continue.

Just quickly, all the hospitals have made significant investments, in excess of millions of dollars, and have joined with backup hospitals, like I will use my hospital as an example. Riddle Memorial Hospital, they work with Lanckenau Hospital and Crozer hospital to provide backup.

As you are probably aware, nowadays most cardiac units are not up and running all the time. I will use my hospital as an example. If an incident occurred and we needed to transport, by the time we got, and that would be about when they got ready, even if we had it in our own hospital and tried to set it up.

So this is a good bill for public health. It is allowing people to be treated in their community hospitals, and it is going very well and I would like to see it continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. CURRY. Thank you.

Just in the wake of our debate yesterday on malpractice, I noticed that the Department of Health reports, of 1,303 procedures, there were 67 adverse outcomes, and of those 67, 19 resulted in death.

Mr. KILLION. Thank you.

And that points to exactly why I believe this is a good program. If you look as those numbers, they said that there were 67 deaths out of 1,200. That gives the mortality rate for our waiver hospitals, these 11 hospitals that do not have the direct cardiac backup, gives them a mortality rate of 1.22 percent. The national average mortality rate is 1.46 percent, and then here in Pennsylvania, our nonwaiver hospitals, those that are tertiary hospitals with backup, many of them, the average is 1.35 percent. So the mortality rate for the hospitals in this program is actually lower than the mortality rate for other Pennsylvania hospitals performing angioplasty and much lower than the national average, and their numbers point to why we need to continue this program.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. CURRY. My question, though, is, should we have had a public hearing to resolve this issue between the Department of

Health, since the American academy of cardiologists recommends against elective procedures without a backup cardiac unit?

Mr. KILLION. Well, actually, that is not exactly correct, but let us talk about why we got to this point with the Department of Health.

Last July this body, this body passed legislation as part of the budget bill saying, since our hospitals, our community hospitals have contributed, have spent all this money on this program, and it appears to be working well, before you make any changes, please sit down and negotiate with them. There was one meeting in August, last August. We begged the Department of Health to meet with these hospitals repeatedly. They refused to do it.

There was one meeting with legislators from both sides of the aisle – I think it was about a month or two ago – where we met with the Department of Health, and it was not a meeting. A meeting is when there is a give-and-take of ideas. There was no give-and-take. It was them giving us, telling them, these are the rules; we want you to participate in what they call C-Port.

Now, let me talk about what C-Port is. C-Port is a study being done by Johns Hopkins University, and I think the Department of Health has the 100-mile rule; that if somebody from 100 miles away is looking at it, they are somehow smarter than we are.

You mentioned the ACC (American College of Cardiology). They joined with us in looking at whether or not we could have the University of Pittsburgh do the same exact study. It is faster, closer, being done in Pennsylvania. We have asked the Department of Health to okay that. They have not even responded. I say we do the study here in Pennsylvania at a great Pennsylvania institution, the University of Pittsburgh, and we move this program forward and we continue to save lives. You mentioned 67 lives lost, 2,000 procedures; 1,000 – do the math – lives were saved because they could go to their local community hospital, be treated by their very own doctor, and get the angioplasty and care they needed in their community.

Mr. CURRY. Actually, it was just 67 adverse results and only 19 deaths, not 67 deaths.

Mr. KILLION. Thank you for that.

Mr. CURRY. But the point is, could that have been prevented? Is it not worth a discussion with the American cardiac association?

Mr. KILLION. Those discussions go along as we talked about the study, but I have to point out, that number percentagewise is better than the other hospitals that are not in the program and have cardiac backup on-site. It is better.

Mr. CURRY. Well, then I would guess maybe in that hearing, could we not ask the question why that is the case and they are still recommending that there be backup open-heart surgery?

Mr. KILLION. I do not think we need a hearing. The issue is being debated nationally. All we need is a meeting with the Department of Health, and we have asked repeatedly for it and not been able to get it. We would like our hospitals to be able to sit down with the Department of Health and not be forced into a Johns Hopkins study in Baltimore. Why not do it here in Pennsylvania at the University of Pittsburgh?

Mr. CURRY. Well, is the University of Pittsburgh doing the study?

Mr. KILLION. We have an agreement to do it. We just need the Department of Health to sign off.

Mr. CURRY. All right. Well, my concern is that we bring in the outside party who has complained about this procedure that we are following and see if we cannot get that resolved.

Mr. KILLION. There have been meetings with the ACC, as you mentioned, regarding the study, but you also have to remember, there is more to it than this, and let me use my own hospital as an example.

Many cardiologists would love to have us open more full cardiac units in their hospitals. If I was a cardiologist, I would want that as well. But we are here at a time when we are trying to lower health-care costs, lower health-care costs.

Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker, could we have a little—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. KILLION. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Would the conferences break up.

Mr. KILLION. We are attempting to lower health-care costs in Pennsylvania, and you know, we no longer have the Certificate of Need Program, and I will again use my own hospital.

For my hospital, for them to compete, they need to do both emergency and elective angioplasty, and the reason for that is, in order to be good at angioplasty – and the science has come a long way over the last few years – in order to be good at it, you have to do it a lot. It is just like anything else; you need to be repetitive.

In my area, Riddle Memorial Hospital, we have four assisted living facilities. If they cannot do elective and nonelective angioplasty, they will divert. If someone is coming in that is having a heart attack or suspected of having a heart problem, they will not take them if they cannot do enough angioplasties to become good at it. They will transfer to another hospital. It could be up to 40 minutes away.

Now, their board of directors, in an effort to compete, if they are denied this, they will, they will spend \$5 million-plus to put in a full cardiac unit, full well knowing it is going to sit vacant a lot of the time, when right down the road at Lankenau and right down the road at Crozer hospital where they have an agreement as backup, they have plenty of capacity, plenty of bed space.

This is a way to save money. The science has come a long way. We agree that we need to look at it, which is why no one has a problem with the Pittsburgh study and why we will work closely with the ACC, but in the meantime, it is not as much a problem for my hospital. We just entered a program. We have hospitals in Pennsylvania at the end of the month who are going to stop doing angioplasty and people have to go hundreds of miles, in some of the rural hospitals, to get treatment.

Mr. CURRY. Thank you.

My concern at this point is, would we not be better off if we had the results from the C-Port study in these hospitals participating, and is it not worth one more, before we vote on this, one more go-around to see what is possible in terms of a compromise here?

Mr. KILLION. Mr. Speaker, I agree with you. We are all here to protect the health of Pennsylvania citizens, but the C-Port study, and I will use their numbers, because it is a national study; the number of procedures required is way more than needed. Most of ours are performing over 200 a year. Theirs is way higher than that, and some of our hospitals will not meet that criteria, so some of our hospitals will have to stop performing angioplasty, and I do not need to repeat myself, and again, those patients will suffer.

Mr. CURRY. All right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the gentelady from Luzerne, Ms. Mundy.

Ms. MUNDY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise in opposition to HB 2443 because I think it institutionalizes ineffective care. It institutionalizes a lower standard of care for the hospitals that are listed in this bill.

Back in April of 2005, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee performed a study and issued a report and determined through a very comprehensive study of specialized clinical services— And let me read from a page, the “Summary and Recommendations” page, just a little bit.

“Patients undergoing therapeutic catheterizations (PCI)” – and that is what we are talking about here – “had higher risk adjusted rates of inpatient deaths and emergency open heart surgery compared to the statewide average when the procedure was performed by cardiologists with annual procedure volumes less than 75 procedures per year, at hospitals performing fewer than 400 procedures per year.

“Patients undergoing open heart surgery (Coronary Artery Bypass Graft, or CABG) performed by higher volume surgeons in higher volume hospitals have the lowest mortality rates. The lowest risk-adjusted CABG mortality occurred for patients undergoing surgery in hospitals with 600 or more CABGs per year and surgeons performing at least 125 procedures per year.”

It does not take a brain surgeon to figure out that the more procedures you perform, the better you are at it and the less risk to the patient, and studies have shown that you need to have an open-heart facility ready and waiting to deal with any emergencies that develop during the procedure in order to make patient safety a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I am hard pressed to figure out why some of the hospitals that are listed here – two in Montgomery County, one in Philadelphia County, one in Delaware County, one in Bucks County – those hospitals certainly are not rural hospitals, by any means. Surely the patients in those hospitals would be better able to go to an urban center where the quality of care would be at the highest. That is just one thing that is wrong with this bill.

The waiver program that allowed these hospitals to get into these types of surgeries, in my view, was a mistake to begin with, and all of this points to a need for Certificate of Need that expired in 1996 or we may not even be in this situation, but the bottom line is that patients are not well served by this kind of legislation. I cannot help but wonder if the patients who go to these hospitals for this type of surgery are adequately warned about the higher risk that they are assuming by having these procedures done at these hospitals. I find it very difficult to believe that a patient knowing the higher risk that they were assuming, would not be willing to travel a few extra miles, even a few hundred extra miles, if it meant the difference between life and death.

The Department of Health knows what the standards are, and they are trying to keep the standard of care in Pennsylvania at a level that protects patients. This bill is about competition. It is about allowing hospitals to make more money, and that may be a necessary thing for some of these more rural hospitals, but if that is what they want to do, then they need to make the investment to bring their standard of care up to a level where patients are well served, and that is what the Department of Health is aiming to do. This, to me, was a reasonable compromise, asking them to become a part of this study to show that they are actually performing these procedures at a high standard of care. What are we as legislators doing when we put patients at risk like this?

I would urge all of us to think again about what we are doing here. This is not something we need to do. The department should sit down and discuss with these hospitals what is going to be required for them to meet an adequate standard of care, and I certainly support that, but this legislation is not what we in the legislature should be doing.

So I am going to vote “no,” and I would urge those of you who care about the quality of care, about medical error, about the increased costs and burdens for inadequate standards of care, to vote against this ill-conceived piece of legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentlelady.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Somerset, Mr. Bastian.

Mr. BASTIAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would heartily disagree with the lady who just spoke. First let me say that for about 5 years now I have been on the board of the Somerset Hospital. I went through the process when we got involved in this program. We spent over \$1.2 million getting the proper equipment. We had a great nonintervention cardiologist for a long time, and we brought an intervention cardiologist on board. We do a number of these every year, and we have had zero bad outcomes in the 3 1/2 years we have done these.

Now, let me say that when she refers to poor outcomes and poor percentages, it is a fact that this study has had a better result than the State average or the national average for tertiary hospitals, and I think that is significant. Also I can say that there was a letter— Well, I brought about 1,300 letters to the Governor’s Office on Monday. One of these letters came from a patient who went through this, and his comment is, Dr. Chaudhuri saved my life at Somerset Hospital because of angioplasty; I would not be alive today if I would have had to have driven all the way to Johnstown. I think that is very significant from one of our own patients at the Somerset Hospital.

I would definitely vote for this. This has been a battle for the last year and a half. The Governor has totally neglected the legislation we had in the budget language last July 6, and I would definitely urge my fellow Representatives to vote for this bill.

Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The gentleman from Franklin, Mr. Fleagle.

Mr. FLEAGLE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak for all 11 hospitals in this program. However, I know that this percutaneous coronary intervention program has been a godsend for Franklin County.

As many of you know, I, in my midlife crisis, instead of doing certain things, I got involved in emergency medical services, and one of the most frightening calls that you can have, either BLS (basic life support) or ALS (advanced life support), and I have run both, is chest pain. It is a terrible, a terrible situation that the family has no idea what is causing it, and it is usually cardiac related, and you get out there on the scene and nitroglycerin does not help and morphine does not help and the only option you have is angioplasty or PCI, and when you are in Waynesboro or Greencastle or Mercersburg, it is not like you have all these options of these tertiary care hospitals that you can go to, and because we have this program in Franklin County, and it is a great program, your loved one could get relief in 15 minutes. And I know you say, well, do you not have Medevac helicopters down there? Well, by the time a helicopter warms up and gets

down to Greencastle and loads up and takes a patient back to Hershey, you are probably talking an hour, and in that time, Mr. Speaker, a patient can be dead, and if it is your loved one, that time is critical.

We have heard about backup and patient safety and standard of care. Well, I will tell you what a standard of care is in my district, Mr. Speaker. It is when a person is served medically, not by somebody standing around on the scene saying, well, now, should we not take this to the big city? That person is having a heart attack, Mr. Speaker, and they need immediate attention. I do not know where patient safety comes in there. You have got to do something for them. You can be safe, and they will be dead.

I think what this is, Mr. Speaker, this whole fiasco, is that it is a case of changing the rules after we have invested millions of dollars into a program. And frankly, Mr. Speaker, what it boils down to is, this is a turf battle, and what I do not like, Mr. Speaker, is it is a turf battle using my constituents and their health care as pawns. Now, if you want your turf battles, take them somewhere else, but we want this program in Franklin County and we do not want a study to show how successful we were, because we have already saved lives for it.

So I would ask all my colleagues, whether urban or rural, to vote for this House bill and save lives, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lawrence, Mr. Sainato. The gentleman is entitled to be heard, please.

Mr. Sainato.

Mr. SAINATO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to support this very important piece of legislation. As some of the previous speakers have said, I am from Lawrence County. One of these hospitals it affects is in my legislative district, Jameson Hospital. They have shown a commitment to the community and invested millions of dollars into this program. They were a part of the study. Now we want to shut it down at the end of next month, and what happens to the quality of care in Lawrence County? The quality of care goes down.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I toured this facility a few weeks ago. I met with Dr. Paul Wawrzynski, a fine cardiologist in Lawrence County. I talked to the people that do these procedures. Mr. Speaker, they are performing lifesaving procedures in Lawrence County at Jameson Hospital. They have performed over 700 of these procedures over the last many years; 364 just in the last 2 years. Now the department is saying, we should not do this. Well, guess what, Mr. Speaker? There are a lot of people whose lives were saved because of these procedures.

If you say we could only do this in an emergency case, Mr. Speaker, that may involve 25 or 30 times a year. They are saying, to be proficient, you must perform this on a regular basis. When you are performing hundreds of these each year, Mr. Speaker, you are at that proficiency. That is what this is about, Mr. Speaker, quality of care in rural Pennsylvania. We deserve that. Four of these hospitals, Mr. Speaker, four of these hospitals that may have to shut down are from western Pennsylvania, and that is wrong. Why should the quality of care in western Pennsylvania be any different than anywhere else in the State of Pennsylvania?

I commend my colleague from Delaware County for working and putting tireless hours into this legislation. He is concerned about 11 hospitals in this State that played by the rules. These rules

must be enforced. Do not change the rules in the middle of the game. Let the study continue; let them do and save lives in Pennsylvania.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, this is a very important issue. It is a very important issue to me; it is an important issue to western Pennsylvania; it is an important issue to all of Pennsylvania, even in eastern Pennsylvania where, when they shut ours down now, yours in eastern Pennsylvania could be shut down next year, all because they want to change the rules in the middle of the game. I have seen it firsthand. I know the quality of care the people are receiving. It works. It is top of the line. It is the most modern you can expect; millions of dollars invested, and they deserve to be able to continue the work which they are doing.

Mr. Speaker, support this important piece of legislation.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. LaGrotta.

Mr. LaGROTTA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, very briefly. To echo what the gentleman, Mr. Killion, said earlier, we did work on this with the very, very able help of staff from both sides of the aisle last year during the budget negotiations. We believed then that we had an agreement that would allow these procedures to continue. In the interim, Mr. Speaker, I have spent quite a bit of time talking to cardiologists, to general practitioners, to patients who have utilized the facility in Lawrence County, and I am especially interested in the comments of those doctors and medical health professionals that have no financial interest in the procedure at Jameson Hospital in New Castle, that do not practice there. Basically their opinion of these procedures are that they do, Mr. Speaker, they do save lives; they do facilitate quality cardiac care in areas such as Lawrence County that do not have large city hospitals there where they perform cardiovascular surgery on-site.

In essence, Mr. Speaker, this is a very simple piece of legislation. It allows this procedure to continue where it is needed to save lives, to help people receive quality medical care at a very, very affordable price, Mr. Speaker, something all of us in this chamber should be interested in.

I encourage every member of this General Assembly to vote "yes" on this bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Solobay.

Mr. SOLOBAY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I also stand in support of HB 2443. As many of you know, my life, prior to coming to the House, spent over 25 years in health care, directly involved with one of the facilities that is on the question list of this particular bill, and it has been said several times already this afternoon, whether it is rural or suburban Pennsylvania, not having the direct connection to a 2- or 3-minute, 5-minute ride to a very large urban center, urban hospital in our large urban areas and in our university settings, these hospitals play a major role in the health care and well-being of our citizens in Pennsylvania.

Whether you are doing 199 exams or whether you are doing 201 exams in your community hospital, it does not really make the difference on whether or not you are good, bad, or indifferent. In most cases these facilities are utilizing cardiologists and cardiac surgeons who not only are functioning at this particular suburban or rural hospital but also doing procedures at those larger hospitals, so the concern that the physician doing the procedure may not have enough practice does not necessarily hold true.

So for a whole gamut of the reasons that have already been mentioned and talked about – I am not going to be redundant on them – take it from someone who has been there on the frontline, who has spent 25 years working with facilities such as this, doing procedures similar to and exactly as these, support HB 2443. It is for the betterment and the well-being of all our residents in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Adolph.

Mr. ADOLPH. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support HB 2443. I am very familiar with the hospital that is in Representative Killion's district, Riddle Memorial Hospital. That is the last community hospital in Delaware County. They do a great service to the western end of our county.

Previous speakers have mentioned that, you know, if you have a heart problem, you should be going to a hospital that has a cardiac unit. Well, life and medical problems do not always work that way. Many times people will be rushed to the hospital and go to the closest hospital that exists. Many times patients will go into the emergency ward because they have been in an accident and seriously injured and as a result of the trauma will have a heart attack. If you are that patient at Riddle Memorial Hospital and these other hospitals, you now have to be transferred out of that hospital to another hospital.

Trust me when I tell you, I have been behind ambulances and they have been diverted to other hospitals when I have had a loved one in that ambulance. This is not something that we need to have here in Pennsylvania. This cost-saving procedure is something that will help save lives – lives of our neighbors, our relatives.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support HB 2443. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the gentlelady, Ms. Mundy, for the second time.

Ms. MUNDY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Eleven hospitals and pretty much 11 speakers, or thereabouts, and I understand that people want to support their community hospital. We are not talking about closing down hospitals. We are asking people to join an independent study to monitor what goes on when you do not meet the standard for quality of care. To me, that is a very reasonable thing to ask on behalf of patients who will be treated at these hospitals.

This is also not about emergency care. The gentleman from Franklin talked about needing a hospital when you need an emergency procedure. Of course you do, and that is not what we are talking about here. Any hospital in Pennsylvania could do this procedure if it was on an emergency basis. There is no prohibition against that, but when it is an elective procedure, you should meet the standard of care.

We should be about supporting the Department of Health in setting appropriate standards of care to help patients achieve the best possible care and not be put at risk. That is what this is about. Anybody who stands here and tells you that this is about quality care is not being intellectually honest with you. Again, I understand the desire to support your community hospital. By talking to the doctors who are performing these procedures and having them tell you that, oh, it is okay that I only perform

100 when the standard of care is 400, I am sorry; I just find that a little suspect, a little specious.

Mr. Speaker, please let us be about supporting a high standard of care here in Pennsylvania. When you need an elective procedure, let us make sure that you at least know the risks that you are assuming when you have that done at a facility that does not meet an appropriate standard of care.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentlelady.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Kauffman.

Mr. KAUFFMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have sat in this debate this afternoon and have enjoyed the statistics that I have heard from my friend, Mr. Killion, and think that those statistics speak very well for this program. I have also enjoyed the anecdotes of our in-house paramedic, Mr. Fleagle, but I rise today to put a little personal touch on this debate.

Mr. Speaker, could we have some order here?

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is correct. Please keep the noise levels down. The conferences will break up.

Mr. KAUFFMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It was October 27 in the year 2005 that a gentleman from Greene Township, Franklin County, just got done with his evening workout. He started to have chest pain, and his wife rushed him to the emergency room at Chambersburg Hospital in my hometown of Chambersburg. The emergency care staff did an extraordinary job of assessing the situation. They then said, he is in the midst of a pretty significant heart attack and he is going to need serious intervention and we have just the thing for him at Chambersburg Hospital as a demonstration project.

That man was in the midst of this heart attack. He was opened up through this procedure, and it was a life that was saved and no further damage was done to the heart. That weekend he spent the weekend in recuperation rather than in a morgue, and that gentleman was my father.

And I know we were talking about elective procedures versus emergency procedures, but the key is, if those elective procedures are not able to be done, those projects will not be there for the emergency procedures. It does not work financially for many of these small hospitals, and it is critical that this bill pass today so that my family, my friends, and my neighbors who have had this procedure done at Chambersburg Hospital can continue with the high standard and quality of care that these demonstration projects have evidenced through the statistics and through what I have seen in my hometown hospital. I cannot say enough about what Chambersburg Hospital and their demonstration project has done for our community in raising the level of care, emergency care, as well as elective care.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge you to support this measure today for all of the people of Pennsylvania so we can all have the same level of coverage, not just those near a hospital without this procedure.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Bastian, for the second time.

Mr. BASTIAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just need to answer the young lady from Luzerne when she says about safety.

I really want to go to the cardiologist that does 100 a year and be alive rather than go to the cardiologist that is doing 400 a year and be too late to be helped. Now, the guy doing 400 a year started somewhere by doing 10 or 20 or 30 of them. He got his

experience. That is what we are doing with our guys in Somerset. Zero outcomes; let us continue doing that.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Killion, for the second time.

Mr. KILLION. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I will be brief.

I want to thank my colleagues that rose in support of the bill, but it was pointed out in the debate by those that were opposed to this legislation about the American College of Cardiology, and as I mentioned before, the procedure has come a long way. The study that was quoted, some of the data was 6 years old and only dealt with the hospitals that did two or three procedures a year, but let me read directly from the 2005 ACC guideline for percutaneous coronary intervention.

“Technical improvements in interventional cardiology have led to the development of elective angioplasty programs without onsite surgical coverage. Several centers have reported satisfactory results based on careful case selection with well-defined arrangements for immediate transfer to a surgical program.”

That is what we currently have here in Pennsylvania. Our hospitals invest, these 11 hospitals have invested significant assets into this program. They made arrangements with backup hospitals. It is good for our residents of Pennsylvania. It is good for their health.

I ask for a “yes” vote on HB 2443. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The gentleman, Mr. DeWeese.

Mr. DeWEESE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Apropos of the Honorable Mr. Fleagle’s commentaries, I would like to say from Greencastle to Greene County, from Waynesboro to Waynesburg, this measure has substantial bipartisan support. I have been very involved in the Brownsville area and the Uniontown area of my district, as well as other precincts, but I wanted to at least add 1 minute at the microphone before this was to be voted.

Three quick points, many of them have been adumbrated earlier, but I would like to say one more time, this proposal, HB 2443, keeps the rules in place, Mr. Speaker, for 11 hospitals that have made significant investments to provide angioplasty. It just keeps the rules in place for these hospitals.

Number two, out of three: It is a \$35,000 cost, and although that might not sound like a lot of money to some, it is a substantial fee for some of these rural hospitals.

And finally my third and last point: The study would require that every fourth patient, every fourth patient, Mr. Speaker, be transferred to a tertiary hospital, and the reasoning that has been generated earlier in the debate is certainly, I think, substantial. Western Pennsylvania specifically, rural western Pennsylvania even more specifically, would be a beneficiary of this proposal, and I would ask for a favorable vote.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question recurring,

Shall the bill pass finally?

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

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—185

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

NAYS—10

Bishop	Manderino	Samuelson	Tigue
Curry	Melio	Stetler	Walko
Josephs	Mundy		

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—6

Evans, D.	Rieger	Thomas	Wojnaroski
Hershey	Taylor, E. Z.		

The majority required by the Constitution having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the bill passed finally.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the Senate for concurrence.

**BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES,
CONSIDERED FIRST TIME, AND TABLED**

HB 257, PN 3290 By Rep. FEESE

An Act amending the act of January 17, 1968 (P.L.11, No.5), known as The Minimum Wage Act of 1968, further providing for minimum wage.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 1503, PN 3733 (Amended) By Rep. GEIST

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the offense of fleeing or attempting to elude police officer.

TRANSPORTATION.

HB 2169, PN 3008 By Rep. GEIST

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, defining "governmental incident responder," "incident," "incident area," "incident clearance," "responder" and "response personnel"; further providing for accidents involving damage to attended vehicle or property; providing for vehicles involved in accidents and spilled cargo on freeway or limited access highway, for immediate custody and removal of vehicle constituting hazard, for road user duties approaching incidents, for avoidance of lane blockage and expedited removal of vehicles and for liability for authorized incident clearance functions; and establishing the Incident Management Committee and providing for its composition and duties.

TRANSPORTATION.

HB 2295, PN 3734 (Amended) By Rep. GEIST

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for a special registration plate for recipients of the Korean Defense Service Medal.

TRANSPORTATION.

HB 2457, PN 3569 By Rep. GEIST

An Act redesignating the bridge carrying section A80 of the East Side Access Highway, SR 4034, over Fourmile Creek and the Wintergreen Gorge in Harborcreek Township, Erie County, as the Sergeant Donald S. Oaks Memorial Bridge.

TRANSPORTATION.

HB 2468, PN 3600 By Rep. GEIST

An Act providing for the highway capital budget project itemization for the fiscal year 2005-2006.

TRANSPORTATION.

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to third consideration of **HB 2125, PN 3583**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, further providing, in personal income tax, for medical and health savings accounts; and repealing provisions relating to taxation of medical and health savings accounts.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the bill on third consideration?
Bill was agreed to.

The SPEAKER. This bill has been considered on three different days and agreed to and is now on final passage.

The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

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

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—195

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

Evans, J.	Levdansky	Rohrer	Perzel,
Fabrizio	Mackereth	Rooney	Speaker
Fairchild			

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—6

Evans, D.	Rieger	Thomas	Wojnaroski
Hershey	Taylor, E. Z.		

The majority required by the Constitution having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the bill passed finally.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the Senate for concurrence.

* * *

The House proceeded to third consideration of **HB 2315, PN 3276**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 74 (Transportation) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the Aviation Advisory Committee.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the bill on third consideration?
Bill was agreed to.

The SPEAKER. This bill has been considered on three different days and agreed to and is now on final passage.

The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

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

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—195

Adolph	Feese	Maher	Ross
Allen	Fichter	Maitland	Rubley
Argall	Fleagle	Major	Ruffing
Armstrong	Flick	Manderino	Sainato
Baker	Forcier	Mann	Samuelson
Baldwin	Frankel	Markosek	Santoni
Barrar	Freeman	Marsico	Sather
Bastian	Gabig	McCall	Saylor
Bebko-Jones	Gannon	McGeehan	Scavello
Belardi	Geist	McGill	Schroder
Belfanti	George	McIlhattan	Semmel
Benninghoff	Gerber	McIlhinney	Shaner
Beyer	Gergely	McNaughton	Shapiro
Biancucci	Gillespie	Melio	Siptroth
Birmelin	Gingrich	Metcalfe	Smith, B.
Bishop	Godshall	Micozzie	Smith, S. H.
Blackwell	Good	Millard	Solobay
Blaum	Goodman	Miller, R.	Sonney
Boyd	Grell	Miller, S.	Staback
Bunt	Grucela	Mundy	Stairs
Buxton	Gruitza	Mustio	Steil
Caltagirone	Haluska	Myers	Stern
Cappelli	Hanna	Nailor	Stetler
Casorio	Harhai	Nickol	Stevenson, R.

Causar	Harhart	O'Brien	Stevenson, T.
Cawley	Harper	Oliver	Sturla
Civera	Harris	O'Neill	Surra
Clymer	Hasay	Pallone	Tangretti
Cohen	Hennessey	Parker	Taylor, J.
Cornell	Herman	Payne	Tigue
Corrigan	Hess	Petrarca	True
Costa	Hickernell	Petri	Turzai
Crahalla	Hutchinson	Petrone	Veon
Creighton	James	Phillips	Vitali
Cruz	Josephs	Pickett	Walko
Curry	Kauffman	Pistella	Wansacz
Daley	Keller, M.	Preston	Waters
Dally	Keller, W.	Pyle	Watson
DeLuca	Kenney	Quigley	Wheatley
Denlinger	Killion	Ramaley	Williams
Dermody	Kirkland	Rapp	Wilt
DeWeese	Kotik	Raymond	Wright
DiGirolamo	LaGrotta	Readshaw	Yewcic
Diven	Leach	Reed	Youngblood
Donatucci	Lederer	Reichley	Yudichak
Eachus	Leh	Roberts	Zug
Ellis	Lescovitz	Roebuck	
Evans, J.	Levdansky	Rohrer	Perzel,
Fabrizio	Mackereth	Rooney	Speaker
Fairchild			

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—6

Evans, D.	Rieger	Thomas	Wojnaroski
Hershey	Taylor, E. Z.		

The majority required by the Constitution having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the bill passed finally.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the Senate for concurrence.

BILL REMOVED FROM TABLE

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader. Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I move that HB 2499 be taken from the table.

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

**REQUEST TO CALL UP
DISCHARGE RESOLUTION NO. 5**

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

Mr. VEON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a motion.
The SPEAKER. The gentleman will state.

Mr. VEON. I would like to move, I would like to make a motion to bring up Discharge Resolution No. 5, which would finally, finally, finally allow the House of Representatives to have

a vote on increasing the minimum wage in the State of Pennsylvania.

The SPEAKER. That motion is out of order, Mr. Veon.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. VEON. A parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will state.

Mr. VEON. Mr. Speaker, would you be able to provide the reason that that motion is out of order? And I just ask that because as we were looking at the rules here in anticipation of the vote, our reading was that it was in order.

The SPEAKER. Mr. Veon, I believe that the metroliner is back on track, and that bill has been reported out of Appropriations several hours ago and is on the floor already.

Mr. VEON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to move for immediate consideration, I would like to move to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of HB 257.

The SPEAKER. It is not on third consideration. You cannot suspend the Constitution, Mr. Veon.

Mr. VEON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. VEON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will state.

Mr. VEON. Has HB 257 received a second reading here today at this point?

The SPEAKER. No, Mr. Veon.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

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

HB 257, PN 3290.

The SPEAKER. It has now, Mr. Veon.

Mr. VEON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is welcome.

Mr. Smith?

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further order of business.

The SPEAKER. Are there any other announcements? Seeing no further announcements—

STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Mr. CLYMER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, just to remind the members of the State Government Committee that we will continue our deliberations in room 205 in the Ryan Building upon call of recess by the Speaker.

So that is in room 205 of the Ryan Building. We will continue our discussions on the bill, 2381.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The State Government Committee will have a meeting in room 205 of the Ryan Building at the recess on HB 2381.

I apologize, Ms. Jones.

Ms. BEBKO-JONES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The gentlelady from Erie has several— There are several more pieces of business.

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. The gentlelady from Erie, Ms. Bebko-Jones, has two guests here today. They are Miss Christine Rush, legislative assistant, along with David Dix of Erie, Pennsylvania. They are guests today of the Representative from Erie. They are to the left of the Speaker. Would they please rise and be recognized.

BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE, CONSIDERED FIRST TIME, AND TABLED

HB 2465, PN 3735 (Amended)

By Rep. STAIRS

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 home education program.

EDUCATION.

BILL REPORTED AND REREFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

HB 2357, PN 3363

By Rep. STAIRS

An Act providing for the establishment of additional centers within the system of university-based and college-based entrepreneurial centers known as the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers and for an appropriation.

EDUCATION.

The SPEAKER. There will be no further votes. The Chair is in waiting for the proper documentation on SB 435 to sign it, so the House will remain open until the bill is signed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair returns to leaves of absence, and the gentleman, Mr. KIRKLAND, requests a leave of absence for the remainder of the day. Without objection, that leave will be granted.

BILL SIGNED BY SPEAKER

Bill numbered and entitled as follows having been prepared for presentation to the Governor, and the same being correct, the title was publicly read as follows:

SB 435, PN 1357

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, amending provisions relating to comparative negligence.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER. This House is in recess to the call of the Chair.

AFTER RECESS

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

**THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
(RONALD I. BUXTON) PRESIDING****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.

RULE 15 SUSPENDED

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

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I move that House rule 15 be suspended so that when the House convenes on Monday, March 20, 2006, it can convene at 11 a.m. instead of 1 p.m.

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

RECESS

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

Mr. S. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do now recess until Monday, March 20, 2006, at 11 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 10:59 a.m., e.s.t., Monday, March 20, 2006, the House recessed.