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

THE SPEAKER (SAMUEL H. SMITH)
PRESIDING

PRAYER

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Let us pray:

Dear God, our Heavenly Father, we enter into Your presence with praise and thanksgiving. We praise You in all of Your glory, recognizing that You are the supreme power of all earth and that You are from everlasting to everlasting. Father, we are grateful to You for another opportunity to lift up Your name and to say thank You for another day of service to this Commonwealth and the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. You pour out brand-new mercies for us each and every day: articulation of speech, movability of limbs, clarity of mind, and a fresh anointing to complete today what we did not finish yesterday.

We are aware that we are beacons of light, Your light, in this dark world, and we are thankful that one candle loses nothing by lighting another candle. Please allow Your light to shine upon us and allow Your light to shine upon the late Joe Paterno, former Penn State football coach, and his loved ones. May he rest in peace. We ask these and all blessings in Your name as we ask that You keep us in perfect peace with our minds stayed not only upon the work in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania but upon You as well. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

JOURNAL APPROVAL POSTPONED

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the approval of the Journal of Monday, January 23, 2012, will be postponed until printed.

SENATE MESSAGE
RECESS RESOLUTION FOR CONCURRENCE

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

In the Senate,
January 23, 2012

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the Senate recesses this week, it reconvene on Monday, February 6, 2012, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further
RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the House of Representatives recesses this week, it reconvene on Monday, February 6, 2012, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

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

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES, CONSIDERED FIRST TIME, AND TABLED

HB 1106, PN 3003 (Amended) By Rep. MARSICO
An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for willful failure to pay support order.

JUDICIARY.

HB 1405, PN 1679 By Rep. MARSICO
An Act amending the act of July 9, 1976 (P.L.817, No.143), known as the Mental Health Procedures Act, in criminal justice determinations, further providing for incompetence and for procedure.

JUDICIARY.
HB 2136, PN 2981  By Rep. MARSICO

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for prevention of abduction of children.

JUDICIARY.

HB 2151, PN 2995  By Rep. STERN

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, further providing for registration of snowmobile or ATV, for certificate of title for snowmobile or ATV, for fees and for records; and providing for vintage snowmobile permits.

TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

SB 1167, PN 1604  By Rep. MARSICO

An Act amending Titles 23 (Domestic Relations) and 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for modification of existing orders and for child custody proceeding during military deployment; and providing for assignment of custody rights during military deployment and expedited or electronic hearing.

JUDICIARY.

BILLS SIGNED BY SPEAKER

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

HB 398, PN 2633

An Act providing for registration of appraisal management companies, for powers of the State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers with respect to appraisal management companies, for the responsibilities and duties of appraisal management companies, for prohibited activities, for discipline and for penalties.

SB 995, PN 1844

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Commonwealth services, requiring that the operator of each permitted unconventional wells within Pennsylvania post certain 911 response information at the entrance to each unconventional well site.

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

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. The Speaker turns to leaves of absence and recognizes the minority whip, who requests a leave of absence for the gentleman, Mr. DeWEES, from Greene County for the day, and the gentleman, Mr. Ken SMITH, from Lackawanna County for the day. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

There are no leaves of absence reported from the majority whip.

HOUSE BILL
INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

No. 2152  By Representatives ADOLPH, KILLION, BOYD, CLYMER, D. COSTA, DUNBAR, EVERETT, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, HARPER, HESS, LONGIETTI, PEIFER, PICKETT, QUINN, ROSS, SCAVELLO, TALLMAN and TRUITT

An Act amending the act of December 5, 1936 (2nd Sp.Sess., 1937 P.L.2897, No.1), known as the Unemployment Compensation Law, in compensation, further providing for eligibility of officers of corporation deemed to be self-employed persons.

Referred to Committee on LABOR AND INDUSTRY, January 24, 2012.

SENATE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

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

SB 1252, PN 1532

Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION, January 24, 2012.

SB 1375, PN 1889

Referred to Committee on LABOR AND INDUSTRY, January 24, 2012.

MASTER ROLL CALL

The SPEAKER. The Speaker is about to take the master roll call. Members will proceed to vote.

The following roll call was recorded:

PRESENT—194

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<th>Member</th>
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There are no leaves of absence reported from the majority whip.
The SPEAKER. One hundred ninety-four members having voted on the master roll call, a quorum is present.

BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE, CONSIDERED FIRST TIME, AND TABLED

HB 153, PN 1654  By Rep. METCALFE

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, reducing the size of the General Assembly.

STATE GOVERNMENT.

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. If I could have the members' attention. If the members would kindly hold the conversations down, I want to introduce some of the guests that are with us today.

Located to the left of the rostrum, we would like to welcome Christine McGlaughlin, founder of C.H.I.L.D. (Citizens Helping Improve Legislative Developments), and April Loposky, also of C.H.I.L.D., and Gene Talerico, who is the first assistant district attorney from Lackawanna County, and they are here today as guests of Representative Murphy. Will our guests please rise. Welcome to the hall of the House.

Also to the left of the rostrum, we would like to welcome Jason Weirzel and John DeOrio. They have been interning with Representative Vereb's district office. Will the guests please rise. Welcome to the hall of the House.

Also over to the left of the rostrum, we would like to welcome Tom Burd. He is executive director of The Clinic in Phoenixville, and he is here today as a guest of Representative Kampf. Welcome to the hall of the House.

UNCONTESTED CALENDAR

RESOLUTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE 35

Mr. BARRAR called up HR 536, PN 2984, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of January 22 through 28, 2012, as "Nurse Anesthetists Week" in Pennsylvania.

* * *

Mr. ROEBUCK called up HR 537, PN 2985, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of January 2012 as "Financial Aid Awareness Month" and commending the work of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency and the Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

* * *

Mrs. HARHART called up HR 538, PN 2986, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of January 2012 as "Cervical Cancer Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

* * *

Mrs. HARHART called up HR 539, PN 2987, entitled:


On the question, Will the House adopt the resolutions?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS–194

Adolph    Dunbar    Kilion    Pyle
Aument    Ellis     Kirkland  Quigley
Baker     Emrick    Knowles  Quinn
Barbin     Evansvich  Kortz   Rapp
Barrar    Evans, D.  Kotik    Ravenstahl
Bear      Evans, J.  Krieger  Readshaw
Bishop    Everett   Kula     Reed
Bloom     Fabrizio  Lawrence Reese
Bohach    Farry     Longietti Roae
Boyd      Fleck     Maher    Rock
Boyle, B.  Frankel   Mahoney  Roebuck
Boyle, K.  Freeman   Major   Ross
Bradford  Gabler    Maloney  Sabatina
Brennan   Galloway  Mann     Saccone
Briggs    Geist     Markosek Sainato
Brooks    George    Marshall Samuelson
The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolutions were adopted.

UNCONTESTED SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR A

RESOLUTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE 35

Mr. ADOLPH called up HR 541, PN 3001, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of January 29 through February 5, 2012, as “Catholic Schools Week” in Pennsylvania.

* * *

Mr. M. SMITH called up HR 543, PN 3002, entitled:

A Resolution honoring and celebrating the 100th anniversary of Mt. Lebanon in Allegheny County.

On the question, Will the House adopt the resolutions?

The following roll call was recorded:

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Benninghoff, DeWeese, Smith, K.

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolutions were adopted.
LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman from Clinton County, Mr. Hanna, rise?

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, to put the gentleman from Bucks County, Mr. Galloway, on leave.

The SPEAKER. Will the House please come to order. The members will kindly hold the conversations down. It is just a little hard to hear. I would appreciate if we could keep the conversations down.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman, Mr. Hanna, may proceed.

Mr. HANNA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to put the gentleman from Bucks, Mr. GALLOWAY, on leave.

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

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. The Speaker would like to welcome a couple of other guests that are with us today up in the balcony, Tom and Tommy Krypinski, and they are from Montrose. They are here today as the guests of Representative Major. Will our guests please rise. Welcome to the hall of the House.

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

The SPEAKER. For the purpose of announcements, the Speaker recognizes the lady from Susquehanna County, Ms. Major.

Ms. MAJOR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to announce that there will be an immediate Appropriations Committee meeting in the majority caucus room. I would ask the Appropriations Committee members to please report immediately to the majority caucus room. And then at 11:45, Republicans will caucus. So I would ask Republican members to please report to our caucus room at 11:45. We would be prepared to come back on the floor at 2 p.m.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. There will be an immediate Appropriations Committee meeting in the majority caucus room.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

The SPEAKER. For the purpose of caucus announcements, the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Frankel, is recognized.

Mr. FRANKEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Democrats will caucus as 11:45; Democrats will caucus at 11:45. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. And just as a reminder to the members, and staff for that matter, the blood drive is going on. They are located in 60 East Wing. This is obviously a bipartisan effort to donate blood. They will be there until 4 p.m., so you have all afternoon to go give blood.
LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. The Speaker returns to leaves of absence and recognizes the minority whip, who requests a leave of absence for the lady from Philadelphia, Ms. BISHOP, for the remainder of the day. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

SENATE MESSAGE

JOINT SESSION

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

In the Senate,  
January 24, 2012

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate and House of Representatives meet in Joint Session on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 11:30 a.m., in the Hall of the House of Representatives for the purpose of hearing an address by His Excellency, Governor Tom Corbett; and be it further
RESOLVED, That a committee of three, on the part of the Senate, be appointed to act with a similar committee on the part of the House of Representatives, to escort His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to the Hall of the House of Representatives.

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

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

CALENDAR

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to second consideration of HB 19, PN 2964, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 24, 1931 (P.L.1206, No.331), known as The First Class Township Code, in contracts, further providing for general regulations concerning contracts.

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

* * *

The House proceeded to second consideration of HB 774, PN 1846, entitled:

An Act amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code, in special powers and duties of counties, further providing for board of visitors for charitable reform and penal institutions.

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

* * *

The House proceeded to second consideration of HB 1439, PN 1729, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 24, 1931 (P.L.1206, No.331), known as The First Class Township Code, repealing provisions relating to failure of township officer to perform duties.

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

* * *

The House proceeded to second consideration of HB 1440, PN 1730, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 27, 1953 (P.L.249, No.35), entitled "An act providing that the town councils of incorporated towns shall have the right to declare vacant the seats of councilmen or presidents of town councils for failure to qualify and for failure to attend meetings or vote upon questions before the council," repealing provisions relating to nonfeasance in office.

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

* * *

The House proceeded to second consideration of HB 1442, PN 1732, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.103, No.69), known as The Second Class Township Code, repealing provisions relating to removal of township officer for failure to perform duties.

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

* * *

The House proceeded to second consideration of HB 21, PN 2483, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.103, No.69), known as The Second Class Township Code, in contracts, further providing for letting contracts.

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

* * *
The House proceeded to second consideration of **HB 1857, PN 2383**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions relating to indebtedness and borrowing, further providing for home rule.

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

* * *

The House proceeded to second consideration of **SB 894, PN 911**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.103, No.69), known as The Second Class Township Code, further providing for compensation of supervisors.

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

* * *

The House proceeded to second consideration of **HB 193, PN 2834**, entitled:

An Act requiring the design, construction and renovation of certain State-owned or State-leased buildings to comply with specified energy and environmental building standards; and providing for the powers and duties of the Department of General Services.

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

Ms. **HARPER** offered the following amendment No. **A08238**:

Amend Bill, page 1, line 1, by inserting after "of"
certain
Amend Bill, page 1, line 16, by striking out "State" and inserting Commonwealth
Amend Bill, page 2, line 1, by striking out "throughout this Commonwealth"
Amend Bill, page 3, line 15, by striking out "construction" and inserting building
Amend Bill, page 3, line 18, by striking out "construction" and inserting building
Amend Bill, page 3, line 19, by striking out "10,000" and inserting 20,000
Amend Bill, page 3, by inserting between lines 21 and 22
(3) A renovation that is larger than 20,000 gross square feet and at least 90% of the total square footage of the building.
Amend Bill, page 3, line 22, by inserting after "size" or ownership interest
Amend Bill, page 4, lines 2 through 5, by striking out all of lines 2 through 4 and "(2)" in line 5 and inserting
(1) Amend Bill, page 4, line 9, by striking out ",(3)" and inserting (2) Amend Bill, page 4, line 12, by striking out ",(4)" and inserting
(3)

Amend Bill, page 4, lines 13 and 14, by striking out "," in line 13 and ",(5) Have" in line 14 and inserting by an organization that has
Amend Bill, page 4, line 15, by inserting after "States" and uses a consensus-based rating system
Amend Bill, page 4, line 20, by inserting after "(c)"
Achieve
Amend Bill, page 4, line 23, by striking out "building" and inserting major facility
Amend Bill, page 4, lines 23 and 24, by striking out "involving buildings owned or leased by a " in line 23 and "Commonwealth agency" in line 24
Amend Bill, page 4, line 24, by inserting after "to"
be designed to earn Energy Star certification to
Amend Bill, page 4, line 25, by striking out "85" and inserting 75
Amend Bill, page 4, line 26, by striking out "construction" and inserting major facility
Amend Bill, page 5, line 1, by striking out "building" and inserting major facility
Amend Bill, page 5, lines 16 and 17, by striking out "State-owned or " in line 16 and "State-leased building" in line 17 and inserting major facility
Amend Bill, page 5, line 9, by striking out "(5)" and inserting (4)
Amend Bill, page 6, line 15, by striking out "building" and inserting major facility
Amend Bill, page 6, line 19, by striking out "building" and inserting major facility
Amend Bill, page 6, line 23, by striking out "construction" and inserting major facility
Amend Bill, page 6, line 24, by striking out "10,000" and inserting 20,000
Amend Bill, page 6, line 25, by striking out "construction" and inserting major facility
Amend Bill, page 7, line 1, by striking out "building" and inserting major facility
Amend Bill, page 7, line 2, by striking out "building" and inserting major facility
Amend Bill, page 7, line 10, by striking out "building" and inserting major facility
Amend Bill, page 7, line 14, by striking out "building" and inserting major facility
Amend Bill, page 7, line 20, by striking out "building" and inserting major facility
Amend Bill, page 7, line 24, by striking out "building" and inserting major facility
Amend Bill, page 7, line 26, by striking out "building" and inserting major facility
Amend Bill, page 7, line 30, by striking out "building" and inserting major facility

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

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS–192

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

The SPEAKER. It is the Speaker's understanding that the two amendments that had been filed to this bill have been withdrawn.

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

The SPEAKER. The House will be at ease for a few minutes.

The House will come to order.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE CANCELED

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the presence of the gentleman from Bucks County, Mr. Galloway, on the floor of the House. His name will be added back to the master roll call.

SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR B

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to third consideration of HB 601, PN 2627, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for sentences for offenses against infant persons.

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

(Bill analysis was read.)

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?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna County, Mr. Murphy.

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

Since this bill's inception—

The SPEAKER. Would the gentleman suspend. If we could just ask the members to take the conversations to the back if necessary and please clear the aisles. I thank the members.

The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. MURPHY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In advance, I thank my honorable colleagues. I just want to give you a brief history of this bill and how we got to the point where HB 601, otherwise known as Zachary's Law, came before us here today. This bill's inception began with a constituent of mine who was introduced earlier on the floor, Christine McGlaughlin, seated to the left of the Speaker. She came to my office over 2 years ago with an idea for critical, meaningful legislation that has evolved into HB 601. She and her son, Zachary, are the reason that we are all here today to vote on this important piece of legislation.
You see, Chrissy's son, Zachary, was born on March 4, 2004, and passed away about 14 months later on May 24, 2005, as a result of blunt force trauma to his head and abdomen that he received from his attacker. You see, his life was violently taken at the hands of an adult who was entrusted to protect and to care for Zachary. Astonishingly, the punishment for such a profound crime, a crime this heinous, a crime of this nature, a murder of an innocent child, could be as little as 6 years in prison. HB 601 makes the point that a child's life must and should be worth much, much more than that.

HB 601 sends a strong message that the murder of a child is not only evil but there will be a very severe price to pay for committing such a heinous act. It is unacceptable that in theory, here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a person convicted of a sexual abuse crime – a crime as well; very, very heinous, but still a crime in which there is still a life – but a crime such as rape, they could serve a longer sentence than that of someone convicted of committing third-degree murder, because we currently do have some mandatory minimums with regard to sexual abuse and the conviction of someone who has sexually abused a child. That mandatory minimum is 10 years here in the State of Pennsylvania, and if there are aggravating circumstances, such as serious bodily harm, the mandatory minimum for that crime would be 25 years to life. The problem one of our other guests had in trying to explain this to a bereaved mother – our assistant D.A., Gene Talerico, from Lackawanna County was trying to explain how a mother whose child has been taken from her, from this planet, could read in the paper that someone convicted of a sexual crime could receive up to life in prison, while there is a potential possibility for the person that took her son's life to receive as little as 6 years. Creating a minimum threshold of this time, time to be served for taking the life of a child, while still allowing for a range at sentencing is the least I believe that we can do to protect our children and to give their survivors some semblance of justice.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Lancaster County and the gentleman from Montgomery County for their tremendous help and support with this bill. I would also like to thank the chairman and the members of the Judiciary Committee for their overwhelming unanimous support of this bill in committee. I would also like to thank the staff that has worked on HB 601.

Mr. Speaker, we must make a change in this law and create HB 601 to provide for just that. We must stand together and send the message that a child's life is priceless.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for your affirmative vote on HB 601. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

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

Mr. VITALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First I would like to salute the gentleman from Lackawanna County for his strong advocacy of protecting children. The murder of children is an incredibly heinous act, and I think anyone who commits such a heinous act should go to jail for a long, long time. So I salute the gentleman for that, and my heart goes out to the mother of Zachary. My mother lost a son, and I understand what pain is involved.

But regretfully, I have to stand in opposition to this bill. There is an adage we learned in law school, good facts make bad law, and I think that might be the case here. I have had a little bit of a chance to investigate this, and I just wanted to – if I have any facts wrong, please let me know. By chatting with Assistant District Attorney Talerico and the very fine maker of the bill, I understand the facts, and in talking with staff, I believe that the heinous person who did this heinous murder in fact received a sentence of 15 to 40 years, I believe. If I am wrong, please correct me. Fifteen to 40 years was the sentence there. So I do not think the mandatory minimum really, this law would really perhaps not apply in that situation.

The problem here is this: Every factual scenario is different, and what we are dealing with here is third-degree murder, and essentially, what third-degree murder is, is an unintentional criminal homicide, and facts vary depending on the case. I really appreciate Assistant District Attorney Talerico explaining to me that 90 percent of the cases of unintentional homicide with regard to someone under the age of 13 – I will use 90 percent loosely – is the shaken baby problem, the problem where you have a parent, perhaps a mother, who in an excruciable and outrageous way shames her child and that results in death. Now, there are all sorts of fact scenarios from the very heinous to the tragic, but there are in fact scenarios where perhaps 13 years in jail is not the right sentence; maybe 12 years, maybe 10 years, maybe 8 years, maybe 15 years, maybe whatever. You have to look at the individual facts; for example, if you had a mother who had an exemplary life and raised good kids and maybe her house was foreclosed the previous week, maybe she caught her husband in an adulterous affair, maybe she lost her job, extreme stress, but otherwise an exemplary person. I am not going to say that would ever excuse such a heinous act, but you have to compare that to a vicious serial killer of children. You need a judge who can look into the individual facts of each case and do justice and determine whether this is a crime that requires 6 years or this is a crime that requires 20 years. The problem with mandatory minimums, generally, and this bill in particular is, it would tie the hands of good judges who want to do justice.

Yes, there are certain judges who do not sentence stiffly enough. There is a certain group out there, but because of those judges, we should not tie the overwhelming majority of judges who really want to do the right thing based on the facts and circumstances of each case. We do not want to tie their hands and force them to impose a 13-year sentence when maybe an 11-year sentence is enough or a 9-year sentence is enough. We need to give judges the ability to look into the facts and circumstances of each individual case. The prior record, the sentencing guidelines call for a case of an unintentional killing, which is what we are talking about here of 6 to 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the maker of the bill. My heart goes out to the mother of the child, but we have a duty here to look dispassionately at this and think about the courts throughout the Commonwealth, the courts throughout the Commonwealth, and we cannot impede the ability of the courts throughout this Commonwealth to do justice to all the individual fact scenarios that may come before them. I think if we pass this, that is what we will be doing. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Murphy, for the second time.

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

Just to briefly address some of the concerns that were brought from the gentleman from Delaware County. We are not here to be defenders of the defenseless; we are here to protect
the defenseless. Someone who would commit such a heinous crime against a child under the age of 13, and in this particular case that I was dealing with at a local level, of a 14-month-old, I would contend deserves whatever they would get. The possibility and the concern that was posed by the gentleman that someone could—In this particular instance, and for this particular murder, the perpetrator did receive 15 to 40 years, which I would contend to be life, but that was the punishment. But for someone who commits a sexual assault of a child and to have that mandatory minimum be set at 10 years, and under aggravated circumstances where there is serious bodily injury, for that minimum to be 25 years, I would contend it is very difficult for any assistant D.A. or for any D.A. here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or any Commonwealth or any State throughout the United States to try to explain to that bereaved mother that someone who still has their child and the person that committed the crime against their child, that sexual assault, could spend life in prison, but yet, your child's life can be taken and that perpetrator, upon conviction, can receive as little as 6 years. It is not right. HB 601 addresses that. And I think at the very least, with the way this bill has been vetted out on both sides of the aisle and in the Judiciary Committee, and I will repeat once more that it passed unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee, that most members of this General Assembly consider heinous crimes such as this of such a serious nature that we should impose minimum mandatory standards in sentencing.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Mr. Waters.

Mr. WATERS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask the gentleman from Lackawanna County if I could just ask a brief interrogation.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman indicates he will stand for interrogation. You may proceed.

Mr. WATERS. Thank you. Thank you.

My question to him is—I know he brought up a family member who is up here, and I just would like first to give my condolences to the family—but could you again tell me the age of the child that was victimized in this crime?

Mr. MURPHY. Fourteen months old, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. WATERS. A 14-month-old baby was brutally attacked and murdered. Is that what you said?

Mr. MURPHY. That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. WATERS. And that is who you hope that after this act, this bill becomes enacted, it will be named after this innocent life?

Mr. MURPHY. Exactly. Yes. Mr. Speaker, HB 601, otherwise known as Zachary's Law, was, as I said during my initial comments, initiated when his mother, after his passing, contacted me in my district office and my chief of staff, Tom Tell. We had a meeting, and this was prior to the trial and she was so overcome with grief; but in addition to the grief that this bereaved mother was experiencing, she was also experiencing a lot of angst and concern and worry that potentially, thank goodness the judge saw clearly that such a heinous crime should have been dealt with in a serious manner and he was given 15 to 40 years upon his conviction, but at the time this bill was potentially and this legislation was brought to my attention, at its inception, she was concerned that there was a possibility that the perpetrator and the murderer of her 14-month-old little boy could receive as little as 6 years in prison, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, it is clear to me that there is a flaw in the process if that was a possible outcome for such a heinous crime. I just want to say for the record that I am one who normally does not support mandatory sentences, but I am shocked that the punishment for that crime was not more severe than what the gentleman, the prime sponsor, has indicated. And as I read the newspapers, and not too long ago there was another crime where an innocent life was snatched away and treated almost the same way, but at the end of the day, the child, the innocent life, was taken. There are times when prisons serve a purpose. There is a time when mandatory sentences serve a purpose. There is a time when the death penalty serves a purpose. There is a time when maximum punishment serves a purpose. And in this particular case, I believe that there is no other way to handle this crime than to make sure that that person that does a crime like that gets treated to the full extent of the law. It is up to us as lawmakers to send a strong message out there that in Pennsylvania we will not tolerate that under any circumstances and we are going to punish that person to the full extent of the law.

So I would like to say that I congratulate you, the gentleman from Lackawanna County, for this bill, and against what I normally do in terms of mandatories, there is a reason why we need to have people like that in jail and hopefully forever, to never walk the streets of this State again and this country again. So I totally support your bill. I will be a unanimous vote for this bill, and I ask everyone else in this chamber to support the bill, 601. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery County, Mr. Stephens.

Mr. STEPHENS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I also rise to support this bill, and I want to begin by commending the gentleman from Lackawanna for his initiative in leadership, and even more importantly, to Chrissy, Zachary's mother, for her dedication and really her commitment to bringing this to the attention here of us in the legislature so we can make the policy changes that are needed. You know, I heard one of my colleagues talk about the issue of mandatory minimum sentences, and in that context, I hear over and over and over again about how mandatory minimum sentences and long jail times ought to be reserved for those violent criminals. Well, we are talking about murder here. We are talking about murder. This is not, you know, some petty crime. This is murder, and it is murder of the most defenseless of those in our society, our children.

For those reasons, Mr. Speaker, I would urge all my colleagues to support this bill. Let us send this unanimously over to the Senate so that we can give the children of Pennsylvania the proper protection that they deserve and also bring that little piece of justice to Zachary and to Chrissy for her efforts here as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Berks County, Mr. Caltagirone.

Mr. CALTAGIRONE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I also want to add my support to this piece of legislation. It was thoroughly discussed and reviewed by staff in our committees, a unanimous vote. I do not think there is anything
more heinous than the death of a child. And many of us in here have children and grandchildren, and to think that something like this was perpetrated on that little child, the innocence, it is absolutely outrageous. I would ask for a unanimous vote and send this over to the Senate.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Dermody.

Mr. DERMODY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, before I ran for this job, I spent 6 years in the Allegheny County District Attorney’s Office prosecuting rapes, homicide, and child abuse cases. As we have just heard, there is no more heinous crime than a crime against our children. Before we came down here today, I had a chance to speak with the assistant district attorney who tried this case. We had a discussion about this case, and I was surprised to learn that a person convicted of third-degree murder, which is an intentional killing, convicted of third-degree murder, could have been sentenced only to a minimum of 6 years in prison. That is not enough.

What the gentleman is doing here today is curing a problem we have in our statute that would adequately give the judge the tools to sentence this particular defendant properly and anyone else like him. We all should support this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Turzai.

Mr. TURZAI. To the good gentleman from Lackawanna County, thank you for bringing the advocates here with you today, and we will not forget those children whom you had in mind. I know it protects many, many children going forward, but we will not forget those children that you had in mind who suffered these tragic deaths. This bill will undoubtedly protect children by ensuring that an individual who engages in knowing or reckless conduct which results in the death of a young child will serve appropriately a significant term of imprisonment. We are bipartisan, particularly with respect to this important legislation here today, and I urge unanimous support.

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–192

NAYS–1

Vitali

NOT VOTING–0

EXCUSED–4

Benninghoff  Bishop  DeWeese  Smith, K.

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 SB 923, PN 960, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 28, 1937 (P.L.955, No.265), known as the Housing Authorities Law, further providing for powers of an authority.

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

(Bill analysis was read.)

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:

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**NAYS–0**

**NOT VOTING–0**

**EXCUSED–4**

Benninghoff Bishop DeWeese Smith, K.

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 return the same to the Senate with the information that the House has passed the same without amendment.

The House proceeded to third consideration of **SB 159, PN 440**, entitled:

An Act authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children; providing for the form and enforcement of the compact; imposing additional powers and duties on the Governor, the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the compact commissioner; and establishing the State Council on Interstate Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

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

(Bill analysis was read.)

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–193**

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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:
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 return the same to the Senate with the information that the House has passed the same without amendment.

* * *

The House proceeded to third consideration of HB 1398, PN 2997, entitled:

An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in special licenses and permits, further providing for definitions and for exotic wildlife possession permits.

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

(Bill analysis was read.)

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—193

Adolph
Aumett
Baker
Barbin
Barrar
Bear
Bloom
Boback
Boyd
Boyle, B.
Boyle, K.
Bradford
Brennon
Galloway
Briggs
Brooks
Brown, R.
Brown, V.
Brownlee
Burns
Buxton

Denlinger
DePasquale
Dermody
DiGirolamo
Donatucci
Dunbar

Kaufman
Kavalich
Keller, F.
Keller, M.K.
Keller, W.
Killion

Perry
Petracca
Petri
Pickett
Preston

White
Youngblood

NAYS—0
NOT VOTING—0
EXCUSED—4

Benninghoff
Bishop
DeWeese
Smith, K.

The House proceeded to third consideration of HB 1398, PN 2997, entitled:

As amended by the House Rules Committee:

An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in special licenses and permits, further providing for definitions and for exotic wildlife possession permits.

The House proceeded to concurrence in Senate amendments to the following HB 1458, PN 2996, as further amended by the House Rules Committee:

As amended by the House Rules Committee:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in drivers' licenses, further providing for judicial review and for cancellation; in commercial drivers, further providing for definitions and for requirement, providing for certification requirements, for medical certification and for noncompliance and further providing for license and for disqualification; and, in State and local administration, further providing for nonreciprocity of operational limitations.

On the question,
Will the House concur in Senate amendments as amended by the Rules Committee?
The SPEAKER. Moved by the majority leader that the House concur in the amendments.

On that question, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Adams County, Mr. Tallman.

Mr. TALLMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The amendment done in Rules Committee was simple. It just removed all red light language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On the question recurring,
Will the House concur in Senate amendments as amended by the Rules Committee?

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

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS–193

Adolph  Ellis  Kirkland  Quiqley
Aument  Emrick  Knowles  Quinn
Baker  Evankovich  Kortz  Rapp
Barbin  Evans, D.  Kotik  Ravenstahl
Barrar  Evans, J.  Krieger  Readshaw
Bear  Everett  Kula  Reed
Bloom  Fabrizio  Lawrence  Reese
Boback  Ferrry  Longietti  Roae
Boyd  Fleck  Mahone  Rock
Boyle, B.  Frankel  Mahoney  Roebuck
Boyle, K.  Freeman  Major  Ross
Bradford  Gabler  Maloney  Sabatina
Brennan  Galloway  Mann  Saccione
Briggs  Geist  Markosek  Sainato
Brooks  George  Marshall  Samuelson
Brown, R.  Gerber  Marsico  Santarsiero
Brown, V.  Gergely  Masser  Santoni
Brownlee  Gibbons  Matzic  Saylor
Burns  Gillen  McGeehan  Scavello
Buxton  Gillespie  Metcalfe  Schroder
Caltagirone  Gingrich  Metzgar  Simmons
Carroll  Godshall  Miccarelli  Smith, M.
Causer  Goodman  Miocevich  Sonney
Christiana  Creighten  Harhart  Taylor
Clymer  Grove  Hackett  Stephans
Cohen  Hahn  Millne  Stern
Conklin  Haluska  Mouk  Sturla
Costa, D.  Hanna  Mullery  Swanger
Costa, P.  Harhai  Mundy  Tallman
Creighton  Harhart  Murphy  Taylor
Cruz  Harins  Murt  Thomas
Culver  Harper  Mustio  Tobash
Curry  Harris  Myers  Topef
Cutler  Heffley  Neuman  Toohil
Daley  Helm  O'Brien, M.  Truitt
Davidson  Hennessey  O'Neill  Turzai
Day  Hickernell  Parker  Vitali
DeSissio  Hutchinson  Payne  Waters
Delozier  Josephs  Payton  Watson
DeLuca  Kalfman  Peifer  Wheatley
Denlinger  Kaushilch  Petracca  Youngblood
D esPasquale  Keller, F.  Petri
Dermody  Keller, M.K.  Pickett  Smith, S.,
D iGirolamo  Keller, W.  Preston  Speaker
Donatucci  Kilion  Pyle

NAYS–0

NOT VOTING–0

The majority required by the Constitution having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the amendments as amended by the Rules Committee were concurred in.

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

RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO RULE 35

Mr. SACCOONE called up HR 535, PN 2983, entitled:

A Resolution declaring 2012 as the "Year of the Bible" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS–193

Adolph  Ellis  Kirkland  Quiqley
Aument  Emrick  Knowles  Quinn
Baker  Evankovich  Kortz  Rapp
Barbin  Evans, D.  Kotik  Ravenstahl
Barrar  Evans, J.  Krieger  Readshaw
Bear  Everett  Kula  Reed
Bloom  Fabrizio  Lawrence  Reese
Boback  Ferrry  Longietti  Roae
Boyd  Fleck  Mahone  Rock
Boyle, B.  Frankel  Mahoney  Roebuck
Boyle, K.  Freeman  Major  Ross
Bradford  Gabler  Maloney  Sabatina
Brennan  Galloway  Mann  Saccione
Briggs  Geist  Markosek  Sainato
Brooks  George  Marshall  Samuelson
Brown, R.  Gerber  Marsico  Santarsiero
Brown, V.  Gergely  Masser  Santoni
Brownlee  Gibbons  Matzic  Saylor
Burns  Gillen  McGeehan  Scavello
Buxton  Gillespie  Metcalfe  Schroder
Caltagirone  Gingrich  Metzgar  Simmons
Carroll  Godshall  Miccarelli  Smith, M.
Causer  Goodman  Miocevich  Sonney
Christiana  Creighten  Harhart  Taylor
Clymer  Grove  Hackett  Stephans
Cohen  Hahn  Millne  Stern
Conklin  Haluska  Mouk  Sturla
Costa, D.  Hanna  Mullery  Swanger
Costa, P.  Harhai  Mundy  Tallman
Creighton  Harhart  Murphy  Taylor
Cruz  Harins  Murt  Thomas
Culver  Harper  Mustio  Tobash
Curry  Harris  Myers  Topef
Cutler  Heffley  Neuman  Toohil
Daley  Helm  O'Brien, M.  Truitt
Davidson  Hennessey  O'Neill  Turzai
Day  Hickernell  Parker  Vitali
DeSissio  Hutchinson  Payne  Waters
Delozier  Josephs  Payton  Watson
DeLuca  Kalfman  Peifer  Wheatley
Denlinger  Kaushilch  Petracca  Youngblood

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

STATEMENT BY MR. SACCON E

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Saccone, under unanimous consent relative to the resolution which just passed.

Mr. SACCONE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I thank my colleagues for voting 2012 as the year of the Bible, and I just want to share a few quotes from our Founding Fathers and past Presidents to support this resolution. Starting with George Washington, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." And from Ben Franklin, our Founding Father, 23d Speaker of this House and former Governor of Pennsylvania, staring down from our glorious Apotheosis said, "A Bible in every home is the principle support of virtue, morality, and civil liberty." Benjamin Rush, who is looking down upon us from the Apotheosis, was a signatory of the Declaration of Independence, and attended the Continental Congress, and he was a member of this very House, said "...the Bible contains more knowledge necessary to man in his present state than any other book in the world." Andrew Jackson, our seventh President, said "The Bible is the Rock on which this Republic rests." Abraham Lincoln said, "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good of the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this Book." And finally, Ronald Reagan said, "Of the many influences that have shaped the United States into a distinctive and enduring nation and people, none may be said to be more fundamental and enduring than the Bible."

I think the Bible has had a significant impact on our country and our nation, and I think it is only proper that we recognize that. And maybe in a time of stress, when our nation needs us most, we should reflect on the words in that book and we might find some wisdom, some comfort, and some solace.

God bless America and the State of Pennsylvania. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

STATEMENT BY MR. STURLA

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman from Lancaster County, Mr. Sturla, rise?

Mr. STURLA. Brief comment, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Pardon me?

Mr. STURLA. Mr. Speaker, on HR 535, I just wanted to point out from a historic perspective, the Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic. The first Greek translation was in 2050 B.C., the first Latin translation was in 380 A.D., and the first English translation did not come along until around 1380.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. I was just thankful he finally gave us some useful information. Just kidding, for the record.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The SPEAKER. For the purpose of making a committee announcement, the gentleman from Delaware County, Mr. Micozzie, is recognized.

Mr. MICOZZIE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There will be a voting meeting in G-50 immediately after session. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. There will be an Insurance Committee meeting after session today in room G-50.

STATEMENT BY MINORITY LEADER

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, the minority leader, Mr. Dermody.

Mr. DER MODY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak on unanimous consent, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is in order and may proceed.

Mr. DER MO Dy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we know that several meetings have been held between the House Republican Caucus, the Senate Republican Caucus, and the Governor and the Governor's Office on the issue of Marcellus Shale natural gas fee or tax. We also know that the House Democrats and the Senate Democrats have not been involved in these negotiations. And most importantly, Mr. Speaker, we know all these meetings have not been held in public so all the interested parties, including the press, the environmental advocacy groups, local government groups, and others could be informed and aware of the progress made at these meetings. Mr. Speaker, I was under the apparently mistaken impression from the rhetoric over the past few years that House Republicans believed in a transparent, open, and accessible government. Mr. Speaker, transparency and openness are critical to ensuring our State government operates with integrity and accountability. There is perhaps no greater issue facing the people of Pennsylvania than the responsible oversight of the booming natural gas drilling industry in the Marcellus Shale region. Certainly the people of Pennsylvania, including those in the Marcellus Shale region, deserve better than a return to the dark days of closed-door, backroom legislating.

The Senate majority leader just stated on PCN (Pennsylvania Cable Network) last night that he believes the House and Senate should pass something, anything, on Marcellus Shale just to say they got something done. Mr. Speaker, that is disappointing. The people of Pennsylvania sent us to Harrisburg not just to go through the motions of making laws, but to do it right and get the job done. They did not send us here to do the job halfway. Do not be fooled by this talk that we can come back and fix whatever flawed legislation the Republican majority and the Governor come up with. That is a fallacy. We only have one chance to pass a drilling tax that ensures that the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the land we depend on are kept accessible government. Mr. Speaker, transparency and openness are critical to ensuring our State government operates with integrity and accountability. There is perhaps no greater issue facing the people of Pennsylvania than the responsible oversight of the booming natural gas drilling industry in the Marcellus Shale region. Certainly the people of Pennsylvania, including those in the Marcellus Shale region, deserve better than a return to the dark days of closed-door, backroom legislating.

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clean and safe for our children and our children's children. That is why we urge Governor Corbett and the Republicans to stop this farce of an impact fee. We urge them to begin working in earnest to enact a real, fair, and reasonable severance tax on the oil and gas drillers in the Marcellus Shale. Only by enacting a real severance tax will we be able to ensure natural gas drilling companies are paying their fair share and to ensure that every Pennsylvanian can benefit from the development of the Marcellus Shale. Only by enacting a real severance tax will we be able to use this revenue to address some of the most pressing issues in our Commonwealth, including environmental protection, hazardous site cleanup programs, affordable housing, education – and we all know what is happening with education, not only in Chester Upland but throughout the Commonwealth – education, transportation, infrastructure, and human services.

Let us get the job done. Let us do it right. The people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania expect us to do this job correctly. They expect us to do it right. They do not expect half measures under the cover of darkness. Mr. Speaker, let us get out of the backroom dealing, get back to work in the light of day for the people of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, the majority leader, Mr. Turzai.

Mr. TURZAI. To my good friend, the minority leader from Allegheny County, with all due respect, your side was in charge of this chamber for 4 years under a Democratic Governor, and all we heard throughout that timeframe was the need for a tax on a growing industry that provides jobs and capital. And guess what? It never got done. And the real interesting part of it is that there was never a proposal advocated or passed by our colleagues when they were in the majority that dealt with improving the regulatory environment to protect citizens and the environment. And finally, there certainly was not a component that looked at the Oil and Gas Lease Fund and said, how can we invest in appropriate environmental programs like reclamation projects?

The fact of the matter is, the Governor put forth a commonsense proposal that did two things. One, it said we need to protect citizens and the environment and it had a regulatory component and it had an impact component, but it also had a component that said there needs to be predictability and certainty, and we would like to have the Marcellus Shale industry grow so that there are well-paying jobs in our State; so that there is capital coming to landowners; so that we can have a cleaner energy source; so that we can have downhill job development like contractors, architects, water engineers making sure our water is safe, and when each and every one of us wants to be able to get a warm towel out of the dryer or hot water in the shower or the ability to cook on a stove at reasonable prices, energy from the United States, not dependence on foreign energy, that is what the Governor's proposal did.

HB 1950, sponsored by my good friend from Butler County, with significant input from many of our members of the caucus, including the good gentleman from Indiana County, we came up with a three-part component: a reasonable and predictable impact fee so that there was a return to our communities with respect to the impact from the growing industry; second, that the Oil and Gas Lease Fund would provide money for needed environmental programs, including reclamation programs; and finally, an improvement to statewide standards with respect to appropriate regulatory framework, which we have never had before for the protection of our citizens and our environment. At the same time, this approach provided predictability and stability to allow new jobs to flourish, new capital to flourish, and an energy source to be developed that each and every one of us can use as consumers at a reasonable price, and it is a cleaner energy source than any other coming out of the ground.

Now, the other side had an opportunity to get it done. If you want to take a look at the parameters with respect to discussion, and you certainly had an opportunity to vote for the good gentleman from Butler County's bill, HB 1950 specifically sets that framework in place. You could also look at SB 1100, which came over here in the form of HB 1950 as amended by the Senate and was unanimously nonconcurred in by this body. It is obvious that the compromise between our good friends in the Senate and what we are doing here in the administration is going to be located somewhere between the terms of HB 1950 and SB 1100. The parameters are set. And because we are about governing and because we are about getting to solutions and not just negative rhetoric, we will get a bill done. We will allow the industry to flourish and good jobs to come forth and capital to come to landowners in Pennsylvania and new offices to be located and contractors and others to get engaged with the development, manufacturers with respect to pipeline. We are going to get that and a protection for our environment and for our citizens.

The proposals that were put on by the other side were completely penal in nature. They did not really care about the environment. You heard the good gentleman. He said he was protecting the environment by a tax? Because the notion on the other side of the aisle with respect to some, although not all, is that they want to completely shut down during our difficult economic times this industry. That is wrong. Their 9-percent tax would have, under some estimations, amounted to over $1 million per well, when the reasonable impact fee that has been on the table is somewhere between $160,000 and $360,000 per well in an impact fee. We are going to continue to do our work, and just like we have throughout this session, we are going to get bills not only passed but on the Governor's desk and into law. We are solution-oriented and we are balanced, and we stand in direct contrast to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Allegheny County, Mr. Dermody, is recognized.

Mr. DERMOBY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will be brief. We have been here a year. You have had 112 for a year. You have got the Senate majority. We do not have any bill here. We can say — The majority leader, I would like just to correct a statement that we never passed anything here when we were in the majority. I will remind the majority leader that we passed a Marcellus bill that had environmental protections, a reasonable tax, and we passed that twice and sent it to the Republican-controlled Senate and nothing happened. We are here and ready to act; only we do not know what is going on because we have been kept in the dark. There has been no transparency. We want to help craft a reasonable bill that protects the people of the Commonwealth. That is not what has been taking place. You know it. We know it. The people of Pennsylvania know it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Bucks County, Mr. Clymer, is recognized for the purpose of a committee announcement.

Mr. CLYMER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
Mr. Speaker, before I can make my announcement, I need to know whether or not the House is going to be in session tomorrow.

The SPEAKER. Yes.
Mr. CLYMER. It will be. Okay.
Based on that, Mr. Speaker, we are going to go through with our committee hearing on Thursday, which is the 26th, I guess, of January, 10 o’clock, in room 60. So the committee informational hearing scheduled for Thursday is ongoing since we are going to be in session tomorrow.

Thank you.
The SPEAKER. The Education Committee will meet tomorrow at 10 a.m. in room 60, East Wing.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR. DiGIROLAMO

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman from Bucks County, Mr. DiGirolamo, seek recognition?
Mr. DiGIROLAMO. Unanimous consent, Mr. Speaker.
The SPEAKER. The gentleman may proceed.
Mr. DiGIROLAMO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
I would like to announce for the membership the birth of my third grandchild. Anthony James DiGirolamo came into the world. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
Anthony James DiGirolamo came into the world this past Friday, and I would like to congratulate my son, Anthony, and his wife, Tara, who reside in West Palm Beach, Florida. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
The SPEAKER. Congratulations to the gentleman.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

The SPEAKER. The clerk will read the supplemental reports from the Committee on Committees. There are two reports.

The following reports were read:

Committee on Committees
Supplemental Report
In the House of Representatives
January 24, 2012

RESOLVED, That

Representative Kerry Benninghoff, Centre and Mifflin Counties, is elected as a member of the Professional Licensure Committee.
Representative Jerry Knowles, Schuylkill County, is elected as a member of the Transportation Committee.
Representative Bernie O’Neill, Bucks County, is resigning as a member of the Commerce Committee and is elected as a member of the Professional Licensure Committee.
Representative Duane Milne, Chester County, is resigning as a member of the Education Committee and is elected as a member of the Commerce Committee.
Representative Gary Day, Berks and Lehigh Counties, is resigning as a member of the Professional Licensure Committee and is elected as a member of the Appropriations Committee.
Representative Carl Walker Metzgar, Bedford and Somerset Counties, is elected as a member of the Consumer Affairs Committee.
Representative Jim Marshall, Beaver County, is elected as a member of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.
Representative Jim Christiana, Beaver County, is elected as a member of the Education Committee.
Representative Kate Harper, Montgomery County, is resigning as a member of the Environmental Resources & Energy Committee and is elected as a member of the Children & Youth Committee.
Representative Adam Ravenstahl is elected as a member of the Aging Committee.
Representative Michelle Brownlee is elected as a member of the Appropriations Committee.
Representative Joseph Brennan and Representative Maria Donatucci are elected as members of the Children & Youth Committee.
Representative Steven Santarsiero is elected as a member of the Education Committee.
Representative Tony Payton is elected as a member of the Ethics Committee.
Representative Kevin Boyle and Representative Gerald Mullery are elected as members of the Human Services Committee.
Representative Tina Davis is elected as a member of the Insurance Committee.
Representative Jake Wheatley is elected as a member of the Rules Committee.
Representative Angel Cruz is elected as a member of the State Government Committee.
Representative William Kortz is elected as a member of the Transportation Committee.
Representative Michael O’Brien and Representative Margo Davidson are elected members of the Urban Affairs Committee.
Representative Brendan Boyle is resigning as a member of the Agricultural & Rural Affairs Committee and is being replaced by Representative Pamela DeLissio.

Respectfully submitted,
Ted Harhai, Chairman
Committee on Committees

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolutions?
Resolutions were adopted.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The SPEAKER. The clerk will read the following appointments made by the Speaker.

The following appointments were read:

Speaker appointments:

Representative Brian Ellis, Butler County, is appointed Chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice on the Appropriations Committee.

Representative Seth Grove, York County, is appointed Chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Transportation on the Transportation Committee.

Representative Scott Petri, Bucks County, is appointed to the Ethics Committee, and will hold the office of Chairman. Representative Scott Petri is also appointed Vice Chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Representative John Payne, Dauphin County, is appointed Chairman of the Subcommittee on Financial Services and Banking on the Commerce Committee.

Representative Bernie O'Neill, Bucks County, is appointed Chairman of the Subcommittee on Higher Education on the Education Committee.

The SPEAKER. For the information of the members, there will be no more votes this afternoon.

BILLS RECOMMITTED

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the majority leader, who moves that the following bills be recommitted to the Committee on Appropriations:

HB 19;
HB 21;
HB 193;
HB 774;
HB 1439;
HB 1440;
HB 1442;
HB 1453;
HB 1857; and
SB 894.

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

BILLS REMOVED FROM TABLE

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the majority leader, who moves that the following bills be removed from the tabled calendar and placed on the active calendar:

HB 1830;
HB 1972;
HB 2022;
HB 2045; and
SB 1237.

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

RESOLUTION

Mr. TURZAI called up HR 354, PN 2201, entitled:

A Resolution promoting awareness of atrial fibrillation and urging the Secretary of Health to prioritize atrial fibrillation and implement programs, evaluation, assessment and policy changes that will reduce the burden of this costly, progressive disease.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

RESOLUTION TABLED

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the majority leader, who moves that HR 354 be removed from the active calendar and placed on the tabled calendar.

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

RESOLUTION REMOVED FROM TABLE

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the majority leader, who moves that HR 354 be removed from the tabled calendar and placed on the active calendar.

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

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS PASSED OVER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, all remaining bills and resolutions on today's calendar will be passed over. The Chair hears no objection.
The SPEAKER. Seeing no further business before the House, the Speaker recognizes the gentleman, Mr. Kevin Boyle, from Philadelphia County, who moves that this House do adjourn until Wednesday, January 25, 2012, 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 3:35 p.m., e.s.t., the House adjourned.