

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

SESSION OF 2021

205TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 7

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

THE SPEAKER (BRYAN CUTLER) PRESIDING

PRAYER

HON. PAMELA A. DeLISSIO, member of the House of Representatives, offered the following prayer:

Good morning. For me, prayer is communication with the being that I believe in, the being that actually gets me through most days and my most challenging times, and the same being that helps me to rejoice and celebrate when things are going particularly well. So I would like to just let you in on that conversation today, this morning, and do it publicly.

Dear Lord, this is Pam; not that Pam, the other Pam. I need Your help this morning. I get out of bed every day beyond hopeful. It is the only way I know how to get out of bed in the morning, Lord, but for a while now the challenges throughout the day make me weary before the day ends, make me frustrated before the day ends, and quite frankly, Lord, I sometimes start to lose hope and I do not want to lose hope. You have put me in this wonderful position to try to do what is best for the citizens of Pennsylvania, and specifically, the constituents of the 194th, and I need Your strength, I need Your guidance, I need to persevere like You would like me to persevere in order to do good work.

Lord, I sincerely ask for Your help so that I can be a better listener. It seems too many times, even in my own head, I am formulating the comeback or the comment before whomever I am speaking with has finished. So I know I am not truly listening to them and hearing them, and that is such an important part of communicating and understanding each other. So, Lord, today, this morning, as I do every day, I do ask for the strength to follow Your guidance and today of all days that we are good listeners to each other. Today is Holocaust Remembrance Day, a horrific time in the history of the human race, horrific; unimaginable that it even occurred. And perhaps that may not have occurred if we had been better listeners to each other and we had been more concerned about the overall well-being of our friends and our neighbors and our family, whether they be near or whether they be far.

So thank You for Your blessings today, thank you for Your guidance. 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 Tuesday, January 26, 2021, will be postponed until printed.

The Speaker has been notified that the Judiciary Committee is continuing to meet. We will be doing some housekeeping up front until their committee meeting concludes, prior to us taking the master roll.

HOUSE RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

No. 25 By Representatives DEASY, SANCHEZ, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, SAMUELSON, NEILSON, CIRESI, FREEMAN and DRISCOLL

A Resolution urging the House of Representatives to extend the deadlines for the filing of and selective tax payments due for 2020 State and local tax returns.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, January 27, 2021.

No. 26 By Representatives DEASY, SANCHEZ, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, SAMUELSON, NEILSON, CIRESI, ROZZI, FREEMAN and DRISCOLL

A Resolution urging the United States Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service to extend the deadline for all taxpayers who file and pay their 2020 Federal income taxes on April 15, 2021.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, January 27, 2021.

HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

No. 275 By Representatives KEEFER, RYAN, STAATS, DAY, ROTHMAN, IRVIN, HARRIS, ZIMMERMAN, GALLOWAY, MOUL, KNOWLES, COX, OWLETT, JONES and KAUFFMAN

An Act amending Titles 23 (Domestic Relations) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in child protective services, further providing for definitions; and, in juvenile matters, further providing for definitions.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, January 27, 2021.

No. 276 By Representatives RADER, FREEMAN, NEILSON, GALLOWAY, MILLARD, CIRESI and ZIMMERMAN

An Act amending the act of June 24, 1931 (P.L.1206, No.331), known as The First Class Township Code, in finance and taxation, further providing for tax levies.

Referred to Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT, January 27, 2021.

No. 277 By Representatives RADER, FREEMAN, NEILSON, GALLOWAY, MILLARD, CIRESI and ZIMMERMAN

An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.103, No.69), known as The Second Class Township Code, in taxation and finance, further providing for township and special tax levies.

Referred to Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT, January 27, 2021.

No. 278 By Representatives RADER, FREEMAN, NEILSON, GALLOWAY, MILLARD, CIRESI and ZIMMERMAN

An Act amending Titles 8 (Boroughs and Incorporated Towns) and 11 (Cities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in taxation and finance, further providing for tax levy; and, in taxation, further providing for tax levies.

Referred to Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT, January 27, 2021.

No. 279 By Representatives BURGOS, RABB, HOHENSTEIN, HERSHEY, INNAMORATO, QUINN, SANCHEZ, HANBIDGE, KRAJEWSKI, FRANKEL, KINSEY, ISAACSON, SCHLOSSBERG, GUENST, FIEDLER, LEE, PASHINSKI, SCHWEYER, HOWARD and VITALI

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in licensing of drivers, further providing for application for driver's license or learner's permit, for issuance and content of driver's license and for expiration and renewal of drivers' licenses.

Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION, January 27, 2021.

No. 280 By Representatives ORTITAY, GROVE, ROWE, RYAN, COOK, METCALFE, MIHALEK, KERWIN, O'NEAL, KAIL, GREGORY, DAVANZO, GLEIM, SNYDER, DIAMOND, MARKOSEK and MUSTELLO

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in firearms and other dangerous articles, further providing for definitions, for licenses, for sale or transfer of firearms and for Pennsylvania State Police, repealing provisions relating to firearm sales surcharge and to Firearm Records Check Fund

and further providing for licensing of dealers and for administrative regulations.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, January 27, 2021.

No. 281 By Representatives ORTITAY and GAYDOS

An Act amending the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities Act, in licensing of health care facilities, providing for report of inventory by health care facility.

Referred to Committee on HEALTH, January 27, 2021.

No. 282 By Representatives ORTITAY, STAATS, SCHMITT, HILL-EVANS, SHUSTERMAN, NEILSON, A. DAVIS, WEBSTER, HERSHEY, CIRESI and LAWRENCE

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in alimony and support, further providing for alimony.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, January 27, 2021.

No. 288 By Representatives O'NEAL, DAVANZO, OWLETT, METCALFE, RYAN, GLEIM, DUNBAR, ZIMMERMAN, JAMES, BOBACK, HERSHEY and ROWE

An Act providing for regulatory compliance.

Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, January 27, 2021.

No. 289 By Representatives O'NEAL, ECKER, KAUFFMAN, OWLETT, COOK, TOPPER, BROOKS, STAATS, WARNER, GREINER, RYAN, BERNSTINE, SCHEMEL, GROVE, KLUNK, IRVIN, ZIMMERMAN, DAVANZO, METCALFE, REESE, GLEIM, JAMES, HERSHEY, MOUL, SANKEY, B. MILLER and ROWE

An Act amending the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities Act, in licensing of health care facilities, further providing for right to enter and inspect.

Referred to Committee on HEALTH, January 27, 2021.

No. 290 By Representatives WARNER, REESE, DAVANZO, R. BROWN, CIRESI, DIAMOND, GLEIM, HILL-EVANS, JAMES, McNEILL, MILLARD, MIZGORSKI, OWLETT, PISCOTTANO, ROTHMAN and STRUZZI

An Act amending the act of December 19, 1988 (P.L.1262, No.156), known as the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, in miscellaneous provisions, providing for games of chance operations during COVID-19 disaster emergency.

Referred to Committee on GAMING OVERSIGHT, January 27, 2021.

No. 291 By Representatives LABS, THOMAS, HENNESSEY, TOMLINSON, CAUSER, CIRESI, T. DAVIS, DeLUCA, FARRY, FREEMAN, GALLOWAY, JAMES, JOZWIAK, LONGIETTI, MARKOSEK, PENNYCUICK, PICKETT and STEPHENS

An Act amending the act of August 26, 1971 (P.L.351, No.91), known as the State Lottery Law, in pharmaceutical assistance for the elderly, further providing for determination of eligibility.

Referred to Committee on AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES, January 27, 2021.

No. 292 By Representatives LONGIETTI, HILL-EVANS, STURLA, SANCHEZ, FREEMAN, SNYDER, CIRESI and DeLUCA

An Act amending the act of December 18, 2001 (P.L.949, No.114), known as the Workforce Development Act, in local workforce investment areas and boards, further providing for membership.

Referred to Committee on LABOR AND INDUSTRY, January 27, 2021.

No. 293 By Representatives OBERLANDER, HOWARD, SCHLEGEL CULVER, FEE, DAY, McNEILL, HILL-EVANS, STAMBAUGH, CIRESI, WHEELAND and WARREN

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in public assistance, providing for compensable services and items; and abrogating a related regulation.

Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES, January 27, 2021.

SENATE BILL FOR CONCURRENCE

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

SB 2, PN 86

Referred to Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, January 27, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR. GILLEN

The SPEAKER. At this time the Chair recognizes the gentleman, Representative Gillen, for a brief announcement relative to the display at the rear of the House commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Mr. GILLEN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Day exhibit will be up the entire session day, and I will be available to answer any questions about it.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The SPEAKER. The Speaker submits the following list of subcommittee chairs and officers for the House standing committees for the 2021-2022 legislative session for the record.

The following committee appointments were submitted:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Member</u>
Aging and Older Adult Services	
Chair	Day
Subcommittee Chair on Care and Services	Flood
Subcommittee Chair on Programs and Benefits	Rowe
Secretary	Williams, C.
Agriculture and Rural Affairs	
Chair	Moul
Vice Chair	Lawrence
Secretary	Zimmerman
Appropriations	
Chair	Saylor
Subcommittee Chair on Criminal Justice	Ecker
Subcommittee Chair on Economic Impact and Infrastructure	Culver
Subcommittee Chair on Education	Brown, R.
Subcommittee Chair on Fiscal Policy	Greiner
Subcommittee Chair on Health and Human Services	Owlett
Subcommittee Chair on Government and Financial Oversight	Lawrence
Vice Chair	Topper
Secretary	Lawrence
Children and Youth	
Chair	Delozier
Vice Chair	Toohil
Secretary	Thomas
Commerce	
Chair	Roae
Subcommittee Chair on Economic Development	Twardzik
Subcommittee Chair on Financial Services and Banking	Brooks
Subcommittee Chair on Housing	Pennycuik
Subcommittee Chair on Small Business	Gaydos
Subcommittee Chair on Automation and Technology	Jones
Secretary	Mercuri
Consumer Affairs	
Chair	Marshall
Subcommittee Chair on Public Utilities	Sankey
Subcommittee Chair on Consumer Protection	Emrick
Secretary	Quinn
Education	
Chair	Sonney
Subcommittee Chair on Basic Education	Gleim
Subcommittee Chair on Higher Education	Topper
Subcommittee Chair on Special Education	Brown, R.
Subcommittee Chair on Career and Technical Education	Staats
Secretary	Schroeder
Environmental Resources and Energy	
Chair	Metcalfe
Subcommittee Chair on Energy	Warner
Subcommittee Chair on Mining	Sankey
Subcommittee Chair on Parks and Forests	Ortitay
Secretary	James

Finance			State Government	
Chair	Peifer		Chair	Grove
Subcommittee Chair on Tax Modernization and Reform	Kaufer		Subcommittee Chair on Government Information Technology and Communication	Diamond
Secretary	Greiner		Subcommittee Chair on Government Integrity and Transparency	Schemel
Game and Fisheries			Subcommittee Chair on Public Pensions, Benefits and Risk Management	Miller, B.
Chair	Gillespie		Subcommittee Chair on Campaign Finance and Elections	Mackenzie, R.
Vice Chair	Jozwiak		Subcommittee Chair on Government Operations	Ortity
Secretary	Ecker		Secretary	Schmitt
Gaming Oversight			Tourism and Recreational Development	
Chair	Helm		Chair	Millard
Vice Chair	Mehaffie		Subcommittee Chair on Arts and Entertainment	Fee
Secretary	Tomlinson		Subcommittee Chair on Recreation	Rader
Health			Subcommittee Chair on Travel Promotion, History and Heritage	Wentling
Chair	Rapp		Secretary	Cook
Subcommittee Chair on Health Care	Schemel		Transportation	
Subcommittee Chair on Health Facilities	Bonner		Chair	Hennessey
Secretary	Keefer		Subcommittee Chair on Aviation	Rothman
Human Services			Subcommittee Chair on Highways	Culver
Chair	Farry		Subcommittee Chair on Public Transportation	Stephens
Subcommittee Chair on Drugs and Alcohol	Tomlinson		Subcommittee Chair on Railroads	Schmitt
Subcommittee Chair on Mental Health	Mihalek		Subcommittee Chair on Transportation Safety	Fee
Secretary	Labs		Subcommittee Chair on Ports	Schroeder
Insurance			Secretary	Lawrence
Chair	Pickett		Urban Affairs	
Vice Chair	Mentzer		Chair	Knowles
Secretary	Cook		Subcommittee Chair on Cities, Counties – First Class	Heffley
Judiciary			Subcommittee Chair on Cities, Counties – Second Class	Mizgorski
Chair	Kauffman		Subcommittee Chair on Cities, Third Class	Brooks
Subcommittee Chair on Courts	Schemel		Secretary	DelRosso
Subcommittee Chair on Crime and Corrections	Jozwiak		Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness	
Subcommittee Chair on Family Law	Klunk		Chair	Boback
Secretary	Klunk		Subcommittee Chair on Military and Veterans Facilities	Ryan
Labor and Industry			Subcommittee Chair on Security and Emergency Response Readiness	Culver
Chair	Cox		Secretary	Gillen
Subcommittee Chair on Employment and Unemployment	Klunk			
Subcommittee Chair on Workers' Compensation and Worker Protection	Nelson E.		The SPEAKER. The House will be temporarily at ease while the committees conclude their meetings.	
Secretary	Davanzo			
Liquor Control			The House will come back to order.	
Chair	Pyle		It is the Chair's understanding the Judiciary Committee has concluded their committee meeting, so now we will move to leaves of absence.	
Subcommittee Chair on Licensing	Jozwiak			
Subcommittee Chair on Marketing	Staats			
Secretary	Gaydos			
Local Government				
Chair	Metzgar			
Subcommittee Chair on Boroughs	Rigby			
Subcommittee Chair on Counties	Irvin			
Subcommittee Chair on Townships	Emrick			
Secretary	James			
Professional Licensure				
Chair	Hickernell			
Vice Chair	Emrick			
Secretary	Thomas			

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. Are there requests for leaves of absence?
On that question, the Chair recognizes the Republican whip, who indicates that there are none.

The Chair recognizes the Democratic whip, who indicates that there are none.

MASTER ROLL CALL

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

The following roll call was recorded:

PRESENT—202

Armanini	Flynn	Lee	Rapp
Benham	Frankel	Lewis	Rigby
Benninghoff	Freeman	Longietti	Roae
Bernstine	Fritz	Mackenzie, M.	Rothman
Bizzarro	Gainey	Mackenzie, R.	Rowe
Boback	Galloway	Madden	Rozzi
Bonner	Gaydos	Mako	Ryan
Borowicz	Gillen	Malagari	Sainato
Boyle	Gillespie	Maloney	Samuelson
Bradford	Gleim	Markosek	Sanchez
Briggs	Gregory	Marshall	Sankey
Brooks	Greiner	Masser	Sappey
Brown, A.	Grove	Matzie	Saylor
Brown, R.	Guenst	McClinton	Schemel
Bullock	Guzman	McNeill	Schlossberg
Burgos	Hamm	Mehaffie	Schmitt
Burns	Hanbidge	Mentzer	Schroeder
Carroll	Harkins	Mercuri	Schweyer
Causser	Harris	Merski	Shusterman
Cephas	Heffley	Metcalfe	Silvis
Ciresi	Helm	Metzgar	Sims
Conklin	Hennessey	Mihalek	Smith
Cook	Herrin	Millard	Snyder
Cox	Hershey	Miller, B.	Solomon
Cruz	Hickernell	Miller, D.	Sonney
Culver	Hohenstein	Mizgorski	Staats
Daley	Howard	Moul	Stambaugh
Davanzo	Innamorato	Mullery	Stephens
Davidson	Irvin	Mullins	Struzzi
Davis, A.	Isaacson	Mustello	Sturla
Davis, T.	James	Neilson	Thomas
Dawkins	Jones	Nelson, E.	Tomlinson
Day	Jozwiak	Nelson, N.	Toohil
Deasy	Kail	O'Mara	Topper
DeLissio	Kaufer	O'Neal	Twardzik
Delloso	Kauffman	Oberlander	Vitali
Delozier	Keefer	Ortitay	Warner
DelRosso	Kenyatta	Otten	Warren
DeLuca	Kerwin	Owlett	Webster
Diamond	Kim	Parker	Wentling
Dowling	Kinhead	Pashinski	Wheatley
Driscoll	Kinsey	Peifer	Wheeland
Dunbar	Kirkland	Pennycuik	White
Ecker	Klunk	Pickett	Williams, C.
Emrick	Knowles	Pisciottano	Williams, D.
Evans	Kosierowski	Polinchock	Young
Farry	Krajewski	Puskaric	Zabel
Fee	Krueger	Pyle	Zimmerman
Fiedler	Kulik	Quinn	
Fitzgerald	Labs	Rabb	Cutler,
Flood	Lawrence	Rader	Speaker

ADDITIONS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—0

The SPEAKER. Two hundred and two members having voted on the master roll, a quorum is present.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The SPEAKER. Turning to committee announcements, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman, Representative Boback, for a committee announcement.

Ms. BOBACK. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to announce that the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee has met and reorganized and the committee stands ready for legislative business in the new session.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Representative Moul, for a committee announcement.

Mr. MOUL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For all of you in the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, a little change today. Because of the break that we are going to have, we are moving the meeting to at the break, which will be shortly, to G-50 Irvis Office Building. Agriculture and Rural Affairs, G-50 Irvis Office, immediately at the break.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

There will be an Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meeting at the break in G-50 Irvis Office Building.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Representative Cox, for a committee announcement.

Mr. COX. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am pleased to report that the Labor and Industry Committee has organized and is ready to conduct business.

LABOR AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. COX. I would also like to announce that there will be a voting meeting of the Labor and Industry Committee immediately upon the break. That will be in room 205, Ryan Office Building. We will be voting on HB 157, HB 178, and any other business to come before the committee. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

At the break there will be an immediate meeting of the Labor and Industry Committee in room 205, Ryan Office Building.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman, Representative Delozier, for a committee announcement.

Ms. DELOZIER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to announce that the Children and Youth Committee has met and organized and is ready to conduct business.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady.

STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Representative Grove, for a committee announcement.

Mr. GROVE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The State Government Committee meeting will reconvene in room 140, Main Capitol, the majority caucus room, to consider SB 2, which just recently was placed in the State Government Committee, and any further business. The committee meeting will occur after the Appropriations Committee voting meeting. Members participating virtually will use the same link as the 8 a.m. voting meeting. Members who already submitted their voting designation forms will not have to resubmit them.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The State Government Committee meeting will reconvene after the Appropriations voting meeting in room 140, Main Capitol, the majority caucus room.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GAME AND FISHERIES

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Representative Gillespie, for a committee announcement.

Mr. GILLESPIE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The House Game and Fisheries Committee met yesterday afternoon and reorganized. We are ready to conduct business. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York County, Representative Saylor, for an Appropriations Committee announcement.

Mr. SAYLOR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Appropriations Committee will meet immediately in the majority caucus room, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Appropriations Committee will meet immediately in the majority caucus room.

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

The SPEAKER. Now moving to caucus announcements, the Chair recognizes the gentleman, Representative Dunbar, for a caucus announcement.

Mr. DUNBAR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Republicans will caucus virtually at 12 o'clock. We will be prepared to come back on the floor at 12:30.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Representative Dan Miller, for a caucus announcement.

Mr. D. MILLER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Democrats will caucus at 12 o'clock virtually. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Seeing no further committee announcements, this House will be in recess until 12:30, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

RECESS EXTENDED

The time of recess was extended until 12:45 p.m.; further extended until 1 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

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

BILLS REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

HB 14, PN 9

By Rep. SAYLOR

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for courts to be open and suits against the Commonwealth.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 55, PN 34

By Rep. SAYLOR

A Joint Resolution proposing separate and distinct amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania, in declaration of rights, providing for prohibition against denial or abridgment of equality of rights because of race and ethnicity; in legislation, further providing for action on concurrent orders and resolutions; and, in the executive, providing for disaster emergency declaration and management.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 104, PN 245

By Rep. SAYLOR

An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the assessment of improper payments by Commonwealth agencies and for public information on payments and programs of Commonwealth agencies.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 108, PN 124

By Rep. SAYLOR

An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for improper payments; and establishing Do-Not-Pay Initiative.

APPROPRIATIONS.

**BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES,
CONSIDERED FIRST TIME, AND TABLED****HB 103, PN 73** By Rep. KAUFFMAN

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in assault, providing for the offense of harassment of law enforcement officer; and imposing penalties.

JUDICIARY.

HB 146, PN 112 By Rep. KAUFFMAN

An Act amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, further providing for parole power.

JUDICIARY.

HB 156, PN 121 By Rep. KAUFFMAN

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in depositions and witnesses, further providing for admissibility of certain statements.

JUDICIARY.

HB 157, PN 122 By Rep. COX

An Act repealing the act of July 1, 1978 (P.L.584, No.109), entitled "An act establishing an agency to create the linkage necessary for the planning of an economic development system for Pennsylvania, and making an appropriation."

LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

HB 163, PN 279 (Amended) By Rep. KAUFFMAN

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in other offenses, further providing for the offense of invasion of privacy.

JUDICIARY.

HB 178, PN 146 By Rep. COX

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 determination of compensation, appeals, reviews and procedure, further providing for determination of compensation appeals and for decision of referee and further appeals and reviews.

LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

HB 184, PN 152 By Rep. KAUFFMAN

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in criminal homicide, further providing for the offense of causing or aiding suicide.

JUDICIARY.

HB 185, PN 153

By Rep. KAUFFMAN

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in assault, further providing for the offense of aggravated assault.

JUDICIARY.

**HOUSE BILLS
INTRODUCED AND REFERRED**

No. 95 By Representatives DIAMOND, GLEIM, GROVE, HERSHEY, HOHENSTEIN, ISAACSON, JAMES, KEEFER, METCALFE, MILLARD, B. MILLER, MOUL, NEILSON, PISCOTTANO, RYAN, STAATS, ZABEL and ZIMMERMAN

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in particular rights and immunities, providing for immunity for constitutionally protected communications.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, January 27, 2021.

No. 287 By Representatives O'NEAL, PYLE, ROTHMAN, DAVANZO, HILL-EVANS, McNEILL, JAMES, WARNER, MOUL, SANKEY and ROWE

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations and liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, further providing for authority to issue liquor licenses to hotels, restaurants and clubs, for sales by liquor licensees and restrictions, for sale of malt or brewed beverages by liquor licensees, for retail dispensers' restrictions on purchases and sales, for unlawful acts relative to malt or brewed beverages and licensees and for premises to be vacated by patrons.

Referred to Committee on LIQUOR CONTROL, January 27, 2021.

No. 294 By Representatives TOOHIL, BOBACK, JOZWIAK, DeLUCA, FEE, BROOKS, McNEILL, HELM, GLEIM, POLINCHOCK, STEPHENS, BURGOS, R. BROWN, MIHALEK and HOWARD

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in protection from abuse, further providing for relief.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, January 27, 2021.

No. 295 By Representatives THOMAS, STEPHENS, LABS, QUINN, POLINCHOCK, KAUFER and TOMLINSON

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in general powers and duties of department, providing for nondiscrimination; in children and youth, further providing for availability of services; and, in fraud and abuse control, further providing for freedom of choice and nondiscrimination.

Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES, January 27, 2021.

No. 296 By Representatives DIAMOND, GLEIM, GROVE, HAMM, KAUFFMAN, B. MILLER, ROWE, RYAN and ZIMMERMAN

An Act amending the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law, in procedure, further providing for exceptions for public records.

Referred to Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, January 27, 2021.

No. 297 By Representatives DIAMOND, ROWE and ZIMMERMAN

An Act amending the act of July 28, 1953 (P.L.723, No.230), known as the Second Class County Code, in Allegheny Regional Asset District, further providing for imposition of sales and use tax.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, January 27, 2021.

No. 298 By Representatives DIAMOND, CIRESI, SCHLEGEL CULVER, JAMES, MILLARD, NEILSON, N. NELSON, STAATS and ZIMMERMAN

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in miscellaneous provisions relating to operation of vehicles, further providing for accident reports by police.

Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION, January 27, 2021.

No. 299 By Representatives DIAMOND, GAYDOS, GLEIM, GROVE, IRVIN, MILLARD, MOUL, RYAN, WHEELAND and ZIMMERMAN

An Act requiring cell phones and devices utilizing Internet protocol-enabled service to obtain authorization by end-use consumers prior to transmitting certain information.

Referred to Committee on CONSUMER AFFAIRS, January 27, 2021.

No. 301 By Representatives DIAMOND, DRISCOLL, GLEIM, JAMES, KEEFER, MILLARD, B. MILLER, ROWE and ZIMMERMAN

An Act amending the act of December 17, 1968 (P.L.1224, No.387), known as the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, further providing for definitions.

Referred to Committee on CONSUMER AFFAIRS, January 27, 2021.

No. 302 By Representatives DIAMOND, HAMM, JONES, KAUFFMAN, KERWIN, MALONEY, METCALFE, MOUL, RYAN, SAYLOR, STAATS, STAMBAUGH, STRUZZI, WHEELAND and ZIMMERMAN

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, prohibiting the taxation of real property.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, January 27, 2021.

No. 303 By Representatives DIAMOND, GLEIM, HILL-EVANS, ROWE, RYAN, STAATS and ZIMMERMAN

An Act amending Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in grant of letters, further providing for advertisement of grant of letters.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, January 27, 2021.

No. 304 By Representatives DIAMOND, CIRESI, HILL-EVANS, IRVIN, MOUL, QUINN, RAPP, ROAE, ROWE, RYAN and STRUZZI

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in juries and jurors, further providing for exemptions from jury duty.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, January 27, 2021.

No. 305 By Representatives DIAMOND, ROWE and ZIMMERMAN

An Act amending the act of June 5, 1991 (P.L.9, No.6), known as the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority Act for Cities of the First Class, in optional sales and use tax, further providing for imposition of additional tax.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, January 27, 2021.

No. 306 By Representatives DIAMOND, CIRESI, COX, HERSHEY, HILL-EVANS, JONES, NEILSON, N. NELSON, ROWE and STAATS

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, further providing for registration and certificate of title required; in licensing of drivers, further providing for carrying and exhibiting driver's license on demand; and, in inspection of vehicles, further providing for operation of vehicle without official certificate of inspection.

Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION, January 27, 2021.

No. 307 By Representatives DIAMOND, ROWE and ZIMMERMAN

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in sales and use tax, further providing for definitions, for imposition of tax and for computation of tax, repealing provisions relating to exclusions from tax and further providing for alternate imposition of tax and credits and for transfers to Public Transportation Assistance Fund; and, in special taxing authority, further providing for special taxing authority.

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, January 27, 2021.

No. 308 By Representatives DIAMOND, CIRESI, HILL-EVANS, KEEFER, MILLARD and RYAN

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in collective bargaining, further providing for matters of inherent managerial policy.

Referred to Committee on LABOR AND INDUSTRY, January 27, 2021.

CALENDAR

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to second consideration of **HB 217, PN 183**, entitled:

A Supplement to the act of May 29, 2020 (P.L. , No.1A), known as the General Appropriation Act of 2020, further providing for additional appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive Department for the fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

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 218, PN 184**, entitled:

A Supplement to the act of May 29, 2020 (P.L. , No.1A), known as the General Appropriation Act of 2020, further providing for additional appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive Department for the fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

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 11, PN 7**, entitled:

An Act designating a portion of Pennsylvania Route 92 from Apple Tree Road to Rustic Lane in Exeter Township, Luzerne County, as the Robert F. Kile, Sr., Memorial Highway.

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 12, PN 8**, entitled:

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 46475, carrying State Route 1021 over the Susquehanna River in Wyoming Borough, Luzerne County, as the George J. Dennis, Jr., Memorial Bridge.

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 16, PN 10**, entitled:

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 40269, on that portion of US 219 Southbound over State Route 2047, Summit Township, Somerset County, as the SP4 Michael William Twig Memorial Bridge.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR A

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to third consideration of **HB 14, PN 9**, entitled:

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for courts to be open and suits against the Commonwealth.

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 Chair recognizes the prime sponsor, the gentleman, Representative Gregory.

Mr. GREGORY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am pleased to rise and ask for my colleagues for a vote in favor of HB 14, which proposes to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to give a 2-year window for individuals for whom a statutory limitations period has already expired to pursue civil action arising from childhood sexual abuse.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will please suspend.

The House will please come to order. Members, please take your seats. The gentleman is discussing a very important issue that we have worked on multiple sessions.

Mr. GREGORY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The cases filed under this provision would be subject to any other requirements provided by law at the time that the provision becomes effective. This constitutional amendment would be self-executing, meaning that its provisions do not need additional legislation to become effective.

Now, if all that sounds familiar, there is a reason. I rose to give similar remarks in April 2019 when we were considering this constitutional amendment during the first passage through the General Assembly. That passed by a vote of 177 to 15 in the House and 42 to 6 in the Senate. Now, at that time Representative Mark Rozzi and I had companion bills. That legislation, which is now Act 87 of 2019, set the rules of how civil and criminal sex abuse cases are to be handled in the courts. These two pieces were designed to work together to give past and future victims – past and future victims – the path to seeking accountability and justice.

It is also important to emphasize that all victims – allow me to emphasize, Mr. Speaker – that all victims will have equal access to relief. Because of the historic nature of the statute of limitations reforms enacted through Act 87 of 2019 – which, among other things, put public and private defendants on exactly the same footing to take responsibility for childhood sexual abuses – this constitutional amendment, too, will apply equally to private and public defendants. All victims are entitled to relief,

regardless of who harmed them. And today we can complete the House's portion of this process and send the bill to our sister chamber, and once there, it will need only one more passage in the Senate chamber before it can be presented to the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for their approval on May 18.

If I may, please. I am comforted to know that Senator Lisa Baker will continue to be a leader on this issue in that chamber, and as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, she has identified this issue as a priority for the Senate in this legislative session.

I will close and I will do so by asking that we continue this process for an affirmative vote today, and I look forward to seeing this constitutional question on the ballot in the 2021 primary election. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Representative Schemel, on the bill.

Mr. SCHEMEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, although well intentioned, will trade one set of injustices for another. Now, I have spoken against this action to move the statute of limitations each time it has been raised over the last 6 years, and I have always focused on the justice element of what it means to have a statute of limitations. Statutes of limitations are there to prevent people from being accused of crimes or being accused of transactions for which they are not effectively able to defend themselves. But this time I would like to talk about this proposed legislation in regard to its effect. Now, it has been adopted by a number of other States so we do not have to guess what happens. It is always billed as something that gives victims their day in court. It gives victims the ability to tell their story, and it changes the behavior of offenders or institutions that may have harbored them.

So let us talk about what this actually means in effect in the States that have given windows in their statutes of limitations. There have been several of them. We see in each case that there are two primary defendants. Now, the concept that this gives somebody the ability – does legally give someone the ability to raise a claim against the individual that actually molested them, but in reality, oftentimes these individuals are dead or old or have no money. The claims almost never get raised against individuals that actually perpetrated the crime. The claim always gets raised against the institution for which they worked or were a minister of or volunteered. So in every State that has enacted this window, the two primary defendants in all civil actions have been the Catholic dioceses and the Boy Scouts. What do these institutions have? Well, you might think, well, they must have harbored a lot more child molesters. They must have a lot more child molesters within them. But research that has been conducted analyzing all of the cases raised, including those in the wake of the Pennsylvania grand jury, indicates that that is not the case; that 4 percent is the incident rate of offenders within the Catholic dioceses, within the Boy Scouts, and then organizations like the YMCA, the Jewish community centers, Evangelical churches, Jewish synagogues, and so forth, 4 percent. It is no higher within those two institutions that always take almost all of the claims than it is within all others, with the exception of public schools, where a very thorough, 1-year-long analysis found that 5 to 7 percent of offenders within public schools was the rate.

Now, Mr. Speaker, who gets sued? The dioceses do and the Boy Scouts. All of us go to Eagle Scout ceremonies. If we pass this and it goes up for a referendum, we know the referendum will be printed within the paper and say that—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will please suspend.

I am being notified that many members cannot hear. This is a very important issue. I ask that members please take their seats and move any conversations off the back of the House.

The gentleman is in order and may proceed. I apologize for interrupting.

Mr. SCHEMEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So let us look at those three primary objectives of victims. Number one, to have their day in court. I am a lawyer. I can tell you, if you look at what has happened in other States that have opened these windows, do victims get their day in court? These become class-action lawsuits that are settled out of court. Very seldom does any actually go to a trial and does anyone get their day in court. Once again, these are settled out of court. They are class-action lawsuits. Watch your television; you will see all of the advertisements from law firms. They combine all of these together, the court combines them, and they are settled out of court.

They want their story to be told. I can tell you as a lawyer that when an attorney is representing a client – an institution, for example – they are going to say, well, of course we do not – you do not want to admit to anything unless you absolutely have to. You open yourself to liability. Extending the statute of limitations in an open window only gives perverse incentive for institutions not to disclose the information that they have.

And finally, victims say that they want to change the behavior of these institutions. Well, if we look in terms of the Catholic church, the dioceses of the United States made those changes in 2002, 19 years ago. I would say many of the members in this body were in grade school at that time. The Boy Scouts made their changes further. In fact, the Boy Scouts set the gold standard for how to handle abuse claims within their institution and have often been lauded. Changes in behavior happened long ago. There is no more behavior to change through the action of this legislative move.

These things will harm the mission of all of these institutions that we care so deeply about. They will not harm the individuals that actually perpetrated the abuse. Once again, those individuals are dead or elderly or have no money, so they will not in any way point to the interest of the attorneys that will run advertisements. I encourage my fellow legislators to vote "no" on this amendment. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

Seeing no one else seeking recognition, we will now turn to the prime sponsors of the bill.

It is the Chair's understanding that the prime sponsor, Representative Gregory, wishes for Representative Rozzi to take the spot in speaking immediately prior to the leaders.

The Chair thanks the gentleman for that clarification. He is in order and may proceed.

Mr. ROZZI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank Representative Jim Gregory, the good gentleman from Blair County, for stepping up and being my partner through this process.

I came to this body, elected January 1, 2013, and in 2016 I stood on this floor and told my story about how I was sexually assaulted and raped by Father Edward R. Graff, while my childhood friend sat outside the door waiting for me to come outside the shower. I came here to tell that story because for so many years before me, legislators did nothing. What I realize now is this is not even about my story. The first grand jury here in Pennsylvania in 2003 was telling victim stories about the

Philadelphia Archdiocese; and another grand jury in 2005, Philadelphia Archdiocese grand jury; and in 2011, the Philadelphia Archdiocese grand jury. Three grand juries out of Philadelphia, hundreds of abusive priests, hundreds of victims, and all three grand juries said the exact same thing: The bishops aided and abetted this coverup. Conspiracy. Fraud. They knew what was happening, and they did nothing to stop it. Monsignor Lynn said that where they used to send these priests, St. John Vianney, was just a warehouse for pedophile priests that were abusers. They did not know what to do with them, so they just sent them to John Vianney and said that they either had alcohol problems or they were struggling with other problems, not sexual abuse problems.

In 2011, how can you forget Jerry Sandusky, Penn State? They knew. JoePa knew in the late seventies. They all knew and they did nothing.

Representatives in this House have been fighting for this since 2005. Representative McGeehan in the back there, first Representative to put up a bill for a 2-year window, fought vigorously; and another Philadelphian, representing the 175th District, Michael O'Brien, elegant in his speeches, your eminencies, your excellencies, one word from you and this bill will move in days. But your silence, there is nothing eminent or excellent about it.

And then in 2016, like we needed more to act as a body, the Altoona-Johnstown grand jury, what did we find out? Hundreds of abusive priests, hundreds of victims; the bishops knew about it and they covered it up. The Solebury School, Bucks County, 2017; and then in 2018, the 40th Statewide Investigating Grand Jury, about 1,400 pages long, over 1,000 victims. They listed 300 predator priests that were confirmed by the church's own records. The Attorney General said he could have listed 400. The bishops aided and abetted. The victims had no chance.

Think about your children. Think about putting them into a school, not knowing the predator is there. My priest was at 12 different parishes. We put his victim totals at over 200. He just kept being moved around. And why? Because of an arbitrary statute of limitations.

We had a good question in our caucus by Representative Vitali, whom we spar over this, and he said, "Well, didn't the victims have enough time? They had 12 years plus their 18th birthday. They had till age 30." The victims in the seventies and the eighties that are listed in that grand jury report had 2 years from the time of the abuse. Now, if you think that is right, then you vote "no." But if you stand for victims and you stand for justice, and it says it right there on our ceiling, that "we shall know the truth and the truth shall set us free." Victims want to know the truth. They deserve to know the truth.

And the good gentleman over here, Representative Schemel, talks about what will happen—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will please suspend.

I recognize the passion with the issue, but I think it is a good reminder to the members: We are not to refer to members by individual names, but rather their county or district number of origin, when we are referring to one another on the House floor.

The gentleman is in order and may proceed.

Mr. ROZZI. The good gentleman, and my friend, talks about what will happen.

We have given the Catholic dioceses in this State ample opportunity to clean up their business, and they have. When the bill failed in 2018, when the President pro tem and I were working trying to figure out a resolution, and it went to the very

last day of session and we could not come up with a compromise, and the Senate talked about taking out the institutions and just sending the bill over against the perpetrators, our majority leader over there, Dave Reed, stood firm and said, "You send that bill back, but we are going to put institutions back in it and send it back to you." But that gave the Catholic dioceses time to open up the compensation fund. They have taken care of about 90 percent of their liabilities. They have paid out \$84 million to 564 victims. You do the math in your head. That is roughly about \$148,000 per victim – pennies on the dollars that these victims deserved; pennies.

And now we want to talk about what it might do to the dioceses. Harrisburg already filed bankruptcy before this bill even passed. So they are in the clear. And quite honestly, if any other diocese files bankruptcy – and mind you, it is voluntary bankruptcy, it is reorganizational bankruptcy – these dioceses already have taken millions of their dollars and put it into trust funds and moved their money all over the place so it cannot be touched. Victims will not have access to go after those funds. The dioceses have gotten off easy, and if they declare bankruptcy, like maybe the Diocese of Pittsburgh should – I mean, for Pete's sake, they were running a pedophile ring out of the diocese, where there were priests who knew boys that were being abused and they were passing them around to other abusive priests, and they did the same thing in the Philadelphia Archdiocese.

What are we? What are our children to those men? We were just something they could use and throw out, because they did not have to worry about the statute of limitations. They still get their pensions. But victims had 2 years, so if you are 9 years old – an example, in Philadelphia a priest made a 9-year-old boy perform oral sex on him, and after the priest finished, he gave the boy holy water to drink to purify him, to purify the victim.

When I was pushing hard in 2018 for this, I was traveling around the State. I was meeting with Senators. I met with one Senator who asked me why am I doing this; "Haven't you had enough?" And I said, "Senator, I would love to go back to the private sector where I run my business." He goes, "Well, I think it's about time that you leave and go back. We don't need this law in Pennsylvania." That Senator was arrested for child pornography charges. Senator Folmer threw me out of his office—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will please suspend.

I recognize it is a very passionate issue, but we still must comply with the rules, by not referring to individual members, either present or retired, by name. Please abide by the rules of referring to them by district number or county of origin.

Mr. ROZZI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Senator was arrested for child pornography charges, the good representative, right? Good.

This is an easy vote. Victims deserve their day in court. Victims have waited long enough. And when Jim was elected in 2019 and you came into my office, I was struggling. We had just lost that bid to pass that bill in 2018. I was in despair, I was depressed, and I did not know if I could even carry this ball anymore. And sometimes I do believe that God puts things in place for us, that we were able to join forces, and honestly, I believe we are going to get this done. We have the full support of the Senate right now, but without your help, Jim, I know that I would still be struggling. So I appreciate that you picked me up and you carried me through this time to the end.

And for all those years I had been calling myself a victim and it was not until I actually got to go to Rome and got to speak in

front of the Italian Parliament and meet with the ambassador to the Holy See and beat the doors down at the Vatican, and then went to my father's homeland of Ascoli, where I realized how hard that the Rozzis struggled in Ascoli and they came here to America to find a better life. They struggled. They were eating chestnuts during the winter. They were survivors. And it was that night that I went back to my hotel room and I was like "I'm a survivor. I am no longer a victim." And it made me think of a poem by William Ernest Henley, and I am just going to read the last two lines of the poem of "Invictus": "I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul."

Victims have waited long enough. Vote "yes."

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman for those heartfelt and personal remarks.

Moving now to the leaders, who both waive off.

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.

(Members proceeded to vote.)

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman, Representative Oberlander.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The electronic board is accurate.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady and recognizes the gentleman, Representative Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The electronic board is accurate.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—187

Armanini	Flynn	Labs	Pyle
Benham	Frankel	Lawrence	Quinn
Benninghoff	Freeman	Lee	Rapp
Bernstine	Fritz	Lewis	Rigby
Bizzarro	Gainey	Longietti	Rothman
Boback	Galloway	Mackenzie, M.	Rozzi
Bonner	Gaydos	Mackenzie, R.	Sainato
Boyle	Gillen	Madden	Samuelson
Bradford	Gillespie	Mako	Sanchez
Briggs	Gleim	Malagari	Sankey
Brooks	Gregory	Maloney	Sappey
Brown, A.	Greiner	Markosek	Saylor
Brown, R.	Grove	Marshall	Schlossberg
Bullock	Guenst	Masser	Schmitt
Burgos	Guzman	Matzie	Schroeder
Burns	Hamm	McClinton	Schweyer
Carroll	Hanbidge	McNeill	Shusterman
Causser	Harkins	Mehaffie	Silvis
Cephas	Harris	Mentzer	Sims
Ciresi	Heffley	Merski	Smith
Conklin	Helm	Metzgar	Snyder
Cook	Hennessey	Mihalek	Solomon
Cox	Herrin	Millard	Sonney
Cruz	Hershey	Miller, B.	Stambaugh
Culver	Hickernell	Miller, D.	Stephens
Daley	Hohenstein	Mizgorski	Struzzi
Davanzo	Howard	Moul	Sturla
Davidson	Innamorato	Mullery	Thomas
Davis, A.	Irvin	Mullins	Tomlinson
Davis, T.	Isaacson	Mustello	Toohil
Dawkins	James	Neilson	Topper

Day	Jones	Nelson, E.	Twardzik
Deasy	Jozwiak	Nelson, N.	Vitali
DeLissio	Kail	O'Mara	Warner
Delloso	Kaufner	O'Neal	Warren
Delozier	Kenyatta	Oberlander	Webster
DeLuca	Kerwin	Ortitay	Wentling
Dowling	Kim	Otten	Wheatley
Driscoll	Kinhead	Owlett	Wheeland
Dunbar	Kinsey	Parker	White
Ecker	Kirkland	Pashinski	Williams, C.
Emrick	Klunk	Peifer	Williams, D.
Evans	Knowles	Pennycuick	Young
Fary	Kosierowski	Pickett	Zabel
Fee	Krajewski	Pisciottano	
Fiedler	Krueger	Polinchock	Cutler,
Fitzgerald	Kulik	Puskaric	Speaker
Flood			

NAYS—15

Borowicz	Keefer	Rader	Schemel
DeRosso	Mercuri	Roae	Staats
Diamond	Metcalfe	Rowe	Zimmerman
Kauffman	Rabb	Ryan	

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—0

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 55, PN 34**, entitled:

A Joint Resolution proposing separate and distinct amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania, in declaration of rights, providing for prohibition against denial or abridgment of equality of rights because of race and ethnicity; in legislation, further providing for action on concurrent orders and resolutions; and, in the executive, providing for disaster emergency declaration and management.

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 Chair recognizes the prime sponsor, Representative Grove.

Mr. GROVE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Today we are going to take some of the final steps to bring some consistency and realign our checks and balances enshrined in our Constitution, dating back to the founding of our country. Further, we get to make a historic vote. To date, our Constitution, particularly the section on the Declaration of Rights, does not have a provision for race or ethnicity, Mr. Speaker. Today we take another step in rectifying that.

Mr. Speaker, we have been under an emergency declaration for COVID closing in on a year. We have had emergency declarations for the opioid crisis – which actually has gotten worse under the COVID emergency declaration – for multiple years, with no ending in sight, Mr. Speaker; no ending in sight. Conceivably, a Governor could come in their first year in office, execute an emergency declaration, and maintain that for 8 straight years, completely ignoring and governing by edict for 8 years. That has never been the intention of an emergency declaration. The intention has always been to deal with an emergency efficiently and expediently and get back to regular business. Obviously, with COVID, it is not a natural disaster. It is still here and this body has operated throughout. We have adjusted, we have made changes, but we have operated. We have operated efficiently. We have operated effectively. We have attempted to do our jobs and legislate and work through this pandemic, but at every turn we have been ignored and marginalized by a Governor and executive branch hepped up on complete and unilateral power.

Mr. Speaker, through this pandemic many lives have been destroyed, either through the virus itself or through the actions of the government, eviscerating entire industries. We can protect lives and we can protect livelihoods, and we have shown to do so in the multitude of policies we have passed and, miraculously, in some cases the Governor actually adopted after vetoing.

But, Mr. Speaker, we are the legislative branch, whether we are Republicans or we are Democrats. We have powers enshrined in our Constitution that this body be a legislative version. Today we can take a step and reaffirm that together, because I assure you, if the gloves were on the other hands, I am pretty sure my colleagues would be joining my fellow Democrats to rein in executive power, because it is not a party issue. It is, in fact, a constitutional issue.

Mr. Speaker, today in Arizona, the Republican legislature is moving constitutional amendments to curb the Republican Governor on emergency powers. It is not a partisan fight. It is about constitutionality. It is what our Founders wanted, coequal branches of government working in unison for the betterment of the residents. It is not what we have today, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we can join together and vote "yes" on these critical bills. One, for the historic nature, to ensure that we have protections under race and ethnicity. I think it is very, very important, Mr. Speaker. And two, to make sure we have those constitutional checks and balances.

I appreciate the members' time in this. I know we have debated this in the past. This is the second time through, but it is imperative that we move forward and ensure that our voters have the ability to vote, because, Mr. Speaker, ultimately, it is not our decision, it is not the Governor's decision, it is not any executive agency's decision on whether these constitutional amendments get adopted. It is by our residents. They have the say. It is their Constitution. Their Constitution is the one that keeps government in check and protects their rights. It is salient that they should have a final vote on this, and I think we should deliver it as soon as possible, because it is one of the number one issues that our constituents have dealt with and continue to discuss moving forward.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I hope we can join together in unity to vote in the affirmative for HB 55. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman and recognizes the gentlewoman, Leader McClinton, on the bill.

Ms. McCLINTON. Mr. Speaker, HB 55 is a prime example of why our House rules prohibit logrolling via the single-subject rule. Here we have what the bill describes as "separate and distinct amendments to the Constitution," yet we, as legislators, cannot vote "yes" to one proposal and "no" to the other. No doubt that is by design.

Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court in the *PAGE* (Pennsylvanians Against Gambling Expansion) case explained that "...the single subject requirement prohibits the attachment of riders that could not become law as is, to popular legislation that would pass." It seems like the Supreme Court was describing HB 55. Here we are with a bill that in the first part prohibits the denial of equal protection under the law based on race or ethnicity and in the second part impedes the ability of future Governors to respond to disasters. If we want to vote "yes" to declaring that racial discrimination has no place here in Pennsylvania, we have to also vote "yes" to putting the citizens of our Commonwealth in peril in the case of future disasters. This is not how government is supposed to work.

It was just a few short weeks ago that we heard the uproar over the most recently passed Federal stimulus package, and that not only provides a stimulus to Americans but also provides handouts to foreign governments and more pork to influential legislators than a Christmas ham. But at least the Federal government does not have a single-subject rule. But we in this House have a single-subject rule, and while I know many of my colleagues criticize the logrolling and typical swamp behavior down in Washington, DC, here we are not only emulating that behavior but breaking our very own rules to do so.

MOTION PURSUANT TO RULE 20

Ms. McCLINTON. Mr. Speaker, I know our House rules are precedents. They are all over the map on whether single-subject applies to constitutional amendments. Sometimes previous Speakers have ruled that the single-subject rule applies. Other times previous speakers have ruled that the Constitution itself is a single subject. The only thing I get from our precedent is that the single-subject rule either applies or does not based on the political motives of the day. But we must rise above that. We must do what is right. Legislators should have the opportunities to vote "yes" or "no" on each separate issue and distinct proposition that is made in HB 55.

We should not be forced to choose between supporting equal protection based on race and ethnicity or opposing an emergency declaration measure that could cost the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania billions of dollars when they are needed most. We should not be forced to choose, and as such, I move that HB 55 violates the single-subject rule of our own House rules, and I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting my motion.

The SPEAKER. Leader McClinton has raised the issue of constitutionality for HB 55 under rule 20, violation of the single-subject rule. Pursuant to rule 4, we will now put that motion before the House for debate.

Ms. McCLINTON. Mr. Speaker, this is not a challenge under the Constitution, but under the House rules.

The SPEAKER. I apologize. I thought the lady had quoted the Constitution as well and was referring to the constitutionality. So point of clarification for the leader then, you are merely submitting the question before the House, is it violative of rule 20?

Ms. McCLINTON. That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Okay. I will instruct the clerk to put that on the board as well in place of the constitutionality motion.

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. Under rule 4, the Speaker may submit the questions of constitutionality and order before the House, which will be what we do.

For what purpose does the majority leader rise?

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. For the answer that you are already giving me before I ask the question. You are very telepathic. Thank you. You answered exactly what I was going to ask.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

For the clarification and the information of the members, since the leader did not raise a point of order regarding constitutionality as she corrected my original statement, the question before the House is, is the joint resolution as proposed violative of our House rules, rule 20?

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

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman, Representative Grove.

Mr. GROVE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The objection is on rule 20, "Bills Confined to One Subject." What does rule 20 actually say? "No bill shall be passed containing more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title, except a general appropriation bill or a bill codifying or compiling the law or a part thereof." That is from the Constitution, Article III, section 3.

HB 55 is actually a joint resolution. If you look at our rules, Mr. Speaker, joint resolutions are specific. So if we go to rule 21, "Consideration of Bills," it starts, under subsection (a), "Every bill and every joint resolution shall be considered on three different days." Mr. Speaker, rule 20 does not involve joint resolutions whatsoever.

Further, Mr. Speaker, in 2002 the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court's *Mellow* decision, the court explained, quote, "...the procedure to be used in proposing such (constitutional) amendments is exclusively committed to the legislature."

In 2005 in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's *Grimaud* opinion, the court further clarified that, quote, "Because the plain..." text "...of Article XI, § 1 does not require the legislature to engage in a specific procedure while proposing amendments, we will not inquire into these internal procedures nor look beyond the recorded votes, for judicial review is precluded pursuant to the Political Question Doctrine."

Further, Mr. Speaker, in 2016 the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court, in two separate opinions in the *Costa* – as in *Minority Leader Jay Costa – v. Cortes* case, quoted *Mellow* and cited *Grimaud* for this same proposition, explaining, quote, "...amendment of the Pennsylvania Constitution is not a legislative act at all, but a separate and specific power granted to the General Assembly... Other than the express requirements set forth in Article XI, the procedure to be used in proposing such amendments is exclusively committed to the legislature."

Mr. Speaker, because this is a joint resolution specified in Article XI of the Constitution and rule 20 is specific to Article III, section 3, I would ask the members to vote "no" on the motion that this bill violates rule 20, single subject.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. McCLINTON. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the leader rise?

Ms. McCLINTON. To respond.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appreciates your eagerness. We are discussing what the actual question will be in terms of voting instructions for the House. If you could just suspend for just one minute.

Ms. McCLINTON. Absolutely.

The SPEAKER. As is often the case when we discuss issues regarding the rules or constitutionality, sometimes it is confusing and our members may sometimes get this incorrect in terms of the method by which an "aye" or a "no" is cast and what that actually means.

The motion that is currently before us is that pursuant to rule 20, that this violates our House rules. Those who believe that it violates rule 20 will be voting "aye"; those who believe that it does not will be voting "nay." I just wanted to inform the members of that prior to us getting into debate so that individuals can appropriately advocate for their proper position and what they desire the vote outcome to be.

On that, the Chair recognizes Leader McClinton.

Ms. McCLINTON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If we simply look at the board, we see it is a bill. It is HB 55. It went through the entire legislative process as every other bill that comes through this chamber. It has been considered on the calendar for three days; it went to a committee and it was voted. It does not become a resolution until it passes both of the chambers. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady.

For the information of the members, members may only speak once on this motion, except for the leaders.

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. Seeing no one else seeking, for what purpose does the majority leader rise?

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. I just want to share a closing comment on that.

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

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. I appreciate all the dialogue on this, but I remind the members we are voting on this just as we did the last session. There was a lot of input on this proposal. It is a joint resolution. We had a good vote, and we would ask the members to vote accordingly this time as well and get this done.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

Again, for clarification for the members, those who believe that the joint resolution, HB 55, is violative of rule 20 will vote "aye"; those who believe that it is consistent with the House rules will vote "no."

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

(Members proceeded to vote.)

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman, Representative Oberlander.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The electronic board is accurate.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady and recognizes the gentleman, Representative Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The electronic board is accurate.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—90

Benham	Driscoll	Kirkland	Pashinski
Bizzarro	Evans	Kosierowski	Pisciottano
Boyle	Fiedler	Krajewski	Rabb
Bradford	Fitzgerald	Krueger	Rozzi
Briggs	Flynn	Kulik	Sainato
Brown, A.	Frankel	Lee	Samuelson
Bullock	Freeman	Longietti	Sanchez
Burgos	Gainey	Madden	Sappey
Burns	Galloway	Malagari	Schlossberg
Carroll	Guenst	Markosek	Schweyer
Cephas	Guzman	Matzie	Shusterman
Ciresi	Hanbidge	McClinton	Sims
Conklin	Harkins	McNeill	Snyder
Cruz	Harris	Merski	Solomon
Daley	Herrin	Miller, D.	Sturla
Davidson	Hohenstein	Mullery	Vitali
Davis, A.	Howard	Mullins	Warren
Davis, T.	Innamorato	Neilson	Webster
Dawkins	Isaacson	Nelson, N.	Wheatley
Deasy	Kenyatta	O'Mara	Williams, D.
DeLissio	Kim	Otten	Young
Delloso	Kinkead	Parker	Zabel
DeLuca	Kinsey		

NAYS—112

Armanini	Gregory	Mehaffie	Rowe
Benninghoff	Greiner	Mentzer	Ryan
Bernstine	Grove	Mercuri	Sankey
Boback	Hamm	Metcalfe	Saylor
Bonner	Heffley	Metzgar	Schemel
Borowicz	Helm	Mihalek	Schmitt
Brooks	Hennessey	Millard	Schroeder
Brown, R.	Hershey	Miller, B.	Silvis
Causser	Hickernell	Mizgorski	Smith
Cook	Irvin	Moul	Sonney
Cox	James	Mustello	Staats
Culver	Jones	Nelson, E.	Stambaugh
Davanzo	Jozwiak	O'Neal	Stephens
Day	Kail	Oberlander	Struzzi
Delozier	Kaufer	Ortitay	Thomas
DelRosso	Kauffman	Owlett	Tomlinson
Diamond	Keefer	Peifer	Toohil
Dowling	Kerwin	Pennycuik	Topper
Dunbar	Klunk	Pickett	Twardzik
Ecker	Knowles	Polinchock	Warner
Emrick	Labs	Puskaric	Wentling
Farry	Lawrence	Pyle	Wheeland
Fee	Lewis	Quinn	White
Flood	Mackenzie, M.	Rader	Williams, C.
Fritz	Mackenzie, R.	Rapp	Zimmerman
Gaydos	Mako	Rigby	
Gillen	Maloney	Roae	Cutler,
Gillespie	Marshall	Rothman	Speaker
Gleim	Masser		

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—0

Less than a majority of the members required by the rules having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the negative and the motion was not agreed to.

On the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The SPEAKER. Returning to the bill on final passage, the Chair recognizes the gentleman, Representative Frankel.

Mr. FRANKEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Before I start my remarks, I just want to respond to the majority leader's comment that there has been lots of input. I do not recall there being any hearings this session or last session with respect to this constitutional amendment – so much for a lot of input from our colleagues, experts, and the Commonwealth.

HB 55 is as wrongheaded as they get. A deadly, contagious virus is raging worldwide. We are hurtling toward half a million deaths in this country, more than 20,000 in Pennsylvania. Many of the millions who survive COVID-19 continue to suffer from ongoing effects. And today on the floor of the Pennsylvania House we are talking about calling off the emergency.

If my Republican colleagues are successful in this effort, we will be the only State, the only State in the nation without the benefit of an emergency order. The reason is simple: The emergency order provides the flexibility we need to help where it is required, fast. Without the order, pharmacists will not be able to administer the COVID-19 vaccine. Medical professionals from other States will be blocked from crossing into Pennsylvania to address care shortages. Trained health-care practitioners and technicians serving in the U.S. Armed Forces would be unable to assist in the COVID-19 response efforts. The use of telemedicine will be restricted. Retired nurses could not quickly return to work. Students and interns across the medical field would be barred from providing much-needed supervised assistance in emergency departments, nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and other medical settings.

The bottom line is that our health-care system is in danger of being maxed out, and we simply will not have enough doctors, nurses, medical professionals, or even facilities to take care of our residents without the emergency order. And let us not forget that the COVID-19 disaster declaration is not our only emergency order.

Long before any of us heard of the virus, Governor Wolf issued an emergency order to address another deadly threat, the opioid crisis. Declaring an abrupt end to the opioid crisis will make it harder for Pennsylvanians to obtain naloxone, a drug that has saved countless lives. Naloxone can stop a deadly drug overdose before it is too late, but only if it is close at hand when disaster strikes. Without the opioid disaster declaration, treatment will be harder to get, less affordable, and less coordinated between agencies. Frankly, just like any of the COVID-19 emergency declarations, hitting the breaks on the opioid order will restrict treatment for those who need it and lives will be lost.

Forcing an end to the emergency declaration simply will not do what we all agree we want. It will not end the suffering, it will not get us back to the lives we had 12 months ago, and it will not stop COVID-19. What it will stop is our ability to help Pennsylvanians right when they need us the most.

I ask you to vote against this dangerous resolution. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman and recognizes the gentleman, Representative Malagari, on the bill.

Mr. MALAGARI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have before us a bill. We heard about the two different parts of it before; we already argued that. However, I am here in opposition of HB 55, not because I disagree with equal protection under the law for race and ethnicity; I believe that we should go further with that and we heard about that yesterday. However, the opposition that I have to HB 55 stems from one of the largest businesses within my district. Many of

you have come across it; many of you have probably been to a ball game once and had one of their hot dogs.

The Clemens Food Group wrote me a letter today, and I am going to read that letter to you because I like how one of our members said before that this is not a political issue, and it is not because they are probably on the other side of the divide when it comes to politics, but we do agree on one thing and I am going to read this letter to you:

"I am writing to you on behalf" – and I quote – "on behalf of The Clemens Family Corporation" – also known as Clemens to many people – "to express our concern regarding, and opposition to, HB 55...."

"Clemens is a 6th generation family owned pork processing company that has been operating in Hatfield, Pennsylvania for over 125 years. Clemens employs over 4,000 team members in our facilities and farm operations with approximately 2,500 team members employed at our corporate headquarters in Hatfield, Montgomery County. In addition to our corporate headquarters in Hatfield, we operate a separate plant in Emmaus, Lehigh County, and numerous farms across the Commonwealth. We produce" – and these are their words – "delicious and wholesome pork products under our 'Hatfield Quality Meats' brand. Clemens is one of the largest food production companies in Pennsylvania and the United States. Additionally, hundreds—if not thousands—of independent farmers, restaurants, businesses, and grocers depend on Clemens to put food on the table.

"While we fully support the principles of appropriate checks and balances to prohibit abuses of power, for the reasons set forth below, the conversation on changing or limiting the Governor's emergency powers should be reserved until this once in a 100 year pandemic is safely behind us. The legislative process is critical to ensure fair debate and review of the potential impact of governmental action.

"However, the legislative process is not well suited to deal with sudden emergencies like a pandemic. This is precisely the reason why the power to declare emergencies has been traditionally reserved for the Executive Branch, which is best suited to pivot, coordinate and redirect government resources. The Executive Branch must be empowered to make hard, but necessary, decisions to protect the lives of Pennsylvanians without being subject to the inevitable debate inherent in the legislative assembly process, which has the potential to delay lifesaving state intervention during a time of need.

"Although we may not have personally agreed with some of the emergency orders issued by..." our Governor "...during the pandemic, we believe such actions were necessary to protect the health and lives of Pennsylvanians across the Commonwealth. Quick and uniform action in the form of social distancing and partial shutdowns were necessary to limit the spread of COVID-19.

"While most traditional natural disasters do not last more than 90 days, the current 90 day emergency period allows the recovery phase to begin without unnecessary delay. Limiting the declaration of an emergency to 21 days from the current 90 days and requiring legislative approval for an extension will delay the deployment of state assistance when time is of the essence, and will unnecessarily risk the health and safety of Pennsylvanians.

"Accordingly, we believe that limiting or amending the Executive Branch's emergency powers should be reserved until after the pandemic is safely behind us and with the benefit of hindsight to guide such discussions."

We thank you. Signed by their CEO, Doug Clemens; their president/CEO-elect, Craig Edsill; and their senior vice president/president-elect, Bradford Clemens.

Mr. Speaker, this particular constitutional amendment within HB 55 that we are going to be talking about and voting on very shortly is very troublesome in many ways, and as highlighted by this business, it will affect many of the measures that were put in place in order to continue providing services to our Commonwealth during a time of need and during a very difficult, once-in-a-100-year pandemic – their words. So I ask my colleagues to reconsider what you are thinking of and how you vote on this and please vote "no."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

Is the whip seeking recognition? The gentleman is in order and you may speak. I did not see anybody stand at the microphones.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

You know, Mr. Speaker, in my family a summer is not a summer unless there is a game of Spades played at the family cookout. It is a tradition, and quite honestly, if you do not know how to play Spades, you might not get invited to the family cookout. I think some of my colleagues in this chamber know exactly what I am talking about when I talk about the game of Spades.

Mr. Speaker, today I think we need to call a spade a spade. Mr. Speaker, this is political. Let us just be honest about it. This is a highly political bill that we are voting on today. This is all about politics. This is the legislature cutting off its nose to spite its face because of the person who currently occupies the Governor's Mansion. That is all this is. This is a political exercise, political exercise to rein in the power of the Governor.

Mr. Speaker, we act like this Governor was not elected by the people. He was, twice. Pennsylvanians who met the requirements were able to get their petitions signed and run for Governor if they decided to. Yet this Governor was elected twice, which means that the people of Pennsylvania put their trust in him and his authority so that if emergencies came up, he would be able to act.

Mr. Speaker, let us call a spade a spade today. This is highly political. This is very political. But let us also talk about the fact that in this country there had been more people that have died from COVID-19 than there are residents in the city of Pittsburgh, second largest city in this Commonwealth. More people have died. I wonder what would have happened had our Governor not had those emergency powers.

Mr. Speaker, tell me what happens on day 22 when we cannot get to the Capitol and the emergency declaration expires? What happens on day 22? Mr. Speaker, again, let us call a spade a spade.

Mr. Speaker, we took so many votes in this chamber and many of my colleagues took the vote knowing that the vote meant nothing because you knew the Governor would use his executive authority and do what you knew in your heart was right, but for political reasons we voted the other way. Let us call a spade a spade. Opening up this, opening up that, opening up this, just so you could go home and say, "Hey, I stood up for you," knowing that you knew in your heart it was the right thing to keep it closed. But you knew that the Governor would do the unpopular thing. That is what this is about. Somebody had an authority to do what is unpopular, but you do it because you are trying to save lives.

So, Mr. Speaker, let us just stop and call a spade a spade. If we do this, there will be no political cover in the future. If we do this, you will have to stand up on the vote that you take in this chamber and possibly put lives on the line. So let us stop and think about that for a second before you vote on HB 55, because deep down in your heart, if you think about it, you know that some of those bills that we voted on, you voted on it because you knew the Governor would veto it and you knew that there were not enough votes to override that Governor. Let us call a spade a spade, my friends.

So yes, this is political. This is very political. This is about taking power away from a Democratic Governor. We are still in a pandemic, my friends. We still have not recovered yet, my friends. At the very least, let us decide this and discuss this when we are done. We are not done. How dare us try to constrict the power of the Executive while people are still dying, while people are still concerned, while folks are still trying to go out and get the vaccine, while grandmothers are still concerned for their lives. How about we talk about that. How about we pass legislation on that and not do this. But if we are going to do this, Mr. Speaker, let us do it honestly. Let us call a spade a spade. Because of that, I am going to be voting "no" on this bill. I am not going to cut my nose off to spite my face. Yes, there were different things that this Governor has done that I was not necessarily always happy about, but tough times call for tough decisions and those tough decisions have saved lives. I will stand with that any day of the week, and I am going to be voting "no" on HB 55.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman and recognizes the gentleman, Representative Lawrence.

Mr. LAWRENCE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have many pressing issues facing this State, many very serious issues, and they deserve our attention. Mr. Speaker, a serious issue and an emergency are two different things. A serious medical condition might bring someone to a hospital emergency room, but no one stays in the emergency room for 3 years. An approaching storm would lead folks to get into an emergency shelter. A bad storm might lead to a long recovery, but no one stays in a tornado shelter for 3 years.

Now, His Excellency, the Governor, has kept the State of Pennsylvania in a continual state of emergency for over 3 years – 3 years. For the last year, the citizens of Pennsylvania have been under multiple separate emergency declarations – as many as three at one time.

Now, section 7301 of the Emergency Services Code allows for the Governor to suspend any regulatory statute. It allows the Governor to commandeer private property. It gives the Governor sweeping authority over the National Guard. These powers may be necessary to respond to an imminent threat, but I ask, is it appropriate for any one elected official to be able to give him or herself these unfettered authorities indefinitely? Of course not.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard much in recent days about the strength of our democracy. I am a fan of democracy, and let us call a spade a spade. The issue before the House today is one of democracy. This is an important point. Today's vote is not a vote on whether we like or do not like this proposal. Our affirmative vote today on HB 55 moves these constitutional questions to the people of Pennsylvania for their say in a referendum vote. Today's vote is a vote on democracy. Are we afraid of what the people of Pennsylvania will say on this question? Are we

unwilling to let the taxpayers and residents of this State have their voice heard on this issue?

I encourage an affirmative vote on HB 55.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman and recognizes Representative Kenyatta.

Mr. KENYATTA. Mr. Speaker, first, would the maker of the bill stand for one question of interrogation? He likes me; he will say yes.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend. The gentleman indicates he will stand for interrogation. You are in order and may proceed.

Mr. KENYATTA. Thank you.

If this passes, would every current emergency declaration that is in place be immediately suspended if this passes?

Mr. GROVE. No.

Mr. KENYATTA. And if it is approved by the voters?

Mr. GROVE. No.

Mr. Speaker, to clarify, this provides a mechanism for the General Assembly to end emergency declarations moving forward because that is not available to us at this point.

Mr. KENYATTA. So I understand. So if – when this passes and when this goes to the voters, if the voters approve this, what will be the immediate impact on the current Governor's emergency order? What will be the immediate impact once voters approve this – if voters approve this?

Mr. GROVE. So there are two provisions in this dealing with emergency declarations. The first one is under the Presentment Clause. I think we are all aware of HR 863 last session, which went to the Supreme Court and they restated that it means presentment. So this body could move forward and do a joint resolution similar to 863 and by a vote of both the House and the Senate end emergency declaration at any time as provided for in the Emergency Declaration Act. The other provision is a cap of 21 days for emergency declarations that have 90, the current 90. Hold on.

Thank you. I just wanted to clarify that. It would be 21 days from the date the order was signed. It would be the last order because he has updated orders numerous times.

Mr. KENYATTA. So just so I understand, let us make this as clear as day. So this will no doubt pass. This will then be a referendum. Voters approve the referendum. If the voters approve the referendum, then because we are past the 21 days, his emergency order would immediately on that day be rescinded or would you have to now go through another process in this body to rescind his emergency order?

Mr. GROVE. Excellent question. It would be 21 days from the last order. As we know, he has changed emergency declaration orders on COVID numerous times, so it would be that last order. So I do not know if he is going to issue any orders between now and after the voters approve that, but it would be 21 days from that point.

Mr. KENYATTA. Okay. Thank you.

On the bill, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The gentleman is in order and may speak on the bill.

Mr. KENYATTA. Thank you.

You know, we have a lot of bills that come up, but this one is really dangerous. It is really, really dangerous; it is really, really wrong; and it is really, really dumb. And we ought to think about exactly what we are saying here.

A big part of the argument that I have heard from supporters of this legislation is that they deserve a say, that they deserve a say in how these emergency orders are conducted because they do not like the way in which the Governor has tried to lead us through this pandemic. They say that through them they know better. These same individuals, many of whom I am looking at right now, cannot even listen to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), which says wearing a mask would limit how long this pandemic would go on, and yet they deserve a say? We cannot trust you with a say because you do not follow basic facts, you do not follow basic science. And so I do not trust people who do not wear a mask—

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Mr. Speaker?

Mr. KENYATTA. —in a pandemic to have say on when—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend.

POINT OF ORDER

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the majority leader rise?

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. I would like to ask the gentleman to please try to stay on the bill specifically, and frankly, I think all the volumes in here work. It would be easier to hear if we could just tone it down a little bit, please.

Mr. KENYATTA. I think you can hear me very well, Mr. Majority Leader—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend. He is not in order.

Mr. KENYATTA. When the voters of the 181st District—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend.

Mr. KENYATTA. Okay. I hear you.

Ms. McCLINTON. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. Just consulting with the Parliamentarian. The gentleman must abide by the rules regarding motives of members. I will respectfully request he stay confined to the issues of the bill, and as the leader has raised appropriately, to ensure that we debate the underlying issue. The merits of the bill can certainly be debated, but what should not be debated is the motives or intent of other members.

Ms. McCLINTON. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does Leader McClinton rise?

Ms. McCLINTON. Mr. Speaker, there was no mention of any motives or intentions, and there is no rule about the decibel in which a person can speak or a volume that is appropriate for these chambers. We do not have rules on that, Mr. Speaker. He can speak about whether or not this body can be trusted to make appropriate decisions if we, as leaders, are not setting an example in a global pandemic where Pennsylvanians have died yet we refuse to wear masks.

The SPEAKER. For the information of the leader, quoting Jefferson's Manual while we are discussing the issues related to the freedom of speech and debate, "It is, however, the duty of the House to require its Members in speech or debate to preserve that proper restraint which will permit the House to conduct its business in an orderly manner and without unnecessarily and unduly exciting animosity among its Members or antagonism from those other branches...." And I think this is important for the information of the members because this sometimes also happens on the floor. The good gentleman — and no one has raised this issue today — but I think that it is a good reminder regarding

decorum that its members should not antagonize from those other branches of government with which the House is correlated. This is a general reference to how we conduct our debate. I ask the gentleman to stay constrained within the rules.

Ms. McCLINTON. And those same rules require the United States House of Representatives to wear masks.

The SPEAKER. The gentlelady is out of order. She has not been recognized. Please suspend.

For what purpose do you rise?

Ms. McCLINTON. Those are the same rules that require the United States House of Representatives to wear masks, and fines are given for members who are not complying with national guidelines and standards to save lives. Yes, we make sacrifices to come here, but we want to go home healthy.

The SPEAKER. The gentlelady will please suspend.

While we do give leaders latitude to debate issues a little further afield than the rules confining the members, we are debating the policies and procedures of this body, of which the good lady is a member of our management committee. Any issues surrounding personnel and activity of members should be brought up in its appropriate venue in the Bipartisan Management Committee. We are discussing the decorum of debate, not other issues currently before the House. The good gentleman has stayed on point regarding HB 55. I would simply encourage him to return to that discussion.

Ms. McCLINTON. That is understood, but the Bipartisan Management caucus—

The SPEAKER. The gentlelady will please suspend. She has not been recognized.

For what purpose do you rise?

Ms. McCLINTON. Mr. Speaker, I am the leader; I am recognized.

The SPEAKER. You have now been recognized. For what purpose do you rise?

Ms. McCLINTON. You mentioned the Bipartisan Management caucus or committee, of which, yes, we are all members and we did, in fact, ask all the members of this body to wear masks, in case this was not clear.

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER. The gentlelady will suspend.

For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Point of order on that decision by Bipartisan Management.

The SPEAKER. Respectfully, Mr. Leader, that issue is not currently before the House. The issue before the House is HB 55.

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. Yes. The gentleman may now proceed.

Mr. KENYATTA. Thank you.

You know, as a Black kid from North Philly, I am used to people talking about my decorum, but I will speak and I will speak for the people in my district until the people in my district decide to not send me here anymore, and so the majority leader should hear and everybody else in this body should hear that they cannot be trusted to make decisions about when this pandemic is over if they cannot be trusted to follow the basic science, and so, no, we do not trust you as it relates to determining when this emergency is over.

The reason we still have an emergency declaration is because we are still in a pandemic. The pandemic is not over because you are done with it. The pandemic is still taking Pennsylvanians' lives whether or not you are willing to accept that, and what this

order would do is take away the authority from a Governor that has followed the science and then give that authority to people who do not understand science, who do not understand basic facts, who refuse to abide by the rules of this chamber. Those are the facts.

Now, the reality is, we do not know what the next disaster will be. We have no way of knowing. If you would have asked anybody what COVID was 2 years ago, they would not have been able to tell you. We do not want to tie the hands of any future Executive that is elected by all of the citizens of Pennsylvania to respond to the next pandemic if one is to arise.

Here in this body we have continued to put politics over the basic lives and livelihoods of Pennsylvania citizens, and yes, that is frustrating. And if you are not frustrated, then you cannot be paying attention. We have done this over and over and over again. Come here session after session, bill after bill, to reopen this, reopen that, directly flying in the face of the science and the basic facts. And so should Pennsylvanians trust folks in this body to determine when the pandemic is over? Heck no, they should not. They should not. And when you ask the people to have a voice, they had a voice. They had a voice when they elected Governor Wolf, when they elected him overwhelmingly, when they elected him twice. Their voice was heard. Start listening. Wear a mask.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman and recognizes the gentleman, Representative Diamond, on final passage.

Mr. DIAMOND. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of HB 55 and I believe a little history lesson might be in order to explain why I support it. We have to remember that Pennsylvania's Emergency Management Services Code was drafted and passed by this General Assembly back in 1978, and I believe we need to remember what was going on at that time. Pennsylvania had suffered through Hurricane Agnes in 1972, had suffered through more flooding in 1977, and then had suffered through the energy crisis of 1977-78 in the winter.

In response, the people of this Commonwealth looked to this body and said the State could not respond to those emergencies efficiently enough and fast enough; therefore, you, the General Assembly, ought to do something about it. I know that most of you in this chamber know what that feels like when a constituent comes to you and says, "Do something." Well, the General Assembly in 1978 did something. Unfortunately, they never foresaw a Chief Executive of this Commonwealth who would use it in the fashion that our current Chief Executive has.

I am standing here recalling the words of my very good friend, the gentleman from Philadelphia, who claimed that our support for this bill is political. This is not political at all. You can laugh all you want, but this is practical. This is in response to the businesses we have heard from all year who are now bankrupt and closed. This is in response to the thousands of people we have heard from, who cannot get their first penny of unemployment. This is in response to the parents of schoolchildren who are not learning because their schools are unpredictable. This is practical to them. For months they have come to us and they have said, "Do something." And we attempted to do something all summer long last year, but we saw that because of that 1978 law passed by a General Assembly who was asked to do something, that we cannot; that we have a Chief Executive who with a tiny minority of Senators can absolutely overrun our federally guaranteed right to a republican form of government.

POINT OF ORDER

Ms. McCLINTON. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend.

For what purpose does the lady rise?

Ms. McCLINTON. Well, just within the last hour the gentleman from the 126th District was told not to disparage another member of government. And just a few seconds ago we were reminded about the volume.

The SPEAKER. The gentelady will please suspend. I am pulling the cite back out for the benefit of the members.

Ms. McCLINTON. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The gentelady is correct regarding the point of order regarding members or antagonism for those other branches of government with which the House is correlated. I would strongly encourage the good gentleman to restrict his comments to the issues of constitutional authority.

The gentleman is in order and you may proceed. I apologize.

Mr. DIAMOND. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is what our people want, this is what our people have asked us to do: to overturn the oversight of the 1978 General Assembly when they passed the Emergency Management Services Code, Mr. Speaker. This is not political. This is practical and it is about the survival of our Commonwealth.

I do want to remind you that I know a lot of people who have talked about the 21-day period in one of these amendments. Twenty one days is plenty of time for a Governor to come here and show his work, show us your data, show us your plan in order that we can agree with you as your coequal partner that we will continue a disaster emergency. That is all we want, is for coequal branches of government to work together.

The provisions of the two constitutional amendments addressing disaster emergencies contained within this bill do exactly that. You know, my other friend, the other gentleman from Philadelphia, implied that maybe we cannot be trusted to do this, but I am wondering if we should trust that from someone who fails to absolutely know what the mask policy of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is, and if I could read – we gave leeway for him to talk about it – so I just want to read from the official mask policy of Pennsylvania, signed by Rachel Levine, who was Secretary of Health—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will please suspend.

I believe the gentleman has gone a little far afield from the underlying issues of constitutional authority and the constitutional amendment, which is the subject of debate currently before the House.

Mr. DIAMOND. Mr. Speaker, if I may?

The SPEAKER. The gentleman may continue so long as his comments are constrained to the underlying issues before the House.

Mr. DIAMOND. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I support HB 55 because this will – this is not us changing the Constitution; this is giving the power back to the people – the people who sent us here; the people who own the law; the people who have the absolute right to abolish, reform, or otherwise change their form of government. The people are our bosses. It is the people who trust us. It is the people whom I trust to make a determination whether this is a good idea or not. It is the people who trust us to understand that we are going to put this in their hands, and it is the people that we trust to understand that there is, in fact, a legitimate medical exemption for mask mandates in Pennsylvania.

Support HB 55. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman and recognizes the gentlewoman, Representative Isaacson, on final passage.

Mrs. ISAACSON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We have had a lot of discussion today regarding amending our Constitution, about changing the separations of powers in this government, and I think the fact that there have not been any public hearings or discussions about it either last session or this session has done a disservice to the people of this Commonwealth as we are about to put a question before them that has not been vetted. And I understand how this vote is going to go down and hopefully the people of the Commonwealth are going to vote accordingly to stop amending their Constitution and changing the separation of powers of our government, and I would like to just point out that while you have not gotten your way, which is why you are trying to amend the Constitution, you should acknowledge that we are in the middle of a global pandemic and the executive branch is doing the best it can and none of us have a rulebook on how to govern in the middle of a global pandemic. So you can have your vote the way you will, but hopefully the people of Pennsylvania will see the problems with what you are doing and vote it down. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady and recognizes the gentleman, Representative Bradford, on final passage.

Mr. BRADFORD. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The good gentleman from York began by saying that we should start with a little bit of history about how we wound up here, and let us discuss the role of this body and how it has dealt with COVID-19 and its response. Not that long ago we had reopened PA protestors on the steps of the Capitol and they were greeted with open arms. They may have been carrying arms and our members may have not been wearing masks. But this legislative body and the history of it has not done well for the last nearly year. It has not acted responsibly and the history is replete with examples. Too many examples to go through and too long; it would just incite further passion. But we should not forget the admonitions that have been given numerous times over the last year about those who would so distrust and incite passions that they would not be able to control – those who have questioned whether this was a legitimate pandemic, whether the science was real, whether we should wear masks. It has gone on for months and months.

And let us not forget those legislators who engaged in false Internet rumors and put out their own plans to reopen Pennsylvania and showed them as if they were actual government documents. No; there have been shameful and sordid actions of this body, and we have had front-row seats to it. No; it has gone on long enough. The gentleman prior in speaking, I remember just before the last session ended when he told us that we have turned the corner. He did not base that on the Department of Health or a medical degree; it was a gut feeling that he just felt viscerally from the good people of Lebanon County. Well, this is— I apologize. Strike that word. I do apologize. That is no way to run a pandemic or a response to one.

This has gone on for a year. It is a circus and a charade. We have seen the best ideas out of this body that we should reopen dog groomers and zoos at a time during this pandemic we did not know what we were dealing with.

Now, this has gone on long enough. There is not an election for nearly 2 years ahead. Why are we still engaging this theater?

Pennsylvanians have died, they continue to die, and yet this charade, this fiasco, this farce goes on day after day, without any sense of what a real plan is or what real leaders would look like. No, instead, because we cannot get the two-thirds mustered-up vote that it would take to overturn the declaration, and yes, there is a provision currently in our Constitution to come and undo the Governor's emergency order. The problem is, you do not have the votes. Let us not act like there is not a provision for it. The problem is, there is not the political will.

Now, we may disagree with the election, we may disagree with so much, but let us begin to get back to the work of the people. This has turned into a mockery that goes on day after day after day. Everyone knows that it is a joke. You are continuing to play to the protestors out in the front of the Capitol. For goodness' sake, start telling them the truth.

POINT OF ORDER

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will please suspend.

For what purpose does the leader rise?

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. I believe he is a little bit awry of the— Point of order.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman may state your point of order.

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Respectfully, I think he is just all over the map on this thing at this point. I wish he would just kind of concentrate on the bill on final passage, please.

The SPEAKER. The leader is correct. As I admonished the prior gentleman from Lebanon County, please constrain your comments to the issues of constitutional authority contained in the bill and the presentation of the constitutional amendment to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Mr. BRADFORD. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

So let us get back to the Constitution. There is a provision in our Constitution that requires two-thirds of the vote. You do not have it. So rather than go back to the charade where we play to the angry mob that we have incited, why do we not tell them some simple facts? We do not have the two-thirds vote; we do not. There is a pandemic; it is real. There is a vaccine and it is coming, and God willing, it will be here soon enough. That is what we should be telling people, not continuing the sowing of the anger and the discord, to tell people that it is just this Governor or this resolution passed or whether it is a bill or a joint resolution. It is a farce, and it is not worthy of the responsibility we have been given.

So I just say this in conclusion. Let us vote against this because we have not already done it 15 times already, and let us get back to actually providing people what they need, which is faith in their government, a vaccine in their arm. Let us get about doing the people's business.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

Seeing no one else seeking recognition, the Chair will now move to Leader McClinton on final passage.

Ms. McCLINTON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues and ask for a negative vote on HB 55.

Mr. Speaker, this is our seventh legislative day. Seven days we have come from our homes or either chosen to participate remotely and vote to be able to make important decisions on what people in Pennsylvania need in this pandemic, and guess what? We have not done that at all.

We have not responded to the people who need us to get creative about how to help small businesses that need grants. We have not helped the people in rural and urban Pennsylvania who need Internet to be able to do remote learning. We have not done our jobs. We have not made efforts to see where are the new jobs even as we get through this pandemic, because, yes, it is still going on, we have not done that either, but with 7 legislative days since January 5, what have we done? More of the same.

I have a constituent in the 191st District that would call this "politricks," not politics, but "politricks," because there is a job to do, there are people who are hurting, they are depending on us to stand up and be leaders and to bring them resources they need in a state of emergency, but all we want to do is strip away the powers of another entity and pretend as if there is not already a route for us legislatively to end an emergency declaration. We already have means to do that. It already exists.

Go ahead and get the votes together if that is what you choose to do. There is no need to send a constitutional amendment to voters in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania when they are looking around wondering whether or not we are going to protect their lives and our democracy, because as I said on January 5, they are both fragile and it is time for the "politricks" to end and for us to do our job.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady and recognizes Leader Benninghoff on final passage.

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Lots of good dialogue today, lots of energy. But at the end of the day, I do believe if you read through HB 55, we are simply doing what some people feel they were elected to do, and that is, give the people of Pennsylvania a voice. If you look out through the history of Pennsylvania's Constitution in 1790, any change to the Pennsylvania Constitution happened at the voice of the people. They got to endorse any change that occurred there. We are simply asking for the same thing.

We have heard about science. We have heard a lot about a lot of things. Well, frankly, a lot of our members through some of the things the Appropriations chairman brought up about different initiatives in the last session, we simply asked, what is the science for why people cannot participate in high school sports? We were told, well, we do not have any. We have been asking for science on a lot of different things, but at the end of the day, I do not proclaim to be a medical expert, but I also believe that the legislative process in Harrisburg and in the State Capitol to work properly, it needs the elected 253 people's voices as well as one person.

It was said earlier that the people have a voice. They elected a Governor, elected him twice. But we do not pass a single bill or any legislation in this General Assembly and this building on one vote. It is the will of each of you representing your people, and therefore, today's choice is about whether or not you think, again, Pennsylvanians, as they have done for hundreds of years, should have a voice in how long a disaster declaration should go without having the members of the General Assembly involved, or simply, after a disaster declaration has been called and has gone on for 21 days, in order to extend that, you, the elected Representatives and the Senators, should be that voice for those individuals that cannot be here to do so. It is very simple. I would ask for your support on HB 55.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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.

(Members proceeded to vote.)

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes Representative Oberlander.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The electronic board is accurate.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady and recognizes the gentleman, Representative Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The electronic board is accurate.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—116

Armanini	Gregory	Mehaffie	Rowe
Benninghoff	Greiner	Mentzer	Ryan
Bernstine	Grove	Mercuri	Sankey
Boback	Hamm	Metcalfe	Saylor
Bonner	Heffley	Metzgar	Schemel
Borowicz	Helm	Mihalek	Schmitt
Brooks	Hennessey	Millard	Schroeder
Brown, R.	Hershey	Miller, B.	Silvis
Burns	Hickernell	Mizgorski	Smith
Causar	Irvin	Moul	Snyder
Cook	James	Mullery	Sonney
Cox	Jones	Mustello	Staats
Culver	Jozwiak	Nelson, E.	Stambaugh
Davanzo	Kail	O'Neal	Stephens
Day	Kaufner	Oberlander	Struzzi
Delozier	Kauffman	Ortitay	Thomas
DelRosso	Keefer	Owlett	Tomlinson
Diamond	Kerwin	Peifer	Toohil
Dowling	Klunk	Pennycuick	Topper
Dunbar	Knowles	Pickett	Twardzik
Ecker	Kulik	Polinchock	Warner
Emrick	Labs	Puskaric	Wentling
Farry	Lawrence	Pyle	Wheeland
Fee	Lewis	Quinn	White
Flood	Mackenzie, M.	Rader	Williams, C.
Fritz	Mackenzie, R.	Rapp	Zimmerman
Gaydos	Mako	Rigby	
Gillen	Maloney	Roae	Cutler,
Gillespie	Marshall	Rothman	Speaker
Gleim	Masser		

NAYS—86

Benham	Driscoll	Kinsey	Pashinski
Bizzarro	Evans	Kirkland	Pisciottano
Boyle	Fiedler	Kosierowski	Rabb
Bradford	Fitzgerald	Krajewski	Rozzi
Briggs	Flynn	Krueger	Sainato
Brown, A.	Frankel	Lee	Samuelson
Bullock	Freeman	Longietti	Sanchez
Burgos	Gainey	Madden	Sappery
Carroll	Galloway	Malagari	Schlossberg
Cephas	Guenst	Markosek	Schweyer
Ciresi	Guzman	Matzie	Shusterman
Conklin	Hanbidge	McClinton	Sims
Cruz	Harkins	McNeill	Solomon
Daley	Harris	Merski	Sturla
Davidson	Herrin	Miller, D.	Vitali
Davis, A.	Hohenstein	Mullins	Warren

Davis, T.	Howard	Neilson	Webster
Dawkins	Innamorato	Nelson, N.	Wheatley
Deasy	Isaacson	O'Mara	Williams, D.
DeLissio	Kenyatta	Otten	Young
Deloso	Kim	Parker	Zabel
DeLuca	Kinkead		

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—0

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 104, PN 245**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the assessment of improper payments by Commonwealth agencies and for public information on payments and programs of Commonwealth agencies.

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 Chair recognizes Representative Gaydos.

Ms. GAYDOS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HB 104 is all about transparency and accountability in government, and it is asking for greater efficiency in government. It incentivizes our State agencies to address improper payments – and that is underpayments, overpayments – those who are ineligible for service and those who are ineligible to receive them.

This bill requires the Inspector General to review at least one agency per year beginning in 2022. Again, this is about efficiency and making sure our government works for the people. This will help our Commonwealth comply with Federal law and ensure that we do not owe the Federal government any money on these improper payments. So I ask for a "yes" vote for greater accountability in government.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady.

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.

(Members proceeded to vote.)

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes Representative Oberlander.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The electronic board is accurate.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady and recognizes the gentleman, Representative Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The electronic board is accurate.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—182

Armanini	Flynn	Mackenzie, R.	Rothman
Benham	Freeman	Madden	Rowe
Benninghoff	Fritz	Mako	Rozzi
Bernstine	Gainey	Malagari	Ryan
Bizzarro	Galloway	Maloney	Sainato
Boback	Gaydos	Markosek	Samuelson
Bonner	Gillen	Marshall	Sanchez
Borowicz	Gillespie	Masser	Sankey
Boyle	Gleim	Matzie	Sappey
Bradford	Gregory	McClinton	Saylor
Briggs	Greiner	McNeill	Schemel
Brooks	Grove	Mehaffie	Schlossberg
Brown, A.	Guenst	Mentzer	Schmitt
Brown, R.	Hamm	Mercuri	Schroeder
Bullock	Hanbidge	Metcalfe	Schweyer
Burns	Harris	Metzgar	Shusterman
Carroll	Heffley	Mihalek	Silvis
Causser	Helm	Millard	Smith
Cephas	Hennessey	Miller, B.	Snyder
Ciresi	Herrin	Miller, D.	Solomon
Cook	Hershey	Mizgorski	Sonney
Cox	Hickernell	Moul	Staats
Cruz	Howard	Mullery	Stambaugh
Culver	Irvin	Mullins	Stephens
Daley	James	Mustello	Struzzi
Davanzo	Jones	Nelson, E.	Sturla
Davidson	Jozwiak	O'Mara	Thomas
Davis, A.	Kail	O'Neal	Tomlinson
Davis, T.	Kaufman	Oberlander	Toohil
Dawkins	Kauffman	Ortitay	Topper
Day	Keefer	Otten	Twardzik
Deasy	Kerwin	Owlett	Vitali
DeLissio	Kim	Pashinski	Warner
Delozier	Kinsey	Peifer	Warren
DelRosso	Kirkland	Pennycook	Wentling
DeLuca	Klunk	Pickett	Wheatley
Diamond	Knowles	Pisciotano	Wheeland
Dowling	Kosierowski	Polinchock	White
Dunbar	Krajewski	Puskaric	Williams, C.
Ecker	Krueger	Pyle	Williams, D.
Emrick	Kulik	Quinn	Young
Evans	Labs	Rabb	Zabel
Farry	Lawrence	Rader	Zimmerman
Fee	Lewis	Rapp	
Fitzgerald	Longietti	Rigby	Cutler,
Flood	Mackenzie, M.	Roae	Speaker

NAYS—20

Burgos	Frankel	Isaacson	Neilson
Conklin	Guzman	Kenyatta	Nelson, N.
Deloso	Harkins	Kinkead	Parker
Driscoll	Hohenstein	Lee	Sims
Fiedler	Innamorato	Merski	Webster

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—0

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 108, PN 124**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for improper payments; and establishing Do-Not-Pay Initiative.

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 Chair recognizes the gentleman, Representative Owlett.

Mr. OWLETT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If this bill sounds familiar, we did this last year; it had a lot of really great support, Mr. Speaker. We must take seriously our collective responsibilities to ensure that we are supporting people in need through Medicare and other programs, but we must also continue to make sure that we are supporting our taxpayers and ensuring that their hard-earned money is not being misused. Everyone but the bad guys loses when fraud is allowed to occur in our human services programs. HB 108 will ensure that the bad guys are the losers. This bill will create a Do-Not-Pay Initiative at the State level that is modeled after the Federal program designed to monitor and ultimately prevent improper payments. As I shared last session, it is a similar program to the Oregon bill, that for every dollar that they invested they recouped \$286. That is an incredible investment. Under the bill, the Governor's Budget Office would oversee the program and require all relevant agencies to participate within 2 years; however, I would hope that we could get this up and running sooner than 2 years. The bill also requires that any agency expending Federal funds must enter into a memorandum of understanding with the United States Treasury to participate in the initiative.

This is a good-government bill designed to stop the bad actors and help those who really need it. Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate everybody's support. Thank you very much.

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.

(Members proceeded to vote.)

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman, Representative Oberlander.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The electronic board is accurate.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady and recognizes the gentleman, Representative Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The electronic board is accurate.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—202

Armanini	Flynn	Lee	Rapp
Benham	Frankel	Lewis	Rigby
Benninghoff	Freeman	Longietti	Roae
Bernstine	Fritz	Mackenzie, M.	Rothman
Bizzarro	Gainey	Mackenzie, R.	Rowe
Boback	Galloway	Madden	Rozzi
Bonner	Gaydos	Mako	Ryan
Borowicz	Gillen	Malagari	Sainato
Boyle	Gillespie	Maloney	Samuelson
Bradford	Gleim	Markosek	Sanchez
Briggs	Gregory	Marshall	Sankey
Brooks	Greiner	Masser	Sappety
Brown, A.	Grove	Matzie	Saylor
Brown, R.	Guenst	McClinton	Schemel
Bullock	Guzman	McNeill	Schlossberg
Burgos	Hamm	Mehaffie	Schmitt
Burns	Hanbidge	Mentzer	Schroeder
Carroll	Harkins	Mercuri	Schweyer
Causar	Harris	Merski	Shusterman
Cephas	Heffley	Metcalfe	Silvis
Ciresi	Helm	Metzgar	Sims
Conklin	Hennessey	Mihalek	Smith
Cook	Herrin	Millard	Snyder
Cox	Hershey	Miller, B.	Solomon
Cruz	Hickernell	Miller, D.	Sonney
Culver	Hohenstein	Mizgorski	Staats
Daley	Howard	Moul	Stambaugh
Davanzo	Innamorato	Mullery	Stephens
Davidson	Irvin	Mullins	Struzzi
Davis, A.	Isaacson	Mustello	Sturla
Davis, T.	James	Neilson	Thomas
Dawkins	Jones	Nelson, E.	Tomlinson
Day	Jozwiak	Nelson, N.	Toohil
Deasy	Kail	O'Mara	Topper
DeLissio	Kaufner	O'Neal	Twardzik
Delloso	Kauffman	Oberlander	Vitali
Delozier	Keefer	Ortitay	Warner
DeRosso	Kenyatta	Otten	Warren
DeLuca	Kerwin	Owlett	Webster
Diamond	Kim	Parker	Wentling
Dowling	Kinhead	Pashinski	Wheatley
Driscoll	Kinsey	Peifer	Whealand
Dunbar	Kirkland	Pennycuick	White
Ecker	Klunk	Pickett	Williams, C.
Emrick	Knowles	Pisciotano	Williams, D.
Evans	Kosierowski	Polinchock	Young
Farry	Krajewski	Puskaric	Zabel
Fee	Krueger	Pyle	Zimmerman
Fiedler	Kulik	Quinn	
Fitzgerald	Labs	Rabb	Cutler,
Flood	Lawrence	Rader	Speaker

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—0

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 SPEAKER. For the information of the members, there will be no further votes on the House floor today. However, there will be some committee announcements forthcoming, so please look for those as well as some housekeeping up here.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman, Representative Moul, rise?

Mr. MOUL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A committee announcement.

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

Mr. MOUL. Thank you.

The Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee has organized and you have six bills headed your way that already have passed out of our committee. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman for that news.

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Representative Saylor, for a committee announcement.

Mr. SAYLOR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Appropriations Committee will meet immediately in the majority caucus room to report out SB 109.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Appropriations Committee will meet immediately in the majority caucus room.

GAMING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman, Representative Helm, for a committee announcement.

Ms. HELM. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The House Gaming Oversight Committee will conduct a voting meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021, at 11 a.m. in G-50 Irvis Office Building. There will be one bill that we are going to consider, and that is HB 290, which amends the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act to provide for the operation of games and electronic payments only during the COVID pandemic emergency. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady.

The House Gaming Oversight Committee will conduct a voting meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021, at 11 a.m. in G-50 Irvis Office Building.

SENATE BILL FOR CONCURRENCE

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

SB 109, PN 102

Referred to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS, January 27, 2021.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES, CONSIDERED FIRST TIME, AND TABLED

HB 40, PN 280 (Amended)

By Rep. GROVE

An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in boards and offices, providing for information technology; establishing the Office of Information Technology and the Information Technology Fund; providing for administrative and procurement procedures and for the Joint Cybersecurity Oversight Committee; imposing duties on the Office of Information Technology; providing for administration of Pennsylvania Statewide Radio Network and imposing penalties.

STATE GOVERNMENT.

HB 47, PN 281 (Amended)

By Rep. GROVE

An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in boards and offices, establishing the Department of Local Government and Community Affairs and transferring specific powers and duties from the Department of Community and Economic Development and the Department of State to the Department of Local Government and Community Affairs.

STATE GOVERNMENT.

HB 101, PN 71

By Rep. MOUL

An Act providing for limited civil liability for agritourism activity providers, for notice of limited civil liability and for acknowledgment of limited civil liability.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS.

HB 110, PN 78

By Rep. MOUL

An Act amending the act of October 21, 1988 (P.L.1036, No.116), known as the Hardwoods Development Council Act, further providing for Hardwoods Development Council.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS.

HB 142, PN 108

By Rep. MOUL

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in facilities and supplies, further providing for deposits into account.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS.

HB 179, PN 147

By Rep. MOUL

An Act amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for Food Establishment Pandemic Disease Remediation Cost Reimbursement Grant Program.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS.

HB 186, PN 154

By Rep. MOUL

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in size, weight and load, further providing for permit for movement during course of manufacture; and, in powers of department and local authorities, further providing for power of Governor during emergency.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS.

HB 187, PN 155

By Rep. MOUL

An Act amending the act of July 10, 1981 (P.L.234, No.76), known as the Donated Food Limited Liability Act, further providing for donor immunity.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS.

HB 284, PN 282 (Amended)

By Rep. GROVE

An Act amending Title 37 (Historical and Museums) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in powers and duties of Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, further providing for specific powers and duties, for personal property and for documents and providing for Commonwealth archival records, for local government archival records and for access to older public records; and, in historic properties, further providing for title to historic property and for powers over certain historic property.

STATE GOVERNMENT.

SB 2, PN 86

By Rep. GROVE

A Joint Resolution proposing separate and distinct amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania, in declaration of rights, providing for prohibition against denial or abridgment of equality of rights because of race and ethnicity; in legislation, further providing for action on concurrent orders and resolutions; and, in the executive, providing for disaster emergency declaration and management.

STATE GOVERNMENT.

**RESOLUTION REPORTED
FROM COMMITTEE****HR 19, PN 185**

By Rep. GROVE

A Resolution honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and recognizing the week of January 18 through 24, 2021, as "Martin Luther King, Jr., Week of Remembrance" in Pennsylvania.

STATE GOVERNMENT.

BILLS RECOMMENDED

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

HB 11;
HB 12;
HB 16;
HB 217; and
HB 218.

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

BILL REMOVED FROM TABLE

The SPEAKER. The majority leader moves that HB 203 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.

The SPEAKER. The Chair is in receipt of a request for comments under unanimous consent at the conclusion of session, pursuant to our House rules.

STATEMENT BY MRS. THOMAS

The SPEAKER. The gentlewoman, Representative Thomas, is recognized, and I would remind the Representative that there is a time limit for these comments at the conclusion of session, pursuant to our newly adopted House rules.

The gentlewoman is in order, and you may proceed.

Mrs. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues.

I am here today to talk to you, to take the opportunity to recognize "Human Trafficking Awareness Month," January 2021.

During my first year in the House, 2019, I held a human trafficking awareness hearing in my district. We were incredibly moved by the testimony of a survivor of this heinous crime. The audience was shocked as she testified to working for an auto body shop and ultimately then being trafficked by the owner. Just as disturbing was that this incident happened not far from my district.

After the hearing, the General Assembly and Governor Wolf signed into law Act 1 of 2020, which subjects individuals to a first-degree felony if the criminal recruits, harbors, entices, transports, or advertises human trafficking victims or subjects them to sexual servitude. The bill significantly increases the monetary penalties on the criminal who patronizes a victim of human trafficking as well. This bill, with others, was passed last session, and they are a step in the right direction.

However, we must persist in our awareness campaign. Human trafficking is a form of slavery that occurs in every State, including Pennsylvania. It is the third largest criminal activity in the world, and the largest number of victims are children and women. Consider this: Pittsburgh is ranked 10th on the list of top U.S. cities for human trafficking, in part due to the opioid addiction issue; and Pennsylvania, as a State, is also ranked 10th for human trafficking. In the southeast where I am from, there are highways like I-95 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike that converge together and create a pipeline by which victims can be transferred through all corners of the Commonwealth. Trafficking cases have been found in Stroudsburg, York, Lancaster, Harrisburg, State College, Erie, Williamsport, Altoona, Allentown, and sadly, Bucks County, where I am from. It is a \$150 billion industry: \$99 billion comes from sex exploitation and \$51 billion from forced economic exploitation.

According to a 2001 University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work study, as many as 300,000 children may be at risk to be trafficked at any given time. These studies have indicated that victims of sex and labor trafficking are our most vulnerable citizens: runaways, those in foster care, those who have aged out

of foster care, others who are homeless or left to fend for themselves. However, anyone can become a victim. The Internet is a myriad of social networking sites rife with predators looking for their next victim. As children log on to the computer each morning for virtual learning, they are also entering a world with preying eyes.

We in the Commonwealth must be aware of the realities. We must dedicate ourselves to stopping this contemporary manifestation of slavery. If you have a concern about someone or you have any concern where you are, please call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text "Be Free" at 233733. We can all do our part to raise awareness of this horrible crime.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE, CONSIDERED FIRST TIME, AND TABLED

SB 109, PN 102

By Rep. SAYLOR

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in emergency COVID-19 response, establishing the Hospitality Industry Recovery Program, providing for emergency education relief to nonpublic schools and for emergency education relief to area career and technical schools, intermediate units and other educational entities and repealing provisions relating to Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency; establishing the Rental and Utility Assistance Grant Program; in additional special funds and restricted accounts, providing for Workers' Compensation Security Fund transfer to COVID-19 Response Restricted Account; in 2020-2021 Restrictions on Appropriations for Funds and Accounts, further providing for fund transfers; and making appropriations.

APPROPRIATIONS.

STATEMENT BY MR. GILLEN

The SPEAKER. The Chair now recognizes the gentleman, Representative Mark Gillen, under our House rules.

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

Today is "International Holocaust Remembrance Day," and I want to personally thank the Speaker's Office and those in the Archives and those that work behind the scenes to make a display possible in the back of the hall of the House of Representatives.

On this day in history, on January 27, 1945, the Red Army liberated Auschwitz. I am especially grateful for the effort of Troy Fasig for putting this display together, as well as Steve Cannon, and so we pause to think of the Anne Franks of the Holocaust, July 6, 1942, in that Amsterdam annex. She was squirreled away with seven others until August 4, 1944, when they were discovered, and all eight of them went to concentration camps, and certainly, history has well recorded the death of Anne Frank. Indeed, seven of the eight that were in that Amsterdam annex perished in the Holocaust. Otto Frank, Anne's father, survived and made certain that the diary was publicized and protected that Amsterdam dwelling, which is today a museum.

Certainly, we can all come together and recognize the moral outrage of the Holocaust. It offended and is a stench in the nostrils of humanity; indeed, the heavens were offended by the Holocaust. Whether you were political, religious, or a POW (prisoner of war), there was no barrier to death, and it is for us, the living, to carry the awareness and the education forward so that this tragedy should never happen again.

I close with this – because we still have a few in the back of the hall who wish to be guided through the exhibit – I was reading this morning, out of the Old Testament book of Esther, chapter 3 and verse 6, because many would regard the Holocaust perhaps in more contemporary terms, and yet the genocidal attempts against the Jews have been going on for generations. In the 4th century B.C., the Scripture says, "...Haman sought to destroy all the Jews..." and why? Because the Jew, Mordecai, refused to bow down. There was a spiritual component to the Holocaust. The Jews have been targeted since antiquity, and through the twenties, thirties, and forties, the Holocaust and the persecution against the Jews have been well recorded.

We pause to express gratitude, as I close these comments, to the liberators; we pause to acknowledge those that brought justice to the perpetrators; and may God bless the souls of those victims who perished in the Holocaust.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

BILLS PASSED OVER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the remaining bills on today's calendar will be passed over. The Chair hears no objection.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER. The Chair is in receipt of a motion, made by Representative Brett Miller, that this House do now adjourn until Thursday, January 28, 2021, at 12:30 p.m., e.s.t., which will be a nonvoting session day, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to, and at 3:20 p.m., e.s.t., the House adjourned.