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LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024

SESSION OF 2024

208TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 8

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

THE SPEAKER (JOANNA E. McCLINTON) PRESIDING

PRAYER

HON. ALEC J. RYNCAVAGE, member of the House of Representatives, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty and gracious creator, we gather here today with hearts filled with humility and hope.

Grant us wisdom as we deliberate and decide on matters that shape our Commonwealth's future. Guide our thoughts, words, and actions toward justice, compassion, and unity.

Strengthen our resolve to serve all people with integrity and empathy.

And bless this esteemed House of Representatives with harmony and understanding, that together, we may strive for the betterment of our Commonwealth and the well-being of its citizens. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

The SPEAKER. Members, if you could take your seats. We do have some very important guests to acknowledge. Members, please take your seats. The House will come to order.

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. Colleagues, seated to the left of the Speaker's rostrum this morning, it is my honor, our colleague, Representative Cephas, has brought the family of our late colleague and her immediate past predecessor from the 192d District. The family of the late Representative Lynwood Savage is here on the floor of the House today. We will be honoring his legacy in a few minutes. And we are so very grateful to have his wife, Stephanie Savage, and his daughter, Breanna Savage. Please stand. You have our prayers. Thank you.

Also seated to the left of the Speaker's rostrum this morning, it was my distinct pleasure to meet an immediate past colleague that I miss here in the House, but I am glad he is here today.

Representative Bonner, who serves Mercer County, has brought, in our midst, retired Representative Dick Stevenson. He represented the Eighth Legislative District.

And it is always good to see our former Chief Clerk, my good friend, Dave Reddecliff. He came a long way to get here today. We are so grateful to have both of you here, and we will be honoring the late Representative Howard Fargo.

Our colleague from Clinton and Union Counties, Representative Borowicz, has some very special guests in the rear of the House. We are so grateful to have, in our midst, LCpl. Timothy Dobos of the United States Marine Corps. He grew up in Meadville, Pennsylvania. He joined the Marine Corps in 2007, immediately coming out of high school. He served as an electronics intelligence analyst. He was on two deployments: a Mediterranean float in 2009, where he went from Kuwait to Spain; and even provided relief efforts in Haiti in 2010 after the devastating earthquake. He is here this morning with his family: his wife, Robyn; his twin brother, Stephen; and his caretakers, Tyonna Hartley and Jeremy Pearson. In 2013 Lance Corporal Dobos was diagnosed with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.) However, he has been getting a great ton of support from his community and his family, and we are so grateful that he is here today. Members, let us properly honor the lance corporal this morning.

In the gallery, our colleagues have some special guests that have traveled farther than any of us. Our colleagues, Representatives Harkins and Merski, have students here this morning from the Erie Cathedral Prep High School. Erie high school students from the Prep, please stand. We are so glad to have you.

Also in the gallery, our colleague, Representative Barton, has the Blue Mountain Academy's Bel Canto Chorale that is here under the direction of Trena Murphy. They are based in Hamburg, Pennsylvania. The students are from all over the United States and the world, and they are performing on the Main Capitol Rotunda steps today. Bel Canto Chorale, please stand. Thank you for gracing us with your gifts.

Also in the gallery, our colleague from Allegheny County, Representative Mercuri, has brought Vaughn Spencer. Vaughn Spencer is the first-place winner of the 2023-2024 PIAA State Class AAA Boys Individual Wrestling Championship in the 172-pound weight class. Vaughn is currently a junior at Pine-Richland High School, and has a season record of 43 wins and only 2 losses; a career record of 71 wins and 4 losses. Vaughn, please stand up. Congratulations.

Also in the gallery, our colleague from Montgomery County, Representative Guent, brings Finley Dunn and his family; and Cassandra Coleman, the executive director of America250PA. They are all here in the Capitol today. In January of last year,

America250PA launched the Keystone Classroom Initiative, a storytelling visitation program reaching over 50,000 students by the time we get to America's birthday in 2026. And as the winner of the naming contest, the mascot will be named as the "Keystone Kid." We will see the mascot for America250, the Keystone Kid, all throughout the Capitol today. Finley Dunn, please stand. And America250, Cassandra, please stand. We are so glad to have you.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. Are there requests for leaves of absence?

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

The Chair recognizes the minority whip, who indicates 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—201

Table with 4 columns of names: Abney, Armanini, Banta, Barton, Bellmon, Benham, Benninghoff, Bernstine, Bizzarro, Bonner, Borowicz, Borowski, Boyd, Boyle, Bradford, Brennan, Briggs, Brown, A., Brown, M., Bullock, Burgos, Burns, C Freytiz, Cabell, Causer, Cephass, Cerrato, Ciresi, Conklin, Cook, Cooper, Curry, Cutler, D'Orsie, Daley, Davanzo, Davis, Dawkins, Deasy, Deloso, Delozier, Diamond, Donahue, Flick, Flood, Frankel, Freeman, Friel, Fritz, Gallagher, Gaydos, Gergely, Gillen, Giral, Gleim, Green, Gregory, Greiner, Grove, Guent, Guzman, Haddock, Hamm, Hanbidge, Harkins, Harris, Heffley, Hogan, Hohenstein, Howard, Irvin, Isaacson, James, Jones, M., Jones, T., Jozwiak, Kail, Kaufer, Kauffman, Kazeem, Keefer, Kenyatta, Kephart, Khan, Kim, Kinkead, Kuzma, Labs, Lawrence, Leadbeter, Mackenzie, M., Mackenzie, R., Madden, Madsen, Major, Mako, Malagari, Maloney, Marcell, Markosek, Marshall, Matzie, Mayes, McAndrew, McNeill, Mehaffie, Mentzer, Mercuri, Merski, Metzgar, Mihalek, Miller, B., Miller, D., Moul, Mullins, Munroe, Mustello, Neilson, Nelson, E., Nelson, N., O'Mara, O'Neal, Oberlander, Orbitay, Otten, Owlett, Parker, Pashinski, Pickett, Rigby, Roae, Rossi, Rowe, Rozzi, Ryncavage, Salisbury, Samuelson, Sanchez, Sappey, Schemel, Scheuren, Schlegel, Schlossberg, Schmitt, Schweyer, Scialabba, Scott, Shusterman, Siegel, Smith, Smith-Wade-El, Solomon, Staats, Stambaugh, Steele, Stehr, Stender, Struzzi, Sturla, Takac, Tomlinson, Topper, Twardzik, Venkat, Vitali, Warner, Warren, Watro, Waxman, Webster, Wentling, White

Table with 4 columns of names: Dunbar, Ecker, Emrick, Evans, Fee, Fiedler, Fink, Fleming, Kinsey, Klunk, Kosierowski, Krajewski, Krueger, Krupa, Kulik, Kutz, Pielli, Pisciotano, Powell, Probst, Prokopiak, Rabb, Rader, Rapp, Williams, C., Williams, D., Young, Zimmerman, McClinton, Speaker

ADDITIONS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Kerwin

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

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTIONS

The SPEAKER. The House will come to order. Members, we are about to take up condolence resolutions for deceased former members of this august body. The Sergeants at Arms will close the doors of the House, and members, please take your seats.

UNCOTESTED CALENDAR

RESOLUTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE 35

Mr. BONNER called up HR 355, PN 2800, entitled:

A Resolution honoring the life and achievements of former State Representative Howard Fargo.

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Mr. FLICK called up HR 356, PN 2801, entitled:

A Resolution honoring the life and achievements of former State Representative Thomas Dempsey.

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Mr. STAMBAUGH called up HR 357, PN 2802, entitled:

A Resolution honoring the life and achievements of former State Representative Fred Noye.

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Mr. BANTA called up HR 360, PN 2803, entitled:

A Resolution honoring the life and achievements of former State Representative Harry Bowser.

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Mr. DONAHUE called up HR 361, PN 2804, entitled:

A Resolution honoring the life and achievements of former State Representative Paul Crowley.

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Miss CEPHAS called up **HR 362, PN 2805**, entitled:

A Resolution honoring the life and achievements of former State Representative Lynwood Savage.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolutions?

The following resolutions were read:

A RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and achievements of former State Representative Howard Fargo.

WHEREAS, Former State Representative Howard Fargo passed away on December 22, 2023, at 95 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fargo was born April 18, 1928, in Clearfield, to William Blair Fargo and Edna Couder; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fargo graduated from Clearfield High School in 1946 and then joined the United States Navy, traveling abroad for two years on the U.S.S. Toledo on peacekeeping missions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fargo married his love, June, in 1949 and the couple would have celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary this May; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fargo attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania on a GI Bill scholarship, graduating with an education degree in 1951 and went on to receive his master's degree from The Pennsylvania State University in 1957; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fargo used his education degree as a business high school teacher for eight years before founding the accounting firm Fargo, McGill & Company in Grove City; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fargo was very active in and dedicated to his community, serving in leadership roles for many organizations, including treasurer of the Mercer County Republican Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fargo continued his public service upon his election to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in a special election in 1981, and served as Republican Caucus Administrator and as Caucus Chairman until his retirement in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fargo was preceded in death by son Michael, sister Joann and four brothers, Marvin, Alton, Ray and Jerry, and is survived by his wife June, daughter Linda, son Doug, daughter-in-law Diane and grandchildren Emily and Michael; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life and achievements of former State Representative Howard Fargo.

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A RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and achievements of former State Representative Thomas Dempsey.

WHEREAS, Former State Representative Thomas Dempsey passed away March 7, 2024, at the age of 93; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dempsey was born January 23, 1931, in Williamsport, Lycoming County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dempsey graduated from Williamsport Area High School in 1948 before attending Lycoming College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dempsey was elected as Lycoming County Prothonotary in 1980 and served in that position until 1987; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dempsey was a member of the Republican Club of Williamsport and was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives representing Lycoming County in a special election on November 3, 1987; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dempsey advocated for his constituents and was reelected to serve six more consecutive terms as a State Representative; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dempsey was preceded in death by his parents, Bernard and Sadie Dempsey, his wife Nina Dempsey, his stepmother Helen Dempsey, his brother Bernard, his sister-in-law Bernadine Dempsey and his sisters, Jane and Bernadine Dempsey; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dempsey is survived by his children, Thomas W. Dempsey, Jr., of Hanover, Cheryl Dempsey of Williamsport, Karen Logue of Hanover and Linda Dempsey of Williamsport, his grandchildren, Ryan, Sean Logue, Katie Dempsey and Jen Baxter (Dempsey) and his six great-grandchildren; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life and achievements of former State Representative Thomas Dempsey.

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A RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and achievements of former State Representative Fred Noye.

WHEREAS, Former State Representative Fred Noye passed away on February 24, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Noye was born May 13, 1946, in Duncannon; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Noye graduated from Susquenita High School in 1964 and then attended Harrisburg Area Community College and Mansfield State Teachers College before receiving his master's degree in education from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania in 1970; and

WHEREAS, While serving his community as a teacher, Mr. Noye was the chairman of the Young Republicans of Perry County and the Penn Township Republican Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Noye was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, representing Cumberland, Juniata and Perry Counties, in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Noye served nine more consecutive terms and during his tenure was elected as Majority Caucus Chair and Minority Caucus Chair and was appointed to the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, Joint State Government Commission and the Select Committee to Study the Feasibility of a Harrisburg University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Noye continued being an active member of his community until his death; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Noye was loved by many, including his parents, Charles and Marie Noye of Duncannon, his wife of 50 years, Debra Kay (Freeman) Noye, his son Jeremy Wade Noye and his grandchildren, Grace, Katarina and Valentina, his son Andrew Charles Noye and his grandchildren, Edyn, Isla, Jack and Gracie and his great-grandchildren, Georgia and Morgan; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life and achievements of former State Representative Fred Noye.

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A RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and achievements of former State Representative Harry Bowser.

WHEREAS, Former State Representative Harry Bowser passed away on February 22, 2024, at 92 years of age at Parkside North East; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bowser was born September 13, 1931, in Coolspring; and

WHEREAS, Immediately after high school Mr. Bowser joined the United States Marine Corps, which affiliation he honored and carried proudly throughout the remainder of his life; and

WHEREAS, Upon discharge from the Marines in 1952, Mr. Bowser opened a barbering business in North East and became a leader in the community; and

WHEREAS, In 1955, Mr. Bowser married the love of his life and partner, Carol, and had three sons, Timothy, Dennis and Andrew; and

WHEREAS, In 1972, the Bowers bought a 65-acre grape farm, transforming an antiquated operation into a modernized and successful farming business; and

WHEREAS, At the behest of community members, Mr. Bowser ran for and won a seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1978 where he served for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Upon retirement, the Bowers embarked on many adventures worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bowser is survived by his sons Timothy Bowser, Dennis and his wife Carmen Bowser, Andrew Bowser, his grandsons Sherard and Lamar Bowser and his companion, Josephine Ganzer; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life and achievements of former State Representative Harry Bowser.

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A RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and achievements of former State Representative Paul Crowley.

WHEREAS, Former State Representative Paul Crowley passed away on December 9, 2023, at WellSpan Hospital in York, surrounded by family; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crowley was born June 13, 1934, in the Bellevue section of Scranton; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crowley graduated from West Scranton High School and the University of Scranton; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crowley, a Navy veteran of the Korean War, returned to Scranton after serving his country, dedicating his life to service and community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crowley was extremely active in many organizations, serving as president of Northeastern PA National Association of Accountants, The University of Scranton Purple Club (Alumni Society) and the Brotherhood of Railroad Clerks' Union, was a member of the Knights of Columbus and Elks clubs and served as Commander of the Koch-Conley American Legion, Scranton; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crowley was the Vice President and Treasurer of Mark Truck Leasing, Inc., of Dunmore and The Lackawanna Railroad Accounting Department before being elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for Scranton's 112th district in 1968, serving from 1969 to 1972; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crowley continued his public service after serving in the House of Representatives, working as Director of Governmental Affairs at the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission until his retirement, during which he served on the Executive Committee of the board of the Pennsylvania Association of Retired State Employees and the Pennsylvania Association of Retired Legislators; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crowley proudly and effectively served Scranton and its residents with dedication as a State Representative and through his service with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, he worked tirelessly for labor workers, particularly railway workers, advocating for black lung benefits for retired coal miners and their widows and fought to minimize utility rate increases, especially for the elderly; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crowley was preceded in death by his love of 58 years, Mary Lou (Nealon) Crowley, his brother John E. (Cecil) and his sister Catherine (George) Greeley and is survived by his children: Paul (Sue), Harrisburg, Timothy, Scranton and Mary Ellen (Primo) DiSanto, Harrisburg and his six grandchildren: Caitlin (Jordan) Kaye, James, Allison, John, Kayleen and Grace, as well as three great-grandchildren: Piper, Asher and Aurora Kaye; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life and achievements of former State Representative Paul Crowley.

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A RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and achievements of former State Representative Lynwood Savage.

WHEREAS, Former State Representative Lynwood Savage was born September 4, 1954, in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Savage dedicated his life to serving his community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Savage began his public service as a liaison for Congressman Bob Brady, served as the Director of Fugitive Warrant Unit of the Philadelphia Sheriff's Department and was a safety manager at the Pennsylvania Convention Center and a member of the 34th Ward Democratic Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Savage was elected as a Democrat to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in a special election on March 15, 2016, serving out the remaining 2015-2016 term; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Savage was a respected member of his community and this chamber; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life and achievements of former State Representative Lynwood Savage.

On the question recurring,

Will the House adopt the resolutions?

The SPEAKER. Those in favor of the resolutions will rise and remain standing for a moment of silence as a mark of respect for the deceased former members. Guests, please rise as able.

(Whereupon, the members of the House and all visitors stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect to the memory of the deceased former members.)

The SPEAKER. The resolutions have been unanimously adopted.

The Sergeants at Arms will open the doors of the House.

For the colleagues seeking recognition on the resolutions, if you could, if you are at your desk, to please use the speak button; if you are not at your desk, to please alert the mace-bearer or the Parliamentarian.

REMARKS BY MR. STAMBAUGH

The SPEAKER. We are looking forward to hearing at this time from Representative Stambaugh, from Perry County, on the resolution.

Mr. STAMBAUGH. Well, thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would like to speak on HR 357, which is honoring late colleague Fred C. Noye from Perry County.

You know, 46 years ago, a young, thin farm kid with a head full of curly hair stood on the stage at the auditorium at West Perry High School in Green Park, Perry County, to receive a political science award. That award was given out to one student with an active interest in history and government at each of the high schools in Perry, Juniata, and west-central Cumberland Counties, which were the areas covered by the 86th Legislative District at the time. The young man on the stage that day was me, and the giver of the political science award was Fred C. Noye, who was serving in his third term in the House.

I recall Fred seeming so mature, but found out later he was actually just a few weeks shy of his 32d birthday. You see, when Fred was elected to the State House in 1972 to represent the

86th District, he was the youngest member ever – youngest member ever – to serve in this body in its history. Now, that record has been broken on both sides of the aisle since, but I can say that experience onstage at West Perry 46 years ago cemented my interest in politics.

Over the years I would cross with Fred at various community events, and he became sort of a political mentor. His encouragement, counsel, and wisdom greatly aided me personally in many aspects of my life. And in recent months we would find ourselves texting back and forth on issues of the day, and he would elaborate on how things had changed since he left office 31 years ago. I can say it was very illuminating, to say the least.

Fred was an avid collector of many things, but especially anything political, Perry County historical items, and stamps. If you wanted to run into Fred, you just needed to attend an auction or wait for new stamps to go on sale at the post office.

As was mentioned in the resolution, Fred served in the State House for 20 years, and 14 of those years in the number three post in GOP leadership, as he was elected as House majority caucus chairman for 4 years, and then as minority caucus chairman for 10. Notably, in 1992 he served as national chairman of the American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC, which is an organization of free market lawmakers from across America. He remains one of only two legislators from Pennsylvania in this body to ever head one of the two main national assemblies of State legislators.

If you want to know more about Fred's life and political career, I encourage you to find the Bipartisan Management Committee's Oral History Project interview that was done with Fred and conducted by Jennifer Ott, research analyst, on December 1, 2017. Any Google search will pull it up.

Let me say that Perry County and the entire 86th State House District has lost a statesman, advocate, and a friend. But I can say that Fred's political science award has proudly lived on and has been given out continually by those who followed in his footsteps as State Representatives. So it is very possible that some student I have honored with the award will be standing in this very spot, speaking to this august body, 46 years from now – that would 2070, by the way – hopefully sooner.

Rest in peace, Fred. I am honored to be able to share some reflections about you one last time in the chamber that you loved so well.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REMARKS BY MR. BONNER

The SPEAKER. On the resolution that just passed, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mercer County, Representative Bonner.

Mr. BONNER. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am pleased to stand before you today to support the resolution honoring the late Howard Fargo. Howard Fargo was a man of faith, a man of service who always had a kind word for those he encountered through his 95-year journey through life.

Howard led a life of service to his country, to his State, and to his community. Graduating from Clearfield High School shortly after World War II, he wanted to enlist in the Navy immediately because he knew of the hot spots that were still lingering around

this world, and he wanted to make certain that peace came throughout the world, and he believed that traveling and serving with the Navy would allow him to serve his country in the best way.

Following his service to our country in the military, Howard entered into a 75-year commitment with his wife, June, and three children – all of whom survive Howard except for one son. Howard was a kind, soft-spoken man who led by example more than by words. He had a strong mind for details, and that served him well in his chosen profession as an accountant. I personally used Howard as an accountant, and I appreciated his wisdom and counsel and the fact that I never received a penalty from the IRS (Internal Revenue Service) during all those years.

When Howard was 53 years of age, he decided to seek the nomination for an open House seat previously held by Roy Wilt, who was elected to the State Senate at that time. Howard's opponent for the Republican nomination was Bob Robbins, a West Point graduate and an All-American wrestler who also served this nation with great honor in the United States Army, and in particular, during the Vietnam war. This was a special election where Howard was first elected to the House, and I had the honor of serving on the committee that considered the candidates, and we made a wise decision in selecting Howard as the Republican nominee. Interestingly, Bob Robbins, very distinguished in his own right, went on to serve in this august body and in the State Senate for over 30 years.

Howard was always an easy man to talk to, and that served him well in this chamber and within the Republican Caucus, being elected as caucus administrator and caucus chairman for the Republican members. During his time in office, Dave Reddecliff, our former Chief Clerk, was a key assistant working directly with Howard, and he has come today to pay his respects as well. If you know David Reddecliff, you would know Howard Fargo: a kind, thoughtful man who was always there to serve others.

When Howard retired in the year 2000, he asked Dick Stevenson to seek the House seat that he was vacating. It was an easy decision for Howard to ask Dick and for Dick to follow Howard. Dick Stevenson is much like Howard Fargo and much like Dave Reddecliff – all kind, thoughtful, patient men; good men; men of strong spiritual faith and belief in our country and its goodness.

I am proud to stand before you today, then, and share a brief moment with you regarding the life of Howard Fargo – may Howard rest in peace – a job well done, good and faithful servant. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

REMARKS BY MISS CEPHAS

The SPEAKER. On the uncontested resolution, the Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Philadelphia County, the chair of the Philadelphia delegation, Representative Cephas.

Miss CEPHAS. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise today to support the resolution honoring my predecessor from the 192d Legislative District, Lynwood Savage. Lynwood was born in Philadelphia on September 4, 1954, to the late Vernon Savage and Anna Bennett. Sadly, this past February 5, Lynwood lost his fight to cancer and passed away peacefully at his home with his wife and his children at his bedside.

He was affectionately known as Lyn – or like I would call him, Woody – and was educated and graduated from Overbrook High School. He attended community college and he worked at Beeber Middle School – all within my district and his district as well, outside of community college. And it was his education where he recognized the role that it plays in the future of the city of Philadelphia, which led him to become a committeeperson of the 34th ward, which is the ward of our chairman, Bob Brady, and which also led him to run for State Representative.

One of the things, once I took office, he would always say is that this is the easiest job if you do not care, but the hardest job if you do. So needless to say, I received about weekly calls just to check in on me and to check in on his constituents. He made me run for committeeperson in the 34th ward, against my interest. But he stayed in contact with me and said he would do so until the training wheels fell off. But I always appreciated his guidance. I always appreciated the foundation that he laid, specifically for the 192d. And I will always be thankful to his wife and children, because as you can imagine, this is a rather difficult job and leaves you, oftentimes, away from your family.

But thank you for the gift that you have given this chamber. He truly was a humble and gifted and faithful servant to this chamber, as well as the residents of the 192d, and I am glad that you were able to join us. And again, I thank you for lending us Lynwood during those months that we had him. So thank you again, and again, we honor his legacy. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentlelady.

REMARKS BY MR. FLICK

The SPEAKER. On the uncontested resolution, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lycoming County, Representative Flick.

Mr. FLICK. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am here to honor Representative Tom Dempsey. He has been my constituent for 14 months, and I was his for 14 years. He gave me, a few months ago, a very, I think, impossible task, and that was for the condolence. He said, "Be funny." So I am going to need your help on this.

So Tom was a friend of mine for 40 years. When I decided to run 2 years ago, about this time or shortly before that, he was the first person I went to visit, and on election day, he was the last person I went to visit.

So he was a comic, per se. He loved picking on the Democrats. So it was about 2 weeks to go until the election 2 years ago – we are sort of at that same timeframe right now – and I went and he said, "Listen, you have no chance of winning. None whatsoever." And I said, "Why is that, Tom?" And he said, "Well, two things. You have never worn a pin that says, 'Vote for Jamie Flick.' You're coming to the nursing home. There are 200 voters in here. Go out to your car and get your pin." So I went out to the car – yes, sir – came back in, had the pin on, and he said, "While you were gone, I got you 10 votes. You're very popular with single women." And I thought, great. And he said, "Wait, 90 and over." So whatever it takes. So I thanked him – I only won by about 10 votes – so I thanked him profusely.

And he said, "The other thing here at the nursing home is we like ice cream. You have never brought us ice cream. You're going to get voted in or out, you need to be humble, but more importantly, you need to bring us ice cream." So a week later

I brought in the tubs of chocolate, the tubs of vanilla, went to visit Tom, and he said, "Listen, I'm going to bring a friend of mine. He's going to be right in front of me – I'll be in my wheelchair, and he'll be in a walker – and I want you to make sure you thank him, because his whole life, he has served ice cream. And acknowledge that, Jamie. Just please acknowledge that." And I thought that was very odd, but again, Tom was a jokester. So I see him roll in, and he is pointing in front of him "Democrat, Democrat," and I did not know what he meant. So the gentleman pulls up, comes up in his walker, and he said, "Mr. Flick, I used to have your job." And I said, "Oh, I heard. You served ice cream." And excuse my French – and he said, "No, you jackass. I was a State Rep." So he was a Democrat, State Rep Bob Wise, who just turned 99. They both lived in the same nursing home, both widowed. The amazing thing about Tom was he was married for 72 years to his high school sweetheart.

The last thing he said to me was, "The other reason you can't win, or if you do win" – win or lose, and what do we have? Four weeks from today we are going to wake up, many of us, and see if we have won a primary or not. So the same spot I was in exactly 2 years ago. He said, "When you get up, you be humble. Whether you've won or whether you've lost, be very, very humble. And wear your pin the night before the election." So I went to visit him the night before the election, went out to dinner with my girlfriend, and we were in a beautiful restaurant, absolutely beautiful, round tables, and I had my pin on. So Tom was a genius. I thought, my God, there are 100 people in here. And the chef came out after we had eaten, before dessert, and he said, "Oh, you're Jamie Flick. You're running for office. Can I get a picture?" Nobody had ever asked for a picture. So Chef Mike, I stood with him, I got my picture taken, and I thought, wow, I should have listened to Tom a long time ago. And the gentleman thanked me, and there was a table of maybe a dozen women adjacent. And they said, "Hey, can we get a picture?" And I said, "Absolutely." And I took one step and they said, "No, no, no, with the chef." So nobody wanted their picture with me. So I went back, relayed that story to Tom, and we had a great laugh.

But what his family, when I visited with them last week, wanted me to impress upon everybody here is what I just said, that 4 weeks from today, when we wake up, those of us in primaries, be humble. All right? Be very, very humble. So again, his family wants to say thanks. And I greatly appreciate your time. Thank you.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

JOURNAL APPROVAL POSTPONED

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the approval of the Journal of Tuesday, March 26, 2024, will be postponed until printed.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE, CONSIDERED FIRST TIME, AND TABLED

HB 1633, PN 2817 (Amended)

By Rep. FRANKEL

An Act prohibiting the enforcement of certain noncompetency covenants entered into by health care practitioners and employers.

HEALTH.

HB 2084, PN 2818 (Amended) By Rep. FRANKEL

An Act amending the act of December 14, 1992 (P.L.1116, No.145), known as the Wholesale Prescription Drug Distributors License Act, further providing for definitions, for license application and for storage, handling and recordkeeping.

HEALTH.

SB 668, PN 1460 (Amended) By Rep. FRANKEL

An Act amending the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities Act, providing for certified medication aides; and imposing duties on the Department of Education.

HEALTH.

RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

HR 312, PN 2565 By Rep. FRANKEL

A Resolution designating the week of May 5 through 11, 2024, as "Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

HEALTH.

HR 325, PN 2623 By Rep. FRANKEL

A Resolution recognizing the month of March 2024 as "National Athletic Training Month" in Pennsylvania.

HEALTH.

HR 341, PN 2717 By Rep. FRANKEL

A Resolution recognizing May 17, 2024, as "Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) Day" in Pennsylvania.

HEALTH.

HR 349, PN 2768 By Rep. FRANKEL

A Resolution recognizing the month of April 2024 as "Retinal Blindness Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

HEALTH.

BILL REPORTED AND REREFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE

HB 1021, PN 1010 By Rep. FRANKEL

An Act prohibiting discrimination in certain life insurance policies based on certain drugs.

Reported from Committee on HEALTH with request that it be rereferred to Committee on INSURANCE.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the bill will be so rereferred.

HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

No. 2162 By Representatives POWELL, LABS, SANCHEZ, PROBST, BULLOCK, HILL-EVANS, KINKEAD, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, KINSEY, DALEY, BOYD, SCHLOSSBERG, CERRATO, FLEMING, KRAJEWSKI, SCOTT, MIHALEK, ROZZI, SHUSTERMAN, FRANKEL, KAZEEM, T. DAVIS, BOROWSKI, STEELE, PASHINSKI, GREEN, KIM and CURRY

An Act amending the act of May 28, 1937 (P.L.955, No.265), referred to as the Housing Authorities Law, further providing for relocation.

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 27, 2024.

No. 2163 By Representatives M. BROWN, SMITH, STEHR, GREINER, MOUL, KAUFFMAN, R. MACKENZIE, BERNSTINE, FLICK, JOZWIAK, BANTA and GILLEN

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

Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY, March 27, 2024.

No. 2164 By Representatives CONKLIN, SANCHEZ, BURGOS and MERSKI

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 tavern gaming, further providing for definitions.

Referred to Committee on GAMING OVERSIGHT, March 27, 2024.

No. 2165 By Representatives JAMES, FREEMAN, SAPPEY, SMITH-WADE-EL and MOUL

An Act amending Title 8 (Boroughs and Incorporated Towns) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in vacancies in office, further providing for filling vacancies in elective borough offices.

Referred to Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT, March 27, 2024.

RULES COMMITTEE MEETING

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority caucus chair, Representative Schlossberg, for a caucus announcement.

Mr. SCHLOSSBERG. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

There will be an immediate Rules Committee meeting upon the break.

House Democrats will caucus at 12:15. We will be prepared to return to the floor at 1.

The SPEAKER. The Rules Committee will meet immediately.

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes Representative Dunbar for a caucus announcement.

Mr. DUNBAR. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Republicans will also caucus at 12:15; that is 12:15 for Republican caucus.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County for a committee announcement, Representative Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The House Appropriations Committee will meet in the majority caucus room immediately following the Rules Committee meeting. The Appropriations Committee will meet in the majority caucus room immediately following the Rules Committee meeting.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MRS. McNEILL

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentledady from Lehigh rise, Representative McNeill?

Mrs. McNEILL. Thank you, Madam Chair.

There will be a brief meeting in the back room of the House floor with the northeast delegation. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentledady.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. The House stands in recess until 1 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

AFTER RECESS

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

BILLS REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEES**HB 71, PN 60**

By Rep. BRADFORD

An Act providing for the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument on the grounds of the State Capitol to honor and remember those who have fallen in the line of duty and those left behind.

RULES.

HB 651, PN 590

By Rep. BRADFORD

An Act providing for the designation of the lawn of the Speaker K. Leroy Irvis Office Building within the Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex in Harrisburg as the "Irvis Equality Circle."

RULES.

HB 777, PN 2578

By Rep. HARRIS

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in firearms and other dangerous articles, further providing for definitions and providing for the offense of sale of firearm or firearm parts without serial numbers and for privately made firearms.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 1443, PN 2810

By Rep. HARRIS

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Statewide Advisory Council on Playground Safety; and providing for duties of the Statewide Advisory Council on Playground Safety.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 1601, PN 2811

By Rep. HARRIS

An Act amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Identification Upon Reentry Program.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 1678, PN 2812

By Rep. HARRIS

An Act amending Titles 61 (Prisons and Parole) and 63 (Professions and Occupations (State Licensed)) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general administration, providing for earned vocational training and education credit; in Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, further providing for parole power and for short sentence parole; and, in powers and duties, further providing for consideration of criminal convictions.

APPROPRIATIONS.

HB 1819, PN 2731

By Rep. HARRIS

An Act amending the act of January 14, 1952 (1951 P.L.1898, No.522), known as the Funeral Director Law, further providing for duties of board.

APPROPRIATIONS.

**BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE,
CONSIDERED FIRST TIME, AND Tabled****HB 98, PN 2819 (Amended)**

By Rep. DAWKINS

An Act amending the act of December 17, 1959 (P.L.1913, No.694), known as the Equal Pay Law, further providing for definitions and for wage rates; providing for additional violations; further providing for powers of secretary, for collection of unpaid wages, for records and reporting and for penalties; and establishing the Equal Pay Enforcement Fund.

LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

HB 2104, PN 2687

By Rep. DAWKINS

An Act amending the act of October 27, 1955 (P.L.744, No.222), known as the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, further providing for powers and duties of the commission; providing for policies and procedures; and establishing the Human Relations Training Fund.

LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

HB 2105, PN 2820 (Amended) By Rep. DAWKINS

An Act amending the act of October 27, 1955 (P.L.744, No.222), known as the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, further providing for definitions.

LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR B

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to second consideration of **HB 71, PN 60**, entitled:

An Act providing for the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument on the grounds of the State Capitol to honor and remember those who have fallen in the line of duty and those left behind.

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

CALENDAR

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to second consideration of **HB 660, PN 2785**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 40 (Insurance) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in regulation of insurers and related persons generally, providing for pet insurance; and imposing penalties.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR B CONTINUED

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to second consideration of **HB 651, PN 590**, entitled:

An Act providing for the designation of the lawn of the Speaker K. Leroy Irvis Office Building within the Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex in Harrisburg as the "Irvis Equality Circle."

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

CALENDAR CONTINUED

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to second consideration of **HB 1664, PN 2787**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 40 (Insurance) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in regulation of insurers and related persons generally, providing for payment choice.

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

The SPEAKER. The House will come to order.
Colleagues, please take your seats. Colleagues, please take your seats.

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. As Women's History Month marches through, we have another women's historymaker in our presence, and we would like to acknowledge her. If the colleagues could please take your seats. The Chair will wait on you to take your seats. Colleagues, thank you for your attention.

We are so excited to have two special guests. Seated to the left of the Speaker's rostrum, we have the Honorable Kendy Alvarez, the mayor of the Borough of Lewisburg. Mayor Alvarez is a community builder who connects people, organizations, and systems throughout the greater Susquehanna River Valley. Her love of the region can be heard on the podcast, "57Oh!" where she joins friends to discuss living and working in the 570. She also empowers entrepreneurs as the lead organizer for 1 Million Cups Susquehanna Valley. Her commitment to community and economic development is reflected in her board participation with the Lewisburg Downtown Partnership and the CommUnity Zone. She volunteers with the neighborhood association, with the Union-Snyder Hunger Coalition, with the Penn State Extension Ag Council, with the Evangelical Community Hospital Patient and Family Advisory Council, and with the Pennsylvania Outdoor Recreation Engagement Coalition. She is a graduate of Bucknell University, and was the president emeritus for the Black Alumni Association. As stated, she is a women's historymaker. She is joined today with her niece, Tridaija Alvarez, who is a sophomore at Pace University, spending her spring break in beautiful Harrisburg. Mayor Alvarez and Tridaija, please stand. Happy Women's History Month. Thank you for your hard work.

The House will temporarily be at ease.

The House will come to order.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to second consideration of **HB 657, PN 2725**, entitled:

An Act providing for transparency in realty agreements; prohibiting unfair real estate service agreements; and imposing penalties.

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

AMENDMENTS RULED OUT OF ORDER

The SPEAKER. The Chair rules the following amendments out of order for violating House rule 20: A03736, A03765, A03766, A03800, A03806.

RULING OF CHAIR APPEALED

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman from Centre County, Representative Benninghoff, rise?

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Respectfully, I rise to appeal the Speaker's decision on my amendment.

The SPEAKER. Representative Benninghoff appeals the ruling of the Chair that amendment A03736 violates House rule 20. House rule 20 provides no bill shall be passed containing more than one subject. The subject of HB 657 provides consumer protection against unfair realty agreements. Amendment A03736 adds a second subject to the bill by providing for property taxes.

On the question,

Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?

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

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Just for the members' indulgence, there are probably few issues that we speak about on this floor in a more bipartisan manner than homeownership and property taxes, and I do believe that they are interconnected, interrelated, and frankly, in many cases, the decision of whether people can maintain their homes.

My amendment, very simply, helps this underlying bill, I believe. It offers relief for individuals who want to remain in their homes, which we all talk about often. Many are stretched financially to meet the property tax obligations and have that ability for homeownership. This amendment specifically takes the realty transfer tax, which generated roughly \$800 million last year, \$640 million of which was transferred into the General Fund. As you know, locally, half of it is kept there and half comes to the State. My amendment would transfer all of it into the property tax homestead exemption so that we can keep more people in their homes. This whole discussion, this bill, is about homeownership. We have all talked about the significance.

And last, Madam Speaker, as a reference, last year the Secretary of Budget certified \$750 million for the homestead exclusion program. My amendment would provide almost double of the amount of eligible homeowners in the State of Pennsylvania – the third largest aging State in the nation – to be able to stay in their homes rather than wither the money away in the General Fund with who knows where it goes.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate your indulgence. I would ask the members to join me in appealing this ruling and support this amendment.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

Those in favor of sustaining the Chair's decision will be voting "aye"; those opposed will be voting "no."

On the question recurring,

Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—102

Abney	Evans	Krajewski	Rabb
Bellmon	Fiedler	Krueger	Rozzi
Benham	Fleming	Kulik	Salisbury
Bizzarro	Frankel	Madden	Samuelson
Borowski	Freeman	Madsen	Sanchez
Boyd	Friel	Malagari	Sappery
Boyle	Gallagher	Markosek	Schlossberg
Bradford	Gergely	Matzie	Schweyer
Brennan	Giral	Mayes	Scott
Briggs	Green	McAndrew	Shusterman
Brown, A.	Guent	McNeill	Siegel
Bullock	Guzman	Merski	Smith-Wade-El
Burgos	Haddock	Miller, D.	Solomon
Burns	Hanbidge	Mullins	Steele
C Freytiz	Harkins	Munroe	Sturla
Cephas	Harris	Neilson	Takac
Cerrato	Hohenstein	Nelson, N.	Venkat
Ciresi	Howard	O'Mara	Vitali
Conklin	Isaacson	Otten	Warren
Curry	Kazeem	Parker	Waxman
Daley	Kenyatta	Pashinski	Webster
Davis	Khan	Pielli	Williams, D.
Dawkins	Kim	Pisciottano	Young
Deasy	Kinkead	Powell	
Delloso	Kinsey	Probst	McClinton,
Donahue	Kosierowski	Prokopiak	Speaker

NAYS—99

Armanini	Gaydos	Leadbeter	Roae
Banta	Gillen	Mackenzie, M.	Rossi
Barton	Gleim	Mackenzie, R.	Rowe
Benninghoff	Gregory	Major	Ryncavage
Bernstine	Greiner	Mako	Schemel
Bonner	Grove	Maloney	Scheuren
Borowicz	Hamm	Marcell	Schlegel
Brown, M.	Heffley	Marshall	Schmitt
Cabell	Hogan	Mehaffie	Scialabba
Causser	Irvin	Mentzer	Smith
Cook	James	Mercuri	Staats
Cooper	Jones, M.	Metzgar	Stambaugh
Cutler	Jones, T.	Mihalek	Stehr
D'Orsie	Jozwiak	Miller, B.	Stender
Davanzo	Kail	Moul	Struzzi
Delozier	Kaufer	Mustello	Tomlinson
Diamond	Kauffman	Nelson, E.	Topper
Dunbar	Keefer	O'Neal	Twardzik
Ecker	Kephart	Oberlander	Warner
Emrick	Klunk	Ortitay	Watro
Fee	Krupa	Owlett	Wentling
Fink	Kutz	Pickett	White
Flick	Kuzma	Rader	Williams, C.
Flood	Labs	Rapp	Zimmerman
Fritz	Lawrence	Rigby	

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Kerwin

Less than a majority of the members elected to the House having voted in the negative, the decision of the Chair stood as the judgment of the House.

On the question recurring,

Will the House agree to the bill on second consideration?

RULING OF CHAIR APPEALED

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman from Bucks County, Representative Staats, rise?

Mr. STAATS. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise to respectfully appeal the ruling of the Chair that A03800, which amends HB 657, is out of order.

The SPEAKER. Representative Staats appeals the ruling of the Chair that amendment A03800 violates House rule 20. House rule 20 provides that no bill shall be passed containing more than one subject. The subject of HB 657 provides consumer protection against unfair realty agreements. Amendment A03800 adds a second subject to the bill by providing for a free records notification service to alert landowners of any recording tending to affect a right, title, or interest in the real property of the landowner.

On the question,

Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the maker of the motion and the amendment, Representative Staats.

Mr. STAATS. Thank you again, Madam Speaker.

The underlying bill addresses unfair realty agreements, which addresses fraud against homeowners, as does my amendment. My amendment requires all county recorder of deeds to establish a free service to notify homeowners by text or e-mail of any change to their title.

In recent years, several of my constituents have contacted me and expressed concern about deed or title fraud, where a scammer fraudulently forges a homeowner's signature on a deed and files it with the recorder of deeds. The notification service created by my amendment will provide security and assurance to homeowners that no document is recorded without the homeowner's knowledge and consent.

Both the underlying bill and my amendment protect individuals' homeownership rights against fraudulent behavior. I would ask for my colleagues' support of the motion.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

Those in favor of sustaining the Chair's decision will be voting "aye"; those opposed, "no."

On the question recurring,

Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—102

Abney	Evans	Krajewski	Rabb
Bellmon	Fiedler	Krueger	Rozzi
Benham	Fleming	Kulik	Salisbury
Bizzarro	Frankel	Madden	Samuelson
Borowski	Freeman	Madsen	Sanchez
Boyd	Friel	Malagari	Sappey
Boyle	Gallagher	Markosek	Schlossberg
Bradford	Gergely	Matzie	Schweyer
Brennan	Giral	Mayes	Scott
Briggs	Green	McAndrew	Shusterman
Brown, A.	Guenst	McNeill	Siegel
Bullock	Guzman	Merski	Smith-Wade-El

Burgos	Haddock	Miller, D.	Solomon
Burns	Hanbidge	Mullins	Steele
C Freytiz	Harkins	Munroe	Sturla
Cephas	Harris	Neilson	Takac
Cerrato	Hohenstein	Nelson, N.	Venkat
Ciresi	Howard	O'Mara	Vitali
Conklin	Isaacson	Otten	Warren
Curry	Kazeem	Parker	Waxman
Daley	Kenyatta	Pashinski	Webster
Davis	Khan	Pielli	Williams, D.
Dawkins	Kim	Pisciottano	Young
Deasy	Kinkead	Powell	
Delloso	Kinsey	Probst	McClinton,
Donahue	Kosierowski	Prokopiak	Speaker

NAYS—99

Armanini	Gaydos	Leadbeter	Roae
Banta	Gillen	Mackenzie, M.	Rossi
Barton	Gleim	Mackenzie, R.	Rowe
Benninghoff	Gregory	Major	Ryncavage
Bernstine	Greiner	Mako	Schemel
Bonner	Grove	Maloney	Scheuren
Borowicz	Hamm	Marcell	Schlegel
Brown, M.	Heffley	Marshall	Schmitt
Cabell	Hogan	Mehaffie	Scialabba
Causar	Irvin	Mentzer	Smith
Cook	James	Mercuri	Staats
Cooper	Jones, M.	Metzgar	Stambaugh
Cutler	Jones, T.	Mihalek	Stehr
D'Orsie	Jozwiak	Miller, B.	Stender
Davanzo	Kail	Moul	Struzzi
Delozier	Kaufar	Mustello	Tomlinson
Diamond	Kauffman	Nelson, E.	Topper
Dunbar	Keefer	O'Neal	Twardzik
Ecker	Kephart	Oberlander	Warner
Emrick	Klunk	Ortitay	Watro
Fee	Krupa	Owlett	Wentling
Fink	Kutz	Pickett	White
Flick	Kuzma	Rader	Williams, C.
Flood	Labs	Rapp	Zimmerman
Fritz	Lawrence	Rigby	

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Kerwin

Less than a majority of the members elected to the House having voted in the negative, the decision of the Chair stood as the judgment of the House.

On the question recurring,

Will the House agree to the bill on second consideration?

RULING OF CHAIR APPEALED

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman from Carbon County, Representative Heffley, rise?

Mr. HEFFLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to appeal the ruling of the Chair on amendment A03806, which amends HB 657.

The SPEAKER. Representative Heffley appeals the ruling of the Chair that amendment A03806 violates House rule 20. House rule 20 provides that no bill shall be passed containing more than one subject. The subject of HB 657 provides consumer protection against unfair realty agreements. The amendment, A03806, adds a second subject to the bill by providing for the Property Tax Relief Fund.

On the question,
Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the maker of the motion, Representative Heffley.

Mr. HEFFLEY. Madam Speaker, the underlying bill addresses unfair realty agreements, which addresses an individual's home and ownership rights. My amendment is on the exact same subject, since it clarifies that the provisions of the bill apply to homesteads and by providing an additional transfer of 1.75 from the sales and use tax to be deposited into the Property Tax Relief Fund, where it can be used for property tax relief for homesteads.

The House recently voted to do this for mass transit. I think that the House should be provided the opportunity once and for all, on an up-or-down vote, as to whether or not we actually want to provide relief to homeowners. And why it impacts the underlying bill is because many homeowners are struggling and falling behind on their property taxes; therefore, they are searching for alternatives, and that is when we have these unfair realty practices that prey on those vulnerable homeowners.

So I would ask my colleagues to appeal the ruling of the Chair so once and for all we could have an up-and-down vote. Are you voting with the property tax payers, do we give them relief? Or are you voting for the status quo here in Harrisburg? That is what this vote is about.

Madam Speaker, I ask for a negative vote that we appeal the rule of the Chair.

The SPEAKER. Those in favor of sustaining the Chair's decision will be voting "aye"; those opposed, "no."

On the question recurring,
Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—102

Abney	Evans	Krajewski	Rabb
Bellmon	Fiedler	Krueger	Rozzi
Benham	Fleming	Kulik	Salisbury
Bizzarro	Frankel	Madden	Samuelson
Borowski	Freeman	Madsen	Sanchez
Boyd	Friel	Malagari	Sappety
Boyle	Gallagher	Markosek	Schlossberg
Bradford	Gergely	Matzie	Schweyer
Brennan	Giral	Mayes	Scott
Briggs	Green	McAndrew	Shusterman
Brown, A.	Guenst	McNeill	Siegel
Bullock	Guzman	Merski	Smith-Wade-El
Burgos	Haddock	Miller, D.	Solomon
Burns	Hanbidge	Mullins	Steele
C Freytiz	Harkins	Munroe	Sturla
Cephas	Harris	Neilson	Takac
Cerrato	Hohenstein	Nelson, N.	Venkat
Ciresi	Howard	O'Mara	Vitali
Conklin	Isaacson	Otten	Warren
Curry	Kazeem	Parker	Waxman
Daley	Kenyatta	Pashinski	Webster
Davis	Khan	Pielli	Williams, D.
Dawkins	Kim	Pisciottano	Young
Deasy	Kinkead	Powell	
Delloso	Kinsey	Probst	McClinton,
Donahue	Kosierowski	Prokopiak	Speaker

NAYS—99

Armanini	Gaydos	Leadbeter	Roae
Banta	Gillen	Mackenzie, M.	Rossi
Barton	Gleim	Mackenzie, R.	Rowe
Benninghoff	Gregory	Major	Ryncavage
Bernstine	Greiner	Mako	Schemel
Bonner	Grove	Maloney	Scheuren
Borowicz	Hamm	Marcell	Schlegel
Brown, M.	Heffley	Marshall	Schmitt
Cabell	Hogan	Mehaffie	Scialabba
Causer	Irvin	Mentzer	Smith
Cook	James	Mercuri	Staats
Cooper	Jones, M.	Metzgar	Stambaugh
Cutler	Jones, T.	Mihalek	Stehr
D'Orsie	Jozwiak	Miller, B.	Stender
Davanzo	Kail	Moul	Struzzi
Delozier	Kaufar	Mustello	Tomlinson
Diamond	Kauffman	Nelson, E.	Topper
Dunbar	Keefer	O'Neal	Twardzik
Ecker	Kephart	Oberlander	Warner
Emrick	Klunk	Ortitay	Watro
Fee	Krupa	Owlett	Wentling
Fink	Kutz	Pickett	White
Flick	Kuzma	Rader	Williams, C.
Flood	Labs	Rapp	Zimmerman
Fritz	Lawrence	Rigby	

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Kerwin

Less than a majority of the members elected to the House having voted in the negative, the decision of the Chair stood as the judgment of the House.

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

Mr. STURLA offered the following amendment No. **A03804**:

Amend Bill, page 1, lines 1 and 2, by striking out "requiring and" in line 1 and all of line 2

Amend Bill, page 1, lines 8 and 9, by striking out "Transparency in Realty" and inserting

Unfair Real Estate Service

Amend Bill, page 1, lines 10 through 17; page 2, lines 1 through 30; page 3, lines 1 through 12; by striking out all of said lines on said pages

Amend Bill, page 3, line 13, by striking out "6" and inserting

2

Amend Bill, page 6, line 9, by striking out "7" and inserting

3

Amend Bill, page 6, line 11, by striking out "3 or 4" and inserting

2

Amend Bill, page 6, line 23, by striking out "8" and inserting

4

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

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Representative Sturla.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County on the amendment, A03804, Representative Krajewski.

Mr. KRAJEWSKI. Thank you, Madam Speaker.
Madam Speaker, amendment 03804 makes technical corrections to the bill, and I urge a "yes" vote. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Huntingdon, Representative Irvin, on the amendment, A03804.

Mr. IRVIN. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This is a negotiated amendment, and I ask all the members for their support. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the chair from Housing and Community Development.

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

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—201

Abney	Flick	Kuzma	Rigby
Armanini	Flood	Labs	Roae
Banta	Frankel	Lawrence	Rossi
Barton	Freeman	Leadbeter	Rowe
Bellmon	Friel	Mackenzie, M.	Rozzi
Benham	Fritz	Mackenzie, R.	Ryncavage
Benninghoff	Gallagher	Madden	Salisbury
Bernstine	Gaydos	Madsen	Samuelson
Bizzarro	Gergely	Major	Sanchez
Bonner	Gillen	Mako	Sappery
Borowicz	Giral	Malagari	Schemel
Borowski	Gleim	Maloney	Scheuren
Boyd	Green	Marcell	Schlegel
Boyle	Gregory	Markosek	Schlossberg
Bradford	Greiner	Marshall	Schmitt
Brennan	Grove	Matzie	Schweyer
Briggs	Guenst	Mayes	Scialabba
Brown, A.	Guzman	McAndrew	Scott
Brown, M.	Haddock	McNeill	Shusterman
Bullock	Hamm	Mehaffie	Siegel
Burgos	Hanbidge	Mentzer	Smith
Burns	Harkins	Mercuri	Smith-Wade-El
C Freytiz	Harris	Merski	Solomon
Cabell	Heffley	Metzgar	Staats
Causer	Hogan	Mihalek	Stambaugh
Cephas	Hohenstein	Miller, B.	Steele
Cerrato	Howard	Miller, D.	Stehr
Ciresi	Irvin	Moul	Stender
Conklin	Isaacson	Mullins	Struzzi
Cook	James	Munroe	Sturla
Cooper	Jones, M.	Mustello	Takac
Curry	Jones, T.	Neilson	Tomlinson
Cutler	Jozwiak	Nelson, E.	Topper
D'Orsie	Kail	Nelson, N.	Twardzik
Daley	Kaufer	O'Mara	Venkat
Davanzo	Kauffman	O'Neal	Vitali
Davis	Kazeem	Oberlander	Warner
Dawkins	Keefer	Ortitay	Warren
Deasy	Kenyatta	Otten	Watro
Delloso	Kephart	Owlett	Waxman
Delozier	Khan	Parker	Webster
Diamond	Kim	Pashinski	Wentling
Donahue	Kinthead	Pickett	White
Dunbar	Kinsey	Pielli	Williams, C.
Ecker	Klunk	Pisciottano	Williams, D.
Emrick	Kosierowski	Powell	Young
Evans	Krajewski	Probst	Zimmerman
Fee	Krueger	Prokopiak	
Fiedler	Krupa	Rabb	McClinton,
Fink	Kulik	Rader	Speaker
Fleming	Kutz	Rapp	

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Kerwin

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the amendment was agreed to.

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

The SPEAKER. The bill as amended will be reprinted.

SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR C

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to third consideration of **HB 777, PN 2578**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in firearms and other dangerous articles, further providing for definitions and providing for the offense of sale of firearm or firearm parts without serial numbers and for privately made firearms.

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 maker of the bill, the gentledady from Philadelphia County, Representative Cephas. Miss CEPHAS. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise today to ask my colleagues to pass HB 777, which closes the loophole in the Uniform Firearms Act to prohibit the purchase, sale, and production of untraceable guns and gun parts, which have come to be known as ghost guns. For those that do not know, ghost guns are firearms assembled from unmarked parts or 3D-printed components lacking a serial number or identifiable markings. They can be built using kits, allowing individuals to create firearms without registration or background checks. Nonserialized and inexpensive, ghost guns are easier to get and to use in criminal activities, and they are circumventing traditional gun regulations.

From 2016 to 2021, there was a 1,000-percent increase in ghost guns collected and reported to the Department of Justice. Without serial numbers or other traceable features on the gun frame, slide, or other components, tracking weapon movement from sales and theft is essentially impossible when it comes to law enforcement.

Some of the most recent incidents that we have heard here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania just happened this past recent couple of months in Bucks County. A gentleman killed his stepmother, his sister, and the mother of his children in what authorities are describing as a "domestic violence incident." The gentleman had an unregistered semiautomatic ghost gun rifle, which had no serial number and an unknown make and model.

In 2023, last year, there was a gunman in Montgomery County who killed a young woman in front of her son, related to a dispute between a romantic couple. He was able to acquire a ghost gun, circumventing the law, and is a felon and essentially was able to access this gun, again, without any law enforcement.

In 2021, in the suburban area of Johnstown, a law enforcement agent confiscated one pump-action rifle and four AR-15-style semiautomatic rifles, which were ghost guns, purchased with a credit card of their parents by two teenagers who were planning to stage a school shooting.

In Kingsessing, an area of Philadelphia, there was a young man having a mental health episode who was able to acquire a ghost gun, who gunned down five residents at random in the Kingsessing neighborhood.

And according to Pennsylvania State Police and other local law enforcement, over 1,000 of these ghost guns have been used and discovered at crime scenes across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In 2022 the Department of Justice recovered close to 30,000 ghost guns in domestic seizures, and acknowledged that these are becoming the weapon of choice for so many violent criminals. Other States are following steps, similar steps that we are following today, because they, too, are seeing an increased pattern of these ghost guns flooding their communities; States like Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New York, and New Jersey.

But I want to remind my colleagues today that, again, this bill does not remove firearms or make these firearms illegal. What this bill simply does is attempts to curb the access to untraceable guns that are being used at a higher rate, because again, law enforcement is not able to keep track and prosecutors are not able to prosecute because, again, they are not serialized, they go undetected, and they are not able to follow a pattern in order to prosecute them.

They are being used by not just bad actors. Like I stated before, there was an example where a group of teenagers was able to purchase these guns online with their parents' credit card. So yes, they are being easily accessed by our children against law enforcement and everyday citizens.

And I want to go on record in saying, in this body, for far too long, we constantly focus on singularly going after bad actors once the crimes are committed. This bill is an opportunity to get in front of this issue, like so many other States. And I ask you today to pass HB 777, so again, we can get ahead of the influx of ghost guns that are flooding our community.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentlelady.

CONSTITUTIONAL POINT OF ORDER

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lawrence, Representative Bernstine.

Mr. BERNSTINE. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I rise to question the constitutionality of HB 777, PN 2578, as it violates Article I, section 21, of the

Pennsylvania Constitution, as well as the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Article I, section 21, of the Pennsylvania Declaration of Rights guarant—

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will suspend.

The Chair will get the motion on the board prior to your advocacy.

The gentleman, Representative Bernstine, moves that HB 777 is unconstitutional. The Chair, under House rule 4, is required to submit questions involving the constitutionality of matters to the House for decision, which the Chair now does.

On the question,

Will the House sustain the constitutionality of the bill?

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the maker of the motion, Representative Bernstine.

Mr. BERNSTINE. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Madam Chair, I raise the question of constitutionality because Article I, section 21, of the Pennsylvania Declaration of Rights guarantees Pennsylvanians' firearms rights. Written into this article are the most strongly worded phrases that anyone has ever seen about firearms and law-abiding citizens. Article I, section 21, states, "The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves...shall not be questioned." The power that we citizens have is formed by these words. But some either forget their constitutional right, or choose to denigrate it. The constitutional right to possess a firearm is part of the constitutional guarantee to life, liberty, and happiness. Law-abiding citizens must always preserve their right to possess firearms in order to enable their fundamental rights to protect themselves and their families — without question from government.

That is not what HB 777 does. Instead, this bill, in practice, categorically requires government serialization and tracking of what the bill calls firearm frames and receivers, as well as other firearm components. This is not government questioning citizens' fundamental rights, but this is government removing and interfering and placing burdens on those rights with a centralized bureaucratic agency.

Let me repeat the words of Article I, section 21, again: "The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves...shall not be questioned." HB 777 does not conform to this constitutional guarantee that we are guaranteed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair recognizes the minority leader, the gentleman from Lancaster, Representative Cutler, on the motion.

Mr. CUTLER. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I was actually going back — another member had indicated they wished to speak and I was going to let him speak first, if it pleases the Chair. Although I am happy to speak now as well.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman can speak. I recognize the gentleman from Mercer, Representative Bonner, on the constitutionality motion.

Mr. BONNER. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Our Constitution was adopted in 1789, but it was conditioned upon the subsequent approval of 10 amendments, which were adopted in 1791, and they are known as the Bill of Rights. The Constitution would not have been adopted unless the Founding Fathers were given assurance that the Bill of Rights would follow and be approved within 2 years thereafter. Our Founding Fathers

did not trust a strong central government. They knew that they had lived under the rule of the iron fist of King George and the weak leadership of Prime Minister Lord North, and they were not going to relive this experience as they were founding this nation.

The Second Amendment of the Constitution recognizes what had truly won our independence: the militia, a ragtag assemblage of farmers, tradesmen, professionals, and laborers who brought their muskets and their pistols to the field of battle and defeated the strongest army and navy known in the history of mankind to that point in time. These muskets and pistols were made in the homes of those who fought this strong army and strong navy. They did not contain serial numbers. They did not call these guns ghost guns. They called them tools of freedom used by the Sons of Liberty, to whom we still owe much today.

The Second Amendment, then, recognized the importance and necessity of the militia, and also recognized the importance and necessity of the people to own, possess, and make firearms – not just those in the militia, but those who were not members but may be on some occasion. As the Second Amendment states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people" – the people, not the militia members, the right of the people – "to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." The Second Amendment, then, does not limit arms to the militia. It is the right within the people of the United States that has it. This right is so sacred and important in our nation that we were only one of three nations, at that time in history, to have it enshrined within a Constitution.

We also ranked our constitutional amendments at the time we adopted them in 1791. Our Founding Fathers ranked the amendments in order of the most important priority to them. First was freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of association. Second was the right to bear arms, because they knew without the right to bear arms in the people, we would never have this Constitution in the first place.

In order to determine, then, what legislation can impact the Second Amendment, two cases decided by the United States Supreme Court must be considered. The first case is *District of Columbia v. Heller*, and there the United States Supreme Court said the right is not only within the militia members, but the right is truly in the people of the United States. That argument that the guns are reserved for the militia has been put to bed. It is a right that we all possess, and one we must cherish and one we must protect from a strong central government.

The second case that has to be considered when analyzing the right to possess firearms in this country is the case of *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*, just decided in 2022. This decision has tremendous impact upon the ability of Congress and State governments to regulate firearms and to pass gun control legislation. In *Bruen*, the United States Supreme Court said, unless you can show a history of regulating a firearm in a particular manner or fashion in the 18th and 19th century, you cannot regulate it today. We know for a fact that firearms – the building of them within the homes – was not regulated in the 18th and 19th centuries in this country, nor were they required to have serial or registration numbers on them. No one had to have a license to build a firearm in their home. They could get the parts. They could get them from a forge. They could build them at home. And there was no requirement for serial numbers or registration to go on those parts.

Interestingly, the Fifth Circuit of the United States appellate court system considered this very issue within the past year, and they have said that custom guns, homemade guns – or if you want

to refer to them as "ghost guns" – they are not required to have serial or registration numbers on them because there has never been such a historical requirement, even though the homemade production of firearms has been occurring in this country for over 250 years.

The United States Supreme Court further noted in *Bruen* that the Second Amendment is not a second-class right. It is nothing that you or I need to apologize for in asserting it.

Our Founding Fathers, then – a tribute to them, what they did, not only in the field of battle, but in the halls of Independence Hall, framing the Constitution, putting these rules and regulations together – exercised great wisdom that our courts say we still must follow today. The Second Amendment and the legal rights of lawful gun owners must be protected as much as those who seek to protect the First Amendment rights of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of association.

I hope that your vote today upholds the Second Amendment as written by our Founding Fathers and as upheld by the United States Supreme Court. We cannot regulate homemade guns under the constitutional provisions and the interpretations of the Supreme Court, and I would ask that you follow the rule of law and that you follow the Supreme Court dictates and you rule that this particular statute is unconstitutional. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. On the question of constitutionality, the Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Allegheny County, Representative Gaydos.

Ms. GAYDOS. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

When we talk about constitutionality, it has already been decided that it is unconstitutional. U.S. District Court Judge O'Connor already issued a series of orders stating that "The liberty interests of law-abiding citizens wishing to engage in historically lawful conduct" – building their own weapons – "outweighs the government's competing interest in preventing prohibited persons from unlawfully possessing firearms." It is already decided. It is unconstitutional. Thank you.

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

Mr. CUTLER. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I was wondering if the prime sponsor of the bill might stand for brief interrogation in order to help determine constitutionality.

The SPEAKER. The leader has indicated to the Chair that he will stand for interrogation.

Mr. CUTLER. Very well. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, on page 4 of the bill, lines 17 through 21, the bill provides that "A person who sells OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERS any of the following, separately or as part of a firearm kit, not imprinted with a serial number registered with a Federal firearms licensee, commits a felony of the THIRD degree...", and then goes on to list a frame, a receiver, and several other gun parts. First of all, would these transfers include intrafamily gifts, as that same language appears to mirror 18, Pennsylvania Consolidated Statute, section 6111?

Mr. BRADFORD. This bill in no way changes current law regarding intrafamily transfers.

Mr. CUTLER. Very good. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

A "Federal firearms licensee," defined on page 2, lines 12 through 15, of the bill, includes "A dealer, manufacturer or importer who is licensed by the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives..." So my question, Madam Speaker, is, if our grandfather served honorably in World War II and legally brought back a Japanese rifle from the Pacific Theater

or a German rifle from the European Theater, there may or may not be a serial number on that weapon and it may have additional markings. For example, some of the Japanese rifles had chrysanthemums imprinted as a symbol, and they would have Japanese characters but not a serial number. And that number would not be registered with a dealer, manufacturer, or importer licensed by the ATF, as outlined on page 2, lines 12 through 15, but more importantly, that firearm may not be required under current law to have a serial number until the passage of the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968. So the old family deer hunting rifle or shotgun to hunt squirrels and rabbits to keep the family fed during the Great Depression might also lack a serial number. So would I be correct in saying that this bill, your bill would make the passage of your grandfather's antique weapons or items brought back from the field of battle – a cherished heirloom in the family – would they be guilty of a felony?

Mr. BRADFORD. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

First of all, just for the correction of the record, I believe you should note that the Federal Gun Control Act, I believe, was 1968. I would also further point out that under existing law, antique firearms are exempt from the Uniform Firearms Act. Again, nothing would change, so those heirlooms that do not have serial numbers would continue within that family.

Again, I would just say to the gentleman, obviously for over the last half century, serial numbers were required on all firearms. The idea that we would allow foreign – in many cases, Asian-manufactured weapons from the Far East – to come into our country without serial numbers, to put these guns together without background checks – that has not been the law of the land for quite some time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CUTLER. Point of order, Madam Speaker?

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman make a point of order?

Mr. CUTLER. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Members were conversing and I was having difficulty hearing the good gentleman. I just needed clarification on the last piece, but I am not really sure how it was responsive to the question, either, but perhaps I just misheard him.

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

Mr. CUTLER. Again, I will use the gentleman's terms for correction of the record. The Gun Control Act of 1968 is in fact the gun control act I was referencing, but the Antique Firearms Act, for the benefit of the members here, is actually referenced back to 1898 at the Federal level, which does include antique firearms as well as black powder firearms, and these are all very important distinctions.

So my question, Madam Speaker, regarding the constitutionality of this underlying bill – are those completed firearms protected, and therefore, would continue to pass as existing law, whether it be the 1898 act or the 1968 act?

Mr. BRADFORD. Correct. There is no impact under existing law for antique firearms.

Mr. CUTLER. Very good. If I may speak on the underlying bill, Madam Speaker?

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

Mr. CUTLER. I think it is important that the members understand exactly what is being discussed, and the discussion, as the good gentleman pointed out, dealt with the Antique

Firearms Act. Does not mention the 1968 act or the fact that it is currently legal under existing Federal and State law to sell a long gun, defined as a "rifle," without checks. So I would argue that 777 is in fact, this bill, their bill is in fact in contradiction to the existing constitutional provisions, as well as existing law.

We cannot cherry-pick which pieces of constitutional law we wish to follow or which ones would apply today or to which acts. The Constitution is very clear: "shall not be questioned." What is occurring here, and I think it is important, is many of the tragedies that the good sponsor outlined in fact dealt with crimes that already exist: minors transferring firearms, minors dealing with issues, and other breakdowns of existing laws, laws that, quite frankly, are rarely enforced by some of our biggest prosecutors, the first- and second-class cities.

Madam Speaker, passing another law, an unconstitutional one such as this, will not add any important impact on those individuals because they have already broken one, two, three, four laws to get to where they were already. They were a felon that was in possession. The prime sponsor herself said that.

So, Madam Speaker, let us move on to the other reasons why this bill is unconstitutional. I would offer that the lack of serial numbers, if in fact – because they are covered by existing law, whether it is the Antique Firearms Law or the 1968 law or the constitutional provisions themselves that we are debating here – if they are covered from those, the good lady's bill misses the mark, because a long gun is already legally able to be transferred. So it will not get to the intended target or the stated goal of this legislation.

It is important to note that what they are looking to do is criminalize law-abiding citizens simply inheriting weapons, firearms, tools, as the good gentleman from Mercer indicated, criminalize the inheritance and the passage from one member of a family to another that is existing in the law currently and is currently legal but would not be legal under this proposal. Madam Speaker, for those reasons this bill is unconstitutional.

Furthermore, it continues to add additional burdens, which the courts have already spoken on, because let us remember, let us remember, when this chamber debated the constitutionality of mandatory reporting of lost and stolen, a key component of that debate hinged on what criminals had to do. They have no duty to report and to self-incriminate. They would have no duty under this law because of their Fifth Amendment rights. Now, we may not agree with the *Haynes* case from 1968, but the fact is, it is still good constitutional law – very similar to the cases that the gentleman from Mercer outlined.

And for all of those reasons, Madam Speaker, this bill is unconstitutional.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. CUTLER. And I would like a parliamentary inquiry, if I may, for clarification on which vote indicates support or opposition.

The SPEAKER. Absolutely. When the members are permitted to vote, a vote of "aye" votes to declare the matter to be constitutional; a vote of "no" will declare the matter to be unconstitutional.

Mr. CUTLER. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On that question of constitutionality, the Chair recognizes the majority floor leader, Representative Bradford, from Montgomery County.

Mr. BRADFORD. As the good minority leader knows, serial numbers – and in many cases, background checks – have been the law of the land for well over half a century. They are legal. They are constitutional. That is all there is in front of us today: whether we would allow guns to come in without serial numbers and without the benefit, in many cases, of a background check. If the gentleman would like to rescind what is already in law, he can do that, but I think we should get about providing the safety to our communities of the Commonwealth. This is clearly constitutional.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Those voting "aye" will vote to declare the matter to be constitutional; those voting "no" will be voting to declare the matter to be unconstitutional.

On the question recurring,
Will the House sustain the constitutionality of the bill?

(Members proceeded to vote.)

VOTE STRICKEN

The SPEAKER. The clerk will strike the vote.

On the question recurring,
Will the House sustain the constitutionality of the bill?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—101

Abney	Fiedler	Krueger	Rozzi
Bellmon	Fleming	Kulik	Salisbury
Benham	Frankel	Madden	Samuelson
Bizzarro	Freeman	Madsen	Sanchez
Borowski	Friel	Malagari	Sappey
Boyd	Gallagher	Markosek	Schlossberg
Boyle	Gergely	Matzie	Schweyer
Bradford	Giral	Mayes	Scott
Brennan	Green	McAndrew	Shusterman
Briggs	Guenst	McNeill	Siegel
Brown, A.	Guzman	Merski	Smith-Wade-El
Bullock	Haddock	Miller, D.	Solomon
Burgos	Hanbidge	Mullins	Steele
C Freytiz	Harkins	Munroe	Sturla
Cephas	Harris	Neilson	Takac
Cerrato	Hohenstein	Nelson, N.	Venkat
Ciresi	Howard	O'Mara	Vitali
Conklin	Isaacson	Otten	Warren
Curry	Kazeem	Parker	Waxman
Daley	Kenyatta	Pashinski	Webster
Davis	Khan	Pielli	Williams, D.
Dawkins	Kim	Pisciottano	Young
Deasy	Kinhead	Powell	
Delloso	Kinsey	Probst	McClinton,
Donahue	Kosierowski	Prokopiak	Speaker
Evans	Krajewski	Rabb	

NAYS—100

Armanini	Fritz	Lawrence	Rigby
Banta	Gaydos	Leadbeter	Roae
Barton	Gillen	Mackenzie, M.	Rossi
Benninghoff	Gleim	Mackenzie, R.	Rowe
Bernstine	Gregory	Major	Ryncavage
Bonner	Greiner	Mako	Schemel
Borowicz	Grove	Maloney	Scheuren
Brown, M.	Hamm	Marcell	Schlegel
Burns	Heffley	Marshall	Schmitt

Cabell	Hogan	Mehaffie	Scialabba
Causer	Irvin	Mentzer	Smith
Cook	James	Mercuri	Staats
Cooper	Jones, M.	Metzgar	Stambaugh
Cutler	Jones, T.	Mihalek	Stehr
D'Orsie	Jozwiak	Miller, B.	Stender
Davanzo	Kail	Moul	Struzzi
Delozier	Kaufner	Mustello	Tomlinson
Diamond	Kauffman	Nelson, E.	Topper
Dunbar	Keefer	O'Neal	Twardzik
Ecker	Kephart	Oberlander	Warner
Emrick	Klunk	Ortitay	Watro
Fee	Krupa	Owlett	Wentling
Fink	Kutz	Pickett	White
Flick	Kuzma	Rader	Williams, C.
Flood	Labs	Rapp	Zimmerman

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Kerwin

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the constitutionality of the bill was sustained.

On the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The SPEAKER. HB 777, on final passage, the question recurs, will the House finally pass the bill?

On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks County, Representative Munroe.

Mr. MUNROE. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As many of you know, I am a former police officer, having attained the rank of corporal, and I am a current Fraternal Order of Police member, and I am happy to see that F.O.P. Lodge 5 is in full support of this bill. And I would also like to point out that I am a gun owner.

Every day police have to contend with violent situations and are under a constant threat of bodily harm, but training and equipment can only do so much. Investigating crimes, tracking lost or stolen weapons is hard enough without a basic serial number, identifying marker, that all guns have – but not ghost guns. Allowing the pervasiveness of ghost guns not only threatens our society, but it also threatens the lives of our men and women in blue, and gives another tool to the criminal element seeking to do us harm. This is the reason that ghost guns are becoming so popular, especially with the criminal element.

You know, we like to talk about criminal background checks when talking about purchasing weapons, so I would like to talk about another checklist: the criminal's checklist. Get a gun without having to go through natural channels, check; no criminal background check, check; commit a crime or murder with an untraceable weapon, check.

HB 777 is a sensible piece of legislation that catches Pennsylvania law up to today's modern times, and will empower our police to protect both themselves and the public. And that is why I fully support HB 777, and I ask for a "yes" vote. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Representative Kenyatta.

Mr. KENYATTA. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise to support HB 777 for a couple of simple reasons. What we are talking about with ghost guns are weapons that are unserialized, unregulated, and to everybody in this chamber, should be unacceptable. We have just heard, in previous portions of this debate, about what these current loopholes in the law make possible. What it means right now is that somebody who is already ineligible to have a weapon – because maybe they committed a crime and now the courts have said, you cannot have a weapon – because of the loophole that exists, they can order one of these kits, put together what is effectively a gun, and drive right through that loophole without breaking the law until the kit is put together.

And so what we are suggesting simply is that if somebody is buying different pieces of Legos, we know what they want to do with them. They want to put them together to then go and utilize that weapon. Right now as the law is written, these separate pieces are not regulated as guns. And so to my colleagues, you cannot in one breath say, we cannot do anything to regulate firearms, and then say that these pieces of firearms should not be regulated as firearms. That is what we are trying to clarify – that these untraceable, separated pieces, when put together, are a gun and should be regulated under all the other regulations that we have as it relates to firearms, including the Uniform Firearms Act.

This bill is about savings lives, and as the good gentleman just said, about protecting our communities and protecting law enforcement. You know, in this building we cannot always get to agreement, but this is one that is very confusing why we cannot. Because this bill is pro-safety, and so if you are for safe communities, this is the bill for you. This bill is actually pro-life, and so if you care about protecting life, this is a bill for you. This bill is pro-law, so if you care about the laws being enforced, this bill is for you. This bill is pro-order, so if you care about that, this bill is for you.

The only people who should not like this bill – and there are some folks who should not like HB 777 – if you are a criminal who wants to get your hands on a weapon and go and cause carnage in our communities, you hate this bill. If you are a terrorist who wants to come and cause harm in communities and very easily get a gun to do so, this is a bill you probably hate. If you are an individual who the courts have deemed to not have full control of your mental faculties, this is a bill that you should hate, because it is going to make it more difficult for criminals to get weapons. This bill is going to make it more difficult for folks who want to go and shoot cops to be able to go and shoot cops. This is going to make it more difficult for people who want to commit crimes and get away with them to go out and commit those crimes.

And so this should be a bill that has unanimous support in this building. This bill is saying that we should treat all weapons as weapons and not allow these guns to shoot like a gun, look like a gun, kill like a gun, and then not be regulated like a gun. We know it does not make sense, and we know that right now, as we have this debate, criminals are hoping that we do not pass this bill.

I am going to stand on the pro-life side. I am going to stand on the pro-law-and-order side. I am going to stand on the side against criminals and vote for HB 777. You vote how you think is best, but I will tell you, for those folks in Bucks County, who not too long ago were told to—

You know, the funny thing about this building is, there is a microphone up here where we can all come up and talk, and so if folks want to engage, there is a way to do that. There is even, like, a little button on our seat—

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CUTLER. Point of order, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. CUTLER. I believe the good gentleman has gone a little far afield from the bill and is now discussing duties that you oversee.

The SPEAKER. Members are encouraged to remember that you should not jeer and make noises in response to someone's debate, and the member was responding to that. The member is encouraged to stay on the bill, but the members are encouraged, they can participate in debate. Everyone is welcome to be heard here.

Mr. KENYATTA. Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I am really grateful about the duties that you get to oversee. Happy to have you doing it.

This bill is very simple, and as I was saying, for the folks in Bucks County, not too long ago, who were put under a stay-at-home order because a madman with a gun decided that they were going to go and use that gun in a way that destabilized whole communities; for the folks all across our Commonwealth who are dealing with the carnage of this; for the members of law enforcement who were saying to us, these untraceable, unregulated guns are making it difficult for them to do their jobs and to get justice for the victims of gun violence – this is a bill where we can actually do something about it.

We can play politics in this building, or we can actually do everything within our power to save lives, and HB 777 will save lives. I am going to be voting "yes." I am going to be voting against criminals, and I hope that you would join me. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Berks County, Representative Jozwiak, the chair for Children and Youth.

Mr. JOZWIAK. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

So as you know, I had been a State trooper for 26 years and a sheriff at Berks County for 12 – 38 years in law enforcement – and many times, we had to do things that involved firearms.

But I want to go back to the Revolution. I want to start there. Back in the Revolution, when the gunmakers were making guns, they would put their names on them or markings to indicate that they made that gun. When the British came here, they found those names and they would go out and kill those gunmakers so they would stop making guns. That is when the American people started making their own weapons. They did not put their names on. They did not put markings that identified them. And I will tell you what, they have been doing that for hundreds of years in the United States. There are guns – black powder, percussion, rifles, and pistols – that are still being made today. And the good leader, majority leader, referred to antique weapons. Well, these are antique weapons, but they are not made 100 years ago; they were made last week. I even have a couple of them. These are weapons that people cherish, and they still use them today in competitions.

So today when you trace a rifle – as a law enforcement officer, you trace a rifle or a shotgun – you can only trace it to the very first buyer, from the manufacturer to the buyer. And the reason

for that is people give them away, they pass away, they move away, they sell it to a friend of theirs, and unless that person tells you what happened to that rifle or shotgun, that stops the trace right there. It is almost impossible to do it.

Furthermore, criminals are not going to go get a background check or go to a store to buy a gun. They are going to make their own or they are going to steal one. They do not care about the law. They do not care anything about the law. No matter what laws we pass, they are going to do what they want to do. That is why we call them criminals.

People today need to defend themselves. And I want to say this to you as well. You heard a former speaker talk about one F.O.P. lodge supports this bill. Well, I have got news for you: The State Police do not support this bill. They stayed neutral. All the rest of the F.O.P.s in Pennsylvania did not even raise a voice on this. They did not say either way. So in my opinion, they are neutral.

Madam Speaker, Americans need to defend themselves, especially Pennsylvanians, and being a State trooper, I can tell you, it is not like being in Bucks County, where you are a police officer and you respond to an incident within a minute or two. Sometimes it is a half an hour because you have got that big of an area to cover. People need to defend themselves, and if they make their own weapon, that is fine.

I would urge a "no" vote on this bill. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Adams, Representative Ecker.

Mr. ECKER. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, we are talking a lot about law and order, and the previous gentleman spoke about pro-life issues, but I think it is important that we talk about what is really before us – right? – and who we are actually trying to protect. So when it comes down to law and order, there are people that are in charge of law and order. And if we really care about criminals in this Commonwealth, we really care about folks that are going after criminals, then a bill like this is not going to matter. In fact, the district attorney for the city of the first class said, "We do not believe that arresting people and convicting them for illegal gun possession is a viable strategy to reduce shootings."

So, Madam Speaker, if we pass a bill like this, if we are not going to enforce the laws on the books already, then how is a bill like this actually going to protect Pennsylvania citizens? These laws we pass have to be enforced by those that are sworn to protect us, and passing bills like this is not going to protect us if people that have sworn an oath to do so do not stand up for their oath. So we can pass all the gun regulations, all the gun control bills we want, but if we do not have folks to stand up and actually enforce those laws, they do not mean a thing.

The only thing this hurts are those that are law-abiding gun owners, those who have the firearm legally. Bad people will do bad things no matter what the law is. We need folks to enforce the laws that are on the books already, not pass more laws.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery County, Representative Napoleon Nelson.

Mr. N. NELSON. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

We have heard a lot already this afternoon around how laws do not prevent bad people from doing bad things. I do not understand what in the world we are here to do, then, in this

House if we are not here to establish laws of this land. It does not make any sense to me. We have heard an awful lot about patriots who dragged their homemade muskets to the battlefield in the establishment of this great nation. We did not hear about the slaves that they dragged to the battlefields also. We did not here about the women who they left at home. We understand where the Constitution stands on both of those key constituency groups that are represented in this House; perhaps the Second Amendment of 1776 or 1789 might read a little bit different today.

All are enabled the right to bear arms in protection of our communities. There are processes and times when those rights are sacrificed. I do not believe everyone in this chamber would, however they plan to vote on HB 777, would similarly vote to do away with all laws. I do not believe everyone in this chamber would, however they plan to vote on HB 777, would choose to vote in that same manner if we were to do away with many of the considerations around sentencing enhancements for how people use these firearms. I do not believe the people in this building who are arguing against HB 777 would make those same arguments if we were to state that you can appropriately file serial numbers off of your firearms.

What I will say, though, is I am not here to make the constitutional argument. It was referenced, a shooting in Montgomery County that took the life of a young woman as she was taking her child to school. That young woman was Rachel King. She died on April 11, 2023. Her son was in the back seat. They were in a Dunkin' Donuts drive-through lot right off Cheltenham Avenue in Montgomery County. I know it because that young man was headed to the school where my wife was the vice principal awaiting his arrival. I know it because that young woman was a teacher at a school district in Philadelphia. I know it because while we were able to use video footage and camera footage to understand where in the world that car came from. What we were able to do is get ballistics from the gun that was used, and we could match it to another murder, but we could not match it to a serial number because the gun was intentionally a ghost gun. That was the arrangement: have a ghost gun, because they are hard to track.

I know that also in 2023, several individuals have been arrested, charged, with receiving ghost gun parts from China, putting those guns together in Hatfield, selling them on the black market. If we do not think that there is a market for illegal guns that are harder to trace – and therefore, are allowing bad people to do bad things – I am not sure what in the world we are doing here. If you can honestly tell me that ghost guns are the intention of the Framers of this Constitution, I am not sure what in the world we are doing here. If you believe that this is the best way to keep you and your family safe, by allowing somebody else to buy, build, construct a gun in their basement that nobody has ever seen, that nobody has any ability to trace, and come into your community or stay in ours, I am honestly not in the world sure what we are doing here.

What we are not saying is, those guns are banned forever. What we are saying is, if you want to put a gun together, if you want to construct parts, get a file and get a serial number. Register it. Register it. Register it. God forbid, you then get that gun, register it, and then pass it along five different ways to whomever in the world wants it, so that we have no idea where guns are coming from and who is shooting whom. If that feels like a community that is being kept safe to you, again, I honestly do not know what in the world we are doing here.

If you want a gun, get a gun. Register it. If you want to carry it, get a license to carry. Learn how to use it. Lock it up. Keep it safe from people who do not know what in the world they are doing. Do not print it in your basement, sell it on the black market because you know it is untraceable, and think that is community safety. Do not do it because you think that is what the Framers of this Constitution wanted. Do not do it because that is what you think we fought for in 1776. That is not liberty; that is anarchy. That is crazy.

Vote for HB 777. Thank you.

REMARKS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery County, the chairman of Judiciary, Representative Briggs.

Mr. BRIGGS. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The good leader asked me to wrap it up, so I am going to submit these comments for the record. Thank you.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring some truth and balance to this conversation and urge the passage of HB 777.

Madam Speaker, HB 777 was drafted in the least restrictive way to address the proliferation of ghost guns in Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, this bill will not infringe upon the Second Amendment rights of any law-abiding and responsible gun owner. In fact, this bill does not require any action by a responsible and lawful gun owner. Anyone who presently owns a ghost gun is not required to do anything under this bill. Madam Speaker, this bill will not be triggered for lawful gun owners that currently possess an unserialized firearm until they try to sell or transfer the ghost gun. Also, this bill does not take away or prevent anyone from building their own gun.

Madam Speaker, HB 777 is balanced, it is constitutional, and it is the right thing to do to protect our communities from the proliferation of these deadly weapons.

The proliferation of ghost guns is like other advancements in technology, and we need to act now. A ghost gun can be an 80 percent kit or a 3D printed gun. The technology is moving fast, and we need to keep up to arm our brave law enforcement officers with the tools they need in the toolbox to do their jobs safely and protect our communities.

Moreover, Madam Speaker, the advent of the ghost gun has allowed some people that may not possess a firearm otherwise to skirt and avoid background checks. The ability to avoid the rules under the Uniform Firearms Act that are intended to protect our communities, prevents us from enforcing the laws already on the books. These guns also prevent law enforcement from tracing crime guns back to their owners, and makes it virtually impossible to find the people who commit crimes with these guns. That is why the PA District Attorneys Association supports HB 777.

Madam Speaker, these ghost guns are quickly becoming the weapon of choice for criminals, and we need to give law enforcement a fighting chance when trying to keep our community safe. This is why the Pennsylvania State Police support HB 777, and F.O.P. being neutral is actually a big deal.

I value our Constitution – all of it, not just the parts that I agree with – and HB 777 balances the constitutional rights of individuals with the need for community health and safety.

Madam Speaker, it does not matter to me why anyone here votes in favor of this bill. It could be because you want to keep untraceable guns out of the hands of children. It could be because you value the lives of

our law enforcement officers. It could be because you value community health and safety. Regardless of the why, I urge everyone to vote in favor of HB 777.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. On that question, then, the Chair turns to the floor leaders. The Chair sees a hand from the gentleman from Philadelphia County, encourages him to talk to his leader.

The Chair recognizes Representative Harris on final passage of HB 777.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be brief – no matter how long it takes.

Madam Speaker, I just had to rise, because it is either this or that. That is real simple here. For as long as I have been in this chamber, I have heard my colleagues rail against crime. I have heard my colleagues talk about how much they care about the folks that live in my city. I have heard so much about the crime that plagues many cities across this Commonwealth. And I have heard people talk about coming up with real, tangible solutions to address those issues of crime. Madam Speaker, this is a real, tangible solution to address crime in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I want folks at home to pay attention and understand what we are talking about. We are not talking about taking away a person's Second Amendment right; we are not talking about any of that. We are not talking about gun registries or anything. We are talking about people who are able to buy parts online, put them together, and make a gun when they know they are not legally supposed to have one. That is it. This is not about the forefathers, this is not about our grandfathers, this is not about antique guns, this is not about the pawn shop, this is not about none of that. This is about simply, now, standing up and letting your vote meet your voice, because for far too long, folks have been able to get away with rhetoric and not have to produce results. So for all of those people for generations, and for years since I have been here, who have talked about particularly my city and about what we should do and we should impeach this person and we should do this to that one and we should do this to this one because we need to address crime: okay. We heard you loud and clear. So let us actually address it.

No one should be okay with people being able to make their own firearms in this Commonwealth without them having a serial number on them. No one should be okay with that. So I agree with the good gentleman from my county. If you are pro-police – because contrary to what was said earlier, the State Police is in favor of this legislation, okay? Let us be clear. They are. We have got receipts. And we are standing on business. The State Police is in favor of this.

And I do not know if I have been in this building and seen police not be against these kind of votes. Even the ones who are neutral are neutral. So now you have – look what has happened – you have us on the side of the police on this legislation. So here is the question: Will you stand with law enforcement today and help them fight crime? Will you stand with our men and women who go out every day and try to protect our community?

If you support fighting crime and saving lives, you should support HB 777. The rhetoric stops today. Put up the vote.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Representative Diamond.

Mr. DIAMOND. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This is about our forefathers, this is about our grandfathers, and it is about us today and upholding the principles that we have lived with here for hundreds of years in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, my vote will in fact meet my voice today when I stand for the good people of Lebanon County and their demand for me to protect their right to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State, and that shall not be questioned.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentelady from Philadelphia County, Representative White.

Ms. WHITE. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

You know, there are a few things that I will not tolerate on this House floor – and I know that you, as the Speaker of this House, would not tolerate either – and that is lying to the members before us and our constituents across this Commonwealth with regard to the positions of people—

Mr. BRADFORD. Madam Speaker?

The SPEAKER. The gentelady will suspend.

Mr. BRADFORD. Madam Speaker?

The SPEAKER. The gentelady will suspend.

No member of this body will question the integrity of their colleague. We are members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. We will not question each other's integrity.

The gentelady may proceed.

Ms. WHITE. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do apologize for that.

For the record, Madam Speaker, I have direct contact from both the Pennsylvania State Police, as of this moment, that they are neutral on this legislation. I have direct contact from the F.O.P. Lodge 5 in Philadelphia that they are neutral on this legislation. To reflect otherwise is inappropriate.

I appreciate your time. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentelady from Allegheny County, Representative Gaydos.

Ms. GAYDOS. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

You know, we talk about crime. We talk about crime control. We want crime control. But here is the thing. First of all, we did not vote to defund police. We vote to support police.

The SPEAKER. The gentelady will suspend.

For the information of the members, the question before the House is HB 777 on final passage. Debate about any other legislation is not appropriate. And for the members' information, this body has never voted to defund the police.

The gentelady may continue.

Ms. GAYDOS. My apologies, Madam Speaker.

Look, New York and Maryland spent millions of dollars on gun registries, this sort of stuff. They even recorded the ballistic fingerprints. Do you know how many cases that whole thing solved? Zero; zero. And both States abolished those systems. Why? Because it was costing the taxpayers money and it did not help solve crimes.

That is an issue here. I want to solve crime, I want to have crime control, but at this point, with this piece of legislation, it actually creates a new offense. It is a felony. It puts people in jail for possessing a privately manufactured weapon or parts, while at the same time, we have a D.A. that goes and puts people in jail for – or lets people out of jail for violent crimes for using those—

The SPEAKER. The gentelady will suspend.

This is your final warning. The question before the House is final passage of HB 777, which does not contain any policy regarding prosecutors in Allegheny County or any other of the 66 counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. If the gentelady cannot contain her remarks to HB 777, the gentelady will not be recognized for any further for comments on final passage of this bill.

Ms. GAYDOS. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As I mentioned that this bill creates a new offense. It will cost our taxpayers more money, yet will not solve crimes. This is where I have an issue with this. If we want to address crimes, then we need to address crime control where it happens.

Look, this particular bill, if you vote "yes" for this bill, there are millions of people in Pennsylvania who own firearms – black-powder rifles, pistols – will immediately become felons. This is a problem. This bill goes beyond what should be addressed. If we want to deal with crime control, let us address crime control. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentelady from Philadelphia County, Representative White. The gentelady waives off.

The Chair returns to the floor leaders, starting with the gentleman from Lancaster County, Representative Cutler.

Mr. CUTLER. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I think it is important to correct the record regarding some statements that have been made. First of all, as the good lady from Philadelphia pointed out, F.O.P. Lodge 5 and the State Police, as recent as a few minutes ago, are neutral. They are neutral. The word that we have heard used previously was "supported"; not accurate. We also heard of a variety of crimes that have been committed, a variety of crimes, Madam Speaker, that are already covered by existing law. For example – and I actually agree with the good gentleman from Montgomery County who brought up some of these examples. He said people that do not really understand something probably should not talk about it, and I agree with that, and I am going to tell you why.

Madam Speaker, I have actually built my own firearms. I have been doing it for more than 12 years. I actually understand the process. I understand the background check that I went through each and every time that I bought a serialized receiver. Madam Speaker, the reason that this is so important is because each crime that was already listed is covered by existing law.

For example, the 80 percent lowers that this bill purports to stop? Already covered by ATF regs. Any reputable dealer has stopped selling them. Now, we will hear stories about parts being illegally manufactured, illegally transported, or brought into the country from, I believe the good gentleman said China. That is already illegal. You are bypassing the current firearms structure. And if you buy one that is an 80 percent lower that you must complete with a jig – and for those members who may not be familiar with the process, it is a rigging that you put around the receiver so that all of your holes line up appropriately, so that when you build the firearm, everything matches and it fits and it operates. If you do that, it comes with a serial number. You already go through a background check. And we heard about minors obtaining weapons and giving to friends and five people down the line, I believe was the exact quote. Minors transferring firearms, already illegal.

So what we have here, Madam Speaker, is a series of crimes that are already covered by existing law. We have got some obscuring of the facts in regarding who actually supports the bill, and I would offer, some direct misstatements that were simply not accurate; could be because people do not understand the process, because maybe they have not went through it themselves.

Madam Speaker, I do believe in the self-protection rights, because I, unfortunately – when I previously held the office where you are now – received multiple death threats. So do I carry a firearm for personal protection? Yes, I do. Am I a safe and responsible owner? Yes, I am. Did I appropriately transfer it? Yes, I did. But to pass a law like this using bad facts and things that are already crimes is simply wrong. I understand the debate and the desire about this legislation, but I think it is rooted in a fundamental misunderstanding of what is actually the law and what already happens. I believe if we are trying to stop violent crime committed with untraceable firearms – that is what the stated purpose is – what it does instead is creates an overly broad offense that can loop in and make criminals of everyday gun owners who already own these firearms simply by the mere possession and a change in the law. We will not even discuss the ex post facto issues that arise from that, but I think it is worth understanding. And these law-abiding citizens, those very same people that we wish to make criminals with the passage of this bill, they are responsible gun owners. They are the very people that the other side has claimed that they wish we all were, and it includes enthusiasts and hobbyists like myself who manufacture our own firearms.

Now, this legislation might make some people feel good – I can understand that – but it is because you do not understand the problem because you have never been through the process. It might make us feel good, but it actually – other than checking off a couple political talking points – does not solve the problem. Why does it not solve the problem? Well, we already covered that. We have district attorneys who will not prosecute offenders who should not have guns in the first place. The direct quote was that it is not a viable way to curb crime. So what will adding one more law to that laundry list of laws that are already ignored actually do?

And let us dig into the actual numbers, because this is important. Out of 19,382 crimes committed from 2018 to 2022, 10,387 had a prior felony conviction. They are not even supposed to have a firearm; they are already excluded. And if you get into the most serious criminal incidences – murder, attempted murder, things like that – the statistic still holds roughly true. Out of 12,850, you have got 6,588 individuals who are already prohibited. They do not care about adding an extra offense because they are already ignoring the law. They know that the district attorney in Philadelphia has endorsed this bill because he will not enforce it anyway.

So what good are laws if they are not enforced? Currently crime and violence numbers here in Pennsylvania, particularly our largest urban centers, continue to shock the country. And we are finding out that the worst consequences of not enforcing existing laws that balance the rights of gun owners is the fact that you have higher crime. That should surprise nobody, because criminals, by definition, ignore laws.

So what does this bill actually do? This bill would let criminals go free while actually cracking down on legal gun owners today. Now, if the majority of this chamber wants to get serious about tackling violent crime – and I think the good gentleman from

Philadelphia said, we are here to do business and we got receipts. Well, that receipt – I think that check bounced. I am not going to lie. I do not think it was any good, because it was not accurate.

So what we have here is, if you want to actually tackle, actually tackle violent crime, you have got plenty of willing partners on this side of the aisle who would absolutely work to make sure that violent criminals in fact go to prison and are prosecuted with existing laws. If the majority wants to work and support police and prosecutors, we stand ready to work with anyone who will do that with us. If the majority wants to find ways to ensure that our laws are enforced as written and enacted here as a legislative body and not illegally written by our courts, well, you will have partners on that effort as well. But creating a new offense that largely impacts the hobbyist, the enthusiast, and the responsible, law-abiding gun owner more than the criminal? No, thank you. Creating a new offense to target a crime that is not being enforced where crime and violence is the worst does nothing to solve that problem.

We must stand up for our State and Federal constitutional rights that say, in Pennsylvania, the right to keep and bear arms shall not be questioned. For the legal gun owners, for the responsible gun owners, and for those that respect and love their constitutional rights, I will be a "no" on this legislation.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery County, the majority floor leader, Representative Bradford.

Mr. BRADFORD. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Our former colleague, our former Attorney General, and our current Governor often in speech talks about real freedom. And I think back to just a few weeks ago, to our friends just to the north of us from Montgomery County and Bucks County, where a shelter-in-place order was put in place. They had to cancel their St. Patrick's Day Parade. A child was murdered, her mother was murdered, and another individual was murdered by a ghost gun. No serial number; untraceable. Real freedom is not the ability to buy an overseas handmade gun without a serial number. That is not a constitutional right. It is bad public policy, it is unconscionable, and anyone who walks the streets of Bucks County – but they were not able to walk the streets because they were locked in, because they did not have real freedom. What they had was a madman with an illegal weapon, a weapon that should be illegal, but because of cowardice in State capitals like ours—

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CUTLER. Point of order, Madam Speaker?

Mr. BRADFORD. —we have not been able to pass—

Mr. CUTLER. Point of order.

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

Mr. CUTLER. I believe the good gentleman, while passionate, is impugning the honor of the individuals by calling them cowards, similar to how the issue of truthfulness came up earlier.

The SPEAKER. Just so the members are clear, the gentleman said, "cowardice in State capitals." He did not point to anyone on this floor. And as this Chair gave the floor leader plenty of latitude to give passionate remarks on behalf of his caucus, this Chair will give the other floor leader plenty of latitude to give passionate remarks on behalf of his caucus.

Mr. BRADFORD. Cowardice masquerading as a constitutional objection.

The reality is, weapons have had serial numbers in this Commonwealth and in this country for well over half a century. It has been a crime to alter or remove those serial numbers for almost as long. If you believe it is right to scratch off a serial number on a gun, you are engaged in some really shady business and you should go to jail. And I do not care who your district attorney is or what county you live in, that person should be prosecuted. That is called being tough on crime. That is real freedom.

Now, if you do not like serial numbers and you do not like background checks, then maybe I suggest that you try to rescind those requirements. I have seen the minority party go down this folly of what they believe is the Constitution. They have a very odd sense of what freedom looks like. Freedom is the ability to walk the streets of Falls Township and attend a St. Patrick's Day Parade, knowing that there is not a madman with a gun of mass destruction that could mow down you or your loved ones.

You know, I spoke to my district attorney recently about this. He happens to be the president of the District Attorneys Association for all 67 counties. I played the game like we are doing right now: I just texted him. The D.A.s are 100 percent in support of this. They support real freedom. And I know we are not allowed to have – but I could show you my texts.

Here is the reality, Madam Speaker. I have heard about antiques. I respect the gentleman's service. If you believe there is a constitutional right to have an unserialized weapon without a background check, shipped in from a foreign country, and you believe that is a constitutional right, that is a strange and perverse understanding of the Constitution of this Commonwealth and of this country.

Let us stand on the side of common sense, let us make ghost guns a thing of the past in this Commonwealth, and let us make Pennsylvania a lot safer.

On the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—104

Abney	Fleming	Kulik	Salisbury
Bellmon	Frankel	Madden	Samuelson
Benham	Freeman	Madsen	Sanchez
Bizzarro	Friel	Malagari	Sappey
Borowski	Gallagher	Markosek	Schlossberg
Boyd	Gergely	Matzie	Schweyer
Boyle	Giral	Mayes	Scott
Bradford	Green	McAndrew	Shusterman
Brennan	Guenst	McNeill	Siegel
Briggs	Guzman	Merski	Smith-Wade-El
Brown, A.	Haddock	Miller, D.	Solomon
Bullock	Hanbidge	Mullins	Steele
Burgos	Harkins	Munroe	Sturla
C Freytiz	Harris	Neilson	Takac
Cephas	Hogan	Nelson, N.	Tomlinson
Cerrato	Hohenstein	O'Mara	Venkat
Ciresi	Howard	Otten	Vitali
Conklin	Isaacson	Parker	Warren
Curry	Kazeem	Pashinski	Waxman

Daley	Kenyatta	Pielli	Webster
Davis	Khan	Pisciottano	White
Dawkins	Kim	Powell	Williams, D.
Deasy	Kinkead	Probst	Young
Delloso	Kinsey	Prokopiak	
Donahue	Kosierowski	Rabb	McClinton,
Evans	Krajewski	Rozzi	Speaker
Fiedler	Krueger		

NAYS—97

Armanini	Fritz	Lawrence	Rapp
Banta	Gaydos	Leadbeter	Rigby
Barton	Gillen	Mackenzie, M.	Roae
Benninghoff	Gleim	Mackenzie, R.	Rossi
Bernstine	Gregory	Major	Rowe
Bonner	Greiner	Mako	Ryncavage
Borowicz	Grove	Maloney	Schemel
Brown, M.	Hamm	Marcell	Scheuren
Burns	Heffley	Marshall	Schlegel
Cabell	Irvin	Mehaffie	Schmitt
Causser	James	Mentzer	Scialabba
Cook	Jones, M.	Mercuri	Smith
Cooper	Jones, T.	Metzgar	Staats
Cutler	Jozwiak	Mihalek	Stambaugh
D'Orsie	Kail	Miller, B.	Stehr
Davanzo	Kaufer	Moul	Stender
Delozier	Kauffman	Mustello	Struzzi
Diamond	Keefer	Nelson, E.	Topper
Dunbar	Kephart	O'Neal	Twardzik
Ecker	Klunk	Oberlander	Warner
Emrick	Krupa	Ortitay	Watro
Fee	Kutz	Owlett	Wentling
Fink	Kuzma	Pickett	Williams, C.
Flick	Labs	Rader	Zimmerman
Flood			

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Kerwin

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 PRO TEMPORE
(MICHAEL H. SCHLOSSBERG) PRESIDING

CALENDAR CONTINUED

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. TAKAC called up HR 335, PN 2759, entitled:

A Resolution establishing the Pennsylvania Task Force on Agent Orange and Other Toxins to study and issue a report on how best to connect veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and other toxins and their families with the VA benefits for which they may be eligible.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

Mr. TAKAC offered the following amendment No. A03744:

Amend Resolution, page 4, line 16, by striking out "Deputy"
Amend Resolution, page 4, line 16, by striking out "for Veterans Affairs"

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On that question, the Chair recognizes Representative Takac.

Mr. TAKAC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is a technical amendment suggested by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and I would appreciate a "yes" vote on it, please.

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

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—201

Table listing names of representatives who voted 'YEAS', including Abney, Armanini, Banta, Barton, Bellmon, Benham, Benninghoff, Bernstine, Bizzarro, Bonner, Borowicz, Borowski, Boyd, Boyle, Bradford, Brennan, Briggs, Brown, A., Brown, M., Bullock, Burgos, Burns, C Freytiz, Cabell, Causer, Cephas, Cerrato, Ciresi, Conklin, Cook, Cooper, Curry, Cutler, D'Orsie, Daley, Davanzo, Davis, Dawkins, Deasy, Delloso, Delozier, Diamond, Donahue, Dunbar, Ecker, Emrick, Flick, Flood, Frankel, Freeman, Friel, Fritz, Gallagher, Gaydos, Gergely, Gillen, Giral, Gleim, Green, Gregory, Greiner, Grove, Guenst, Guzman, Haddock, Hamm, Hanbidge, Harkins, Harris, Heffley, Hogan, Hohenstein, Howard, Irvin, Isaacson, James, Jones, M., Jones, T., Jozwiak, Kail, Kaufer, Kauffman, Kazeem, Keefer, Kenyatta, Kephart, Khan, Kim, Kinkead, Kinsey, Klunk, Kosierowski, Kuzma, Labs, Lawrence, Leadbeter, Mackenzie, M., Mackenzie, R., Madden, Madsen, Major, Mako, Malagari, Maloney, Marcell, Markosek, Marshall, Matzie, Mayes, McAndrew, McNeill, Mehaffie, Mentzer, Mercuri, Merski, Metzgar, Mihalek, Miller, B., Miller, D., Moul, Mullins, Munroe, Mustello, Neilson, Nelson, E., Nelson, N., O'Mara, O'Neal, Oberlander, Ortitay, Otten, Owlett, Parker, Pashinski, Pickett, Pielli, Pisciotano, Powell, Rigby, Roae, Rossi, Rowe, Rozzi, Ryncavage, Salisbury, Samuelson, Sanchez, Sappery, Schemel, Scheuren, Schlegel, Schlossberg, Schmitt, Schweyer, Scialabba, Scott, Shusterman, Siegel, Smith, Smith-Wade-El, Solomon, Staats, Stambaugh, Steele, Stehr, Stender, Struzzi, Sturla, Takac, Tomlinson, Topper, Twardzik, Venkat, Vitali, Warner, Warren, Watro, Waxman, Webster, Wentling, White, Williams, C., Williams, D., Young

Table listing names of representatives who voted 'NAYS', including Evans, Fee, Fiedler, Fink, Fleming, Krajewski, Krueger, Krupa, Kulik, Kutz, Probst, Prokopiak, Rabb, Rader, Rapp, Zimmerman, McClinton, Speaker

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Kerwin

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the amendment was agreed to.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution as amended?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question recurs, will the House agree to the resolution as amended, printer's number 2822?

On the question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre County, Representative Takac.

Mr. TAKAC. Thank you again, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we owe our nation's veterans not only our gratitude, but an ongoing commitment to honor their service by ensuring that they have the care and the support that they have earned, particularly if they were harmed as a result of that service. In the case of chemical exposures, the harms to them, and even their families, may not be evident until years, or even decades, later. As a result, the program's benefits and treatments available, as well as changes in eligibility, evolve over time.

Therefore, ensuring that we do everything possible to improve awareness and access of all the benefits, programs, and treatments for which they are eligible is crucial. Therefore, I am proud to join colleagues on both sides of the aisle in support of this resolution to create a Pennsylvania Task Force on Agent Orange and Other Toxins to include provisions of the recently enacted Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins, or PACT Act, of 2022, which extends coverage to gulf war and post-9/11 era veterans exposed to toxic burn pits and other chemicals.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution embodies the important work we do in this chamber when we can set aside differences and work together to do what is right. This resolution was reported unanimously from the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee. Therefore, on behalf of the many cosponsors of this resolution, I respectfully ask our colleagues for an affirmative vote on HR 335.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Berks County, Representative Gillen.

Mr. GILLEN. I appreciate my colleague advancing this important resolution. Last weekend I was in a local hospital with a veteran from WWII. He also served in Korea, and further, he served in Vietnam – pretty rarefied air – and he had exposure to Agent Orange, but the realization of that exposure came decades later. And so I heartily support the effort of making sure that our heroes get the help that they need, we raise the awareness level, and we get our PA task force moving.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.
On the question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Representative Hohenstein.

Mr. HOHENSTEIN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just want to rise and say that my "yes" vote on this will be in honor of one of my namesakes, my uncle, Cornelius John Fagen, who was a lieutenant and graduate of Annapolis, who served in Vietnam, and died of a brain tumor in 1994.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question recurring,
Will the House adopt the resolution as amended?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—201

Abney	Flick	Kuzma	Rigby
Armanini	Flood	Labs	Roae
Banta	Frankel	Lawrence	Rossi
Barton	Freeman	Leadbeter	Rowe
Bellmon	Friel	Mackenzie, M.	Rozzi
Benham	Fritz	Mackenzie, R.	Ryncavage
Benninghoff	Gallagher	Madden	Salisbury
Bernstine	Gaydos	Madsen	Samuelson
Bizzarro	Gergely	Major	Sanchez
Bonner	Gillen	Mako	Sappery
Borowicz	Giral	Malagari	Schemel
Borowski	Gleim	Maloney	Scheuren
Boyd	Green	Marcell	Schlegel
Boyle	Gregory	Markosek	Schlossberg
Bradford	Greiner	Marshall	Schmitt
Brennan	Grove	Matzie	Schweyer
Briggs	Guenst	Mayes	Scialabba
Brown, A.	Guzman	McAndrew	Scott
Brown, M.	Haddock	McNeill	Shusterman
Bullock	Hamm	Mehaffie	Siegel
Burgos	Hanbidge	Mentzer	Smith
Burns	Harkins	Mercuri	Smith-Wade-El
C Freytiz	Harris	Merski	Solomon
Cabell	Heffley	Metzgar	Staats
Causer	Hogan	Mihalek	Stambaugh
Cephas	Hohenstein	Miller, B.	Steele
Cerrato	Howard	Miller, D.	Stehr
Ciresi	Irvin	Moul	Stender
Conklin	Isaacson	Mullins	Struzzi
Cook	James	Munroe	Sturla
Cooper	Jones, M.	Mustello	Takac
Curry	Jones, T.	Neilson	Tomlinson
Cutler	Jozwiak	Nelson, E.	Topper
D'Orsie	Kail	Nelson, N.	Twardzik
Daley	Kaufer	O'Mara	Venkat
Davanzo	Kauffman	O'Neal	Vitali
Davis	Kazeem	Oberlander	Warner
Dawkins	Keefer	Ortitay	Warren
Deasy	Kenyatta	Otten	Watro
Delloso	Kephart	Owlett	Waxman
Delozier	Khan	Parker	Webster
Diamond	Kim	Pashinski	Wentling
Donahue	Kinkead	Pickett	White
Dunbar	Kinsey	Pielli	Williams, C.
Ecker	Klunk	Pisciottano	Williams, D.
Emrick	Kosierowski	Powell	Young
Evans	Krajewski	Probst	Zimmerman
Fee	Krueger	Prokopiak	
Fiedler	Krupa	Rabb	McClinton,
Fink	Kulik	Rader	Speaker
Fleming	Kutz	Rapp	

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Kerwin

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

* * *

Mr. VENKAT called up **HR 289, PN 2534**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing January 21 through 27, 2024, as "Data Privacy Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—200

Abney	Flood	Labs	Rigby
Armanini	Frankel	Lawrence	Roae
Banta	Freeman	Leadbeter	Rossi
Barton	Friel	Mackenzie, M.	Rowe
Bellmon	Fritz	Mackenzie, R.	Rozzi
Benham	Gallagher	Madden	Ryncavage
Benninghoff	Gaydos	Madsen	Salisbury
Bernstine	Gergely	Major	Samuelson
Bizzarro	Gillen	Mako	Sanchez
Bonner	Giral	Malagari	Sappery
Borowicz	Gleim	Maloney	Schemel
Borowski	Green	Marcell	Scheuren
Boyd	Gregory	Markosek	Schlegel
Boyle	Greiner	Marshall	Schlossberg
Bradford	Grove	Matzie	Schmitt
Brennan	Guenst	Mayes	Schweyer
Briggs	Guzman	McAndrew	Scialabba
Brown, A.	Haddock	McNeill	Scott
Brown, M.	Hamm	Mehaffie	Shusterman
Bullock	Hanbidge	Mentzer	Siegel
Burgos	Harkins	Mercuri	Smith
Burns	Harris	Merski	Smith-Wade-El
C Freytiz	Heffley	Metzgar	Solomon
Cabell	Hogan	Mihalek	Staats
Causer	Hohenstein	Miller, B.	Stambaugh
Cephas	Howard	Miller, D.	Steele
Cerrato	Irvin	Moul	Stehr
Ciresi	Isaacson	Mullins	Stender
Conklin	James	Munroe	Struzzi
Cook	Jones, M.	Mustello	Sturla
Cooper	Jones, T.	Neilson	Takac
Curry	Jozwiak	Nelson, E.	Tomlinson
Cutler	Kail	Nelson, N.	Topper
D'Orsie	Kaufer	O'Mara	Twardzik
Daley	Kauffman	O'Neal	Venkat
Davanzo	Kazeem	Oberlander	Vitali
Davis	Keefer	Ortitay	Warner
Dawkins	Kenyatta	Otten	Warren
Deasy	Kephart	Owlett	Watro
Delloso	Khan	Parker	Waxman
Delozier	Kim	Pashinski	Webster

Diamond	Kinkead	Pickett	Wentling
Donahue	Kinsey	Pielli	White
Dunbar	Klunk	Pisciottano	Williams, C.
Ecker	Kosierowski	Powell	Williams, D.
Emrick	Krajewski	Probst	Young
Evans	Krueger	Prokopiak	Zimmerman
Fee	Krupa	Rabb	
Fiedler	Kulik	Rader	McClinton,
Fleming	Kutz	Rapp	Speaker
Flick	Kuzma		

NAYS—1

Fink

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Kerwin

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

SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR A

RESOLUTION

Mr. BRIGGS called up **HR 325, PN 2623**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of March 2024 as "National Athletic Training Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—200

Abney	Flood	Labs	Rigby
Armanini	Frankel	Lawrence	Roae
Banta	Freeman	Leadbeter	Rossi
Barton	Friel	Mackenzie, M.	Rowe
Bellmon	Fritz	Mackenzie, R.	Rozzi
Benham	Gallagher	Madden	Ryncavage
Benninghoff	Gaydos	Madsen	Salisbury
Bernstine	Gergely	Major	Samuelson
Bizzarro	Gillen	Mako	Sanchez
Bonner	Giral	Malagari	Sappey
Borowicz	Gleim	Maloney	Schemel
Borowski	Green	Marcell	Scheuren
Boyd	Gregory	Markosek	Schlegel
Boyle	Greiner	Marshall	Schlossberg
Bradford	Grove	Matzie	Schmitt
Brennan	Guenst	Mayes	Schweyer
Briggs	Guzman	McAndrew	Scialabba
Brown, A.	Haddock	McNeill	Scott
Brown, M.	Hamm	Mehaffie	Shusterman
Bullock	Hanbidge	Mentzer	Siegel
Burgos	Harkins	Mercuri	Smith
Burns	Harris	Merski	Smith-Wade-El
C Freytz	Heffley	Metzgar	Solomon
Cabell	Hogan	Mihalek	Staats
Causar	Hohenstein	Miller, B.	Stambaugh
Cephas	Howard	Miller, D.	Steele
Cerrato	Irvin	Moul	Stehr
Ciresi	Isaacson	Mullins	Stender
Conklin	James	Munroe	Struzzi
Cook	Jones, M.	Mustello	Sturla
Cooper	Jones, T.	Neilson	Takac

Curry	Jozwiak	Nelson, E.	Tomlinson
Cutler	Kail	Nelson, N.	Topper
D'Orsie	Kaufner	O'Mara	Twardzik
Daley	Kauffman	O'Neal	Venkat
Davanzo	Kazeem	Oberlander	Vitali
Davis	Keefe	Ortitay	Warner
Dawkins	Kenyatta	Otten	Warren
Deasy	Kephart	Owlett	Watro
Delloso	Khan	Parker	Waxman
Delozier	Kim	Pashinski	Webster
Diamond	Kinkead	Pickett	Wentling
Donahue	Kinsey	Pielli	White
Dunbar	Klunk	Pisciottano	Williams, C.
Ecker	Kosierowski	Powell	Williams, D.
Emrick	Krajewski	Probst	Young
Evans	Krueger	Prokopiak	Zimmerman
Fee	Krupa	Rabb	
Fiedler	Kulik	Rader	McClinton,
Fleming	Kutz	Rapp	Speaker
Flick	Kuzma		

NAYS—1

Fink

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Kerwin

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

CALENDAR CONTINUED

RESOLUTION

Mr. MUNROE called up **HR 336, PN 2669**, entitled:

A Resolution designating March 29, 2024, as "Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On the question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks County, Representative Munroe.

Mr. MUNROE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First, I would like to thank my co-prime sponsors for their assistance on this resolution – Representatives Dane Watro, Mike Cabell, Paul Takac, Chris Pielli, and Representative Tarik Khan – and the 59 cosponsors that supported this resolution. As a Navy veteran who represents a district with a sizeable veterans community, supporting veterans is something that is very close to my heart.

This resolution will designate March 29, 2024, as the "Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day" in Pennsylvania. This resolution honors the memories of those who served, those who died, those missing in action, and those suffering the effects of their service, including behavioral issues, physical trauma, and chemical exposure such as Agent Orange. And something else that is, unfortunately, that sets Vietnam veterans as unique was how that they were treated upon their return home. And there is a saying that I have heard many times back in my district, that you can protest the war, but never the warrior.

I think we all are honored to keep a special place in our hearts for Vietnam veterans, and I ask for a "yes" vote on HR 336. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question recurring,
Will the House adopt the resolution?

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—201

Abney	Flick	Kuzma	Rigby
Armanini	Flood	Labs	Roae
Banta	Frankel	Lawrence	Rossi
Barton	Freeman	Leadbeter	Rowe
Bellmon	Friel	Mackenzie, M.	Rozzi
Benham	Fritz	Mackenzie, R.	Ryncavage
Benninghoff	Gallagher	Madden	Salisbury
Bernstine	Gaydos	Madsen	Samuelson
Bizzarro	Gergely	Major	Sanchez
Bonner	Gillen	Mako	Sappey
Borowicz	Giral	Malagari	Schemel
Borowski	Gleim	Maloney	Scheuren
Boyd	Green	Marcell	Schlegel
Boyle	Gregory	Markosek	Schlossberg
Bradford	Greiner	Marshall	Schmitt
Brennan	Grove	Matzie	Schweyer
Briggs	Guenst	Mayes	Scialabba
Brown, A.	Guzman	McAndrew	Scott
Brown, M.	Haddock	McNeill	Shusterman
Bullock	Hamm	Mehaffie	Siegel
Burgos	Hanbidge	Mentzer	Smith
Burns	Harkins	Mercuri	Smith-Wade-El
C Freytiz	Harris	Merski	Solomon
Cabell	Heffley	Metzgar	Staats
Causser	Hogan	Mihalek	Stambaugh
Cephas	Hohenstein	Miller, B.	Steele
Cerrato	Howard	Miller, D.	Stehr
Ciresi	Irvin	Moul	Stender
Conklin	Isaacson	Mullins	Struzzi
Cook	James	Munroe	Sturla
Cooper	Jones, M.	Mustello	Takac
Curry	Jones, T.	Neilson	Tomlinson
Cutler	Jozwiak	Nelson, E.	Topper
D'Orsie	Kail	Nelson, N.	Twardzik
Daley	Kaufner	O'Mara	Venkat
Davanzo	Kauffman	O'Neal	Vitali
Davis	Kazeem	Oberlander	Warner
Dawkins	Keefer	Ortitay	Warren
Deasy	Kenyatta	Otten	Watro
Delloso	Kephart	Owlett	Waxman
Delozier	Khan	Parker	Webster
Diamond	Kim	Pashinski	Wentling
Donahue	Kinthead	Pickett	White
Dunbar	Kinsey	Pielli	Williams, C.
Ecker	Klunk	Pisciottano	Williams, D.
Emrick	Kosierowski	Powell	Young
Evans	Krajewski	Probst	Zimmerman
Fee	Krueger	Prokopiak	
Fiedler	Krupa	Rabb	McClinton,
Fink	Kulik	Rader	Speaker
Fleming	Kutz	Rapp	

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Kerwin

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

SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR C CONTINUED

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to third consideration of **HB 1443, PN 2810**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Statewide Advisory Council on Playground Safety; and providing for duties of the Statewide Advisory Council on Playground Safety.

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

(Bill analysis was read.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 the question, the Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Fayette County, Representative Krupa.

Mrs. KRUPA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Originally, I was going to ask that the maker of the bill stand for interogation, but after the lengthy floor debate preceding this matter, I am going to skip to floor comments.

Specifically, I have concerns about the overreach and the lack of clarity and definition in this bill. In section 56A02, the Statewide Advisory Council on Playground Safety is established, but it is not administratively housed within any agency. Why was this established as an independent, freestanding council? Who is on the hook to pay for the expenses of the board? An amendment to clarify this was rejected yesterday, so I am wondering what the rationale was for doing so.

Why was DCED (Department of Community and Economic Development) chosen to be the agency that provides staff support in section 56A02(g)? As far as I know, DCED does not have any regulatory authority over playgrounds, and DCNR (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) is the agency that probably directly operates the most playgrounds, since they actually run parks. And DHS (Department of Human Services) regulates day-care centers, which frequently have playgrounds.

In the definition of "Playground," the definition is simply a limited access play system. There is no further definition. It is not defined in the bill. But we were not able to find that phrase used in any other statute or regulation. Not even Google can explain exactly what that means.

In section 56A03(1), this council is supposed to review and comment on draft regulations and standards as they pertain to playground safety. Which agency has specific authority to draft these regulations and adopt these regulations on playground safety?

In this Commonwealth, an agency can only promulgate regulations which have the force of law if they are empowered to do so by statute. For example, L&I (Labor and Industry) has the authority to regulate a number of occupational hazards, like boilers. DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) has the

authority to regulate pollution. Health has the authority to regulate the health-care facilities. Do we have a playground safety statute in the Commonwealth? And which agency has the authority to advance these regulations? Or would this statute create the authority within the new Statewide Advisory Council on Playground Safety?

In section 56A03(1) there is reference to regulations and standards adopted for playground safety. I understand what a regulation is, but I do not know what a standard is in this context. There is no clarification in the bill. My question includes, what does the State government's regulatory authority have to do with a nongovernmental entity's nonbinding recommendations? Is this Statewide Advisory Council on Playground Safety going to be subject to the Sunshine Act? This is yet another example of the lack of clarity and specificity in this bill.

I urge a "no" vote. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentlelady.

On the question, the Chair recognizes the prime sponsor of the bill, Representative Green, from Philadelphia County.

Ms. GREEN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I stand in support of this bill, and I ask for an affirmative vote from my colleagues. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentlelady.

On the question recurring,

Shall the bill pass finally?

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

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS-102

Abney	Evans	Krajewski	Rabb
Bellmon	Fiedler	Krueger	Rozzi
Benham	Fleming	Kulik	Salisbury
Bizzarro	Frankel	Madden	Samuelson
Borowski	Freeman	Madsen	Sanchez
Boyd	Friel	Malagari	Sappey
Boyle	Gallagher	Markosek	Schlossberg
Bradford	Gergely	Matzie	Schweyer
Brennan	Giral	Mayes	Scott
Briggs	Green	McAndrew	Shusterman
Brown, A.	Guenst	McNeill	Siegel
Bullock	Guzman	Merski	Smith-Wade-El
Burgos	Haddock	Miller, D.	Solomon
Burns	Hanbidge	Mullins	Steele
C Freytiz	Harkins	Munroe	Sturla
Cephas	Harris	Neilson	Takac
Cerrato	Hohenstein	Nelson, N.	Venkat
Ciresi	Howard	O'Mara	Vitali
Conklin	Isaacson	Otten	Warren
Curry	Kazeem	Parker	Waxman
Daley	Kenyatta	Pashinski	Webster
Davis	Khan	Pielli	Williams, D.
Dawkins	Kim	Pisciottano	Young
Deasy	Kinkead	Powell	
Delloso	Kinsey	Probst	McClinton,
Donahue	Kosierowski	Prokopiak	Speaker

NAYS-99

Armanini	Gaydos	Leadbeter	Roae
Banta	Gillen	Mackenzie, M.	Rossi
Barton	Gleim	Mackenzie, R.	Rowe
Benninghoff	Gregory	Major	Ryncavage
Bernstine	Greiner	Mako	Schemel
Bonner	Grove	Maloney	Scheuren
Borowicz	Hamm	Marcell	Schlegel

Brown, M.	Heffley	Marshall	Schmitt
Cabell	Hogan	Mehaffie	Scialabba
Causar	Irvin	Mentzer	Smith
Cook	James	Mercuri	Staats
Cooper	Jones, M.	Metzgar	Stambaugh
Cutler	Jones, T.	Mihalek	Stehr
D'Orsie	Jozwiak	Miller, B.	Stender
Davanzo	Kail	Moul	Struzzi
Delozier	Kaufer	Mustello	Tomlinson
Diamond	Kauffman	Nelson, E.	Topper
Dunbar	Keefer	O'Neal	Twardzik
Ecker	Kephart	Oberlander	Warner
Emrick	Klunk	Ortitay	Watro
Fee	Krupa	Owlett	Wentling
Fink	Kutz	Pickett	White
Flick	Kuzma	Rader	Williams, C.
Flood	Labs	Rapp	Zimmerman
Fritz	Lawrence	Rigby	

NOT VOTING-0

EXCUSED-1

Kerwin

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 1601, PN 2811**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Identification Upon Reentry Program.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the bill on third consideration?

Bill was agreed to.

(Bill analysis was read.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 the question, the Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Allegheny County, Representative Kinkead.

Ms. KINKEAD. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, I would like to start by thanking Sadie Yoder. She is a junior at American University who served as a Legislative Fellow for the House Professional Licensure Committee this summer, and this bill is the culmination of her fellowship project. So I appreciate her work on this.

And now to the underlying bill. I understand that providing IDs to people leaving incarceration can seem like a giveaway to a population that many in this body do not see as worthy of this kind of investment. Let me explain why this is necessary. Nelson Mandela, after experiencing decades of incarceration, stated, "It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest..." citizens.

When people who have been incarcerated are released, support services such as housing and mental health care are known to help them get back on their feet and avoid recidivism. In order to connect with these services and other foundations of successful reentry, photo identification is essential.

Nationwide, around 10,000 people are released from incarceration every month, and the first few weeks following release are critical when it comes to determining the success of reentry. A small piece of plastic stands between these individuals and the basic necessities like housing, employment, medical care, banking, and so much more that we all take for granted. Many individuals leaving incarceration have spent years in prison, and the IDs that they entered prison with are expired. They start the journey back to becoming fully contributing members of society with nothing, along with our expectation that they become model citizens. They are required to abide by a whole host of parole and probation conditions, which include employment requirements. People can get hopeless pretty quickly if they are unable to establish some level of stability, and IDs are crucial to achieving that stability.

For formerly incarcerated people, waiting to receive IDs after they leave incarceration is not merely an inconvenience, but a life on hold. If we are going to be serious about ensuring that those who leave incarceration do not reoffend, ensuring that they have State identification and the documents necessary to secure housing, employment, mental health services, and more is critical. Issuing such documents while people are still incarcerated is the most effective model to support successful reentry, and this is something that even the Department of Corrections acknowledges. This small piece of plastic, these simple paper documents that we in this chamber take for granted have the ability to keep people on the straight and narrow, and therefore, keep our communities safe by reducing crime.

I ask for a "yes" vote. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentlelady.

On the question, the Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Butler County, Representative Scialabba.

Ms. SCIALABBA. Thank you. Would the prime sponsor of the bill stand for interrogation? She said no?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlelady declines.

Ms. SCIALABBA. Would the majority leader stand for interrogation on the bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman declines.

Ms. SCIALABBA. May I speak on the bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. You are in order and may proceed.

Ms. SCIALABBA. Thank you.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. SCIALABBA. Parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlelady may state her inquiry.

Ms. SCIALABBA. May the minority leader stand for interrogation on the bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Yes.

Ms. SCIALABBA. Would the minority leader stand for interrogation on the bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman indicates that he will stand for interrogation.

The gentlelady is in order and may proceed.

Ms. SCIALABBA. Thank you.

Is this an accurate read of page 3, lines 12 through 18? "The department, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Transportation, shall establish the Identification Upon Reentry Program to provide eligible offenders with birth certificates, Social Security cards, photo identification cards, driver's licenses in the form of camera or photo identification cards and work permits upon release from a State correctional institution or juvenile detention center."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlelady will suspend.

The gentlelady is reminded that the purpose of interrogation is to seek answers to questions that she is not previously aware of. It is not appropriate to ask the minority leader for a confirmation about the plain language of the legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized—The gentleman will suspend; I apologize.

I apologize. The gentleman is not recognized. There is not currently a question asked.

The gentlelady is in order to continue with interrogation within the parameters of interrogation.

Ms. SCIALABBA. Thank you.

Are there any limitations in the bill on the individuals who can receive these documents?

Mr. CUTLER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, two points which I think bear clarification. The good lady had asked if that was page 3. That would have been the prior printer's number, in the prior print, prior to the amendment that was adopted by the chamber. This new information is found on page 8 now, and lines 15 through 20. There are no limitations that are placed in this bill. It simply says that the Departments of Health and Transportation "SHALL ESTABLISH...."

Ms. SCIALABBA. So could the bill be interpreted as requiring the Departments of Human Services and Transportation to provide Social Security cards and driver's licenses to any individual who intends to stay in the Commonwealth, including illegal immigrants?

Mr. CUTLER. Mr. Speaker, the answer is – and to be very clear, I am not the prime sponsor of this bill, nor am I the majority leader, but I am trying to help members understand what is actually contained in the bill, because I do think that the debate and discussion about the bill and its underlying merits are in fact how we decide to vote.

I believe the good lady mentioned Human Services, which has been excluded from the bill, and is only limited to Health and the Department of Transportation, on line 16 now.

THE SPEAKER (JOANNA E. McCLINTON) PRESIDING

The SPEAKER. The gentlelady will suspend.

The gentlelady is out of order to ask questions to which she knows or has access to the answer.

The gentlelady may now speak on the bill—

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CUTLER. Point of order, Madam Speaker?

The SPEAKER. — final passage of HB 1601.

For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

Mr. CUTLER. Madam Speaker, when we have a bill before us and a member has legitimate questions, and neither the prime sponsor, nor anybody from the other side, is willing to stand for interrogation, how is best to determine the answers to the lady's questions, because the bill has been amended and has changed from its original form? What would be the proper inquiry?

The SPEAKER. Each caucus has tremendous and very skilled staff to which every member is encouraged to ask questions of the staff – the legislative team, the legal team, whoever needs to be consulted – to get answers. And the gentelady may speak on the bill and encourage her colleagues for an up-or-down vote, "yes" or "no," final passage of HB 1601.

The gentelady may speak on the bill.

Ms. SCIALABBA. Thank you.

I will resort to speaking on the bill since no one from that party will stand for interrogation.

So here are my concerns with the bill, and according to our staff, it is a reasonable interpretation that the department could be required to provide documentation in the form of a photo ID, a camera card to obtain a photo ID at the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles), where you will encounter automatic voter registration for any eligible offender – including Social Security number and card – for any eligible offender. And when you look at the definition of an "eligible offender," does it state anywhere in there – and this is rhetorical – that you must be a United States citizen? The answer is no, it does not say anywhere in this bill that you must be a United States citizen to receive a Social Security card or a photo identification, which you will then take, on taxpayer dime, to the DMV and encounter automatic voter registration. I have extreme concerns with the bill. That is number one.

Number two, there is nothing in here that would require a convict who has been released five times from prison to pay for their own documentation. Again, it will be the taxpayers paying for the fifth time upon release for photo identification, among work permits and everything else.

The third point of this is that I would like to know what protections or insurances are there that someone released from prison who obtains all of this for free is actually required to stay in and benefit the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania? The answer is none.

Thank you, and I urge a "no."

On the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—102

Abney	Evans	Krajewski	Rabb
Bellmon	Fiedler	Krueger	Rozzi
Benham	Fleming	Kulik	Salisbury
Bizzarro	Frankel	Madden	Samuelson
Borowski	Freeman	Madsen	Sanchez
Boyd	Friel	Malagari	Sappery
Boyle	Gallagher	Markosek	Schlossberg
Bradford	Gergely	Matzie	Schweyer
Brennan	Giral	Mayes	Scott
Briggs	Green	McAndrew	Shusterman
Brown, A.	Guenst	McNeill	Siegel
Bullock	Guzman	Merski	Smith-Wade-El

Burgos	Haddock	Miller, D.	Solomon
Burns	Hanbidge	Mullins	Steele
C Freytiz	Harkins	Munroe	Sturla
Cephas	Harris	Neilson	Takac
Cerrato	Hohenstein	Nelson, N.	Venkat
Ciresi	Howard	O'Mara	Vitali
Conklin	Isaacson	Otten	Warren
Curry	Kazeem	Parker	Waxman
Daley	Kenyatta	Pashinski	Webster
Davis	Khan	Pielli	Williams, D.
Dawkins	Kim	Pisciottano	Young
Deasy	Kinthead	Powell	
Delloso	Kinsey	Probst	McClinton,
Donahue	Kosierowski	Prokopiak	Speaker

NAYS—99

Armanini	Gaydos	Leadbeter	Roae
Banta	Gillen	Mackenzie, M.	Rossi
Barton	Gleim	Mackenzie, R.	Rowe
Benninghoff	Gregory	Major	Ryncavage
Bernstine	Greiner	Mako	Schemel
Bonner	Grove	Maloney	Scheuren
Borowicz	Hamm	Marcell	Schlegel
Brown, M.	Heffley	Marshall	Schmitt
Cabell	Hogan	Mehaffie	Scialabba
Causar	Irvin	Mentzer	Smith
Cook	James	Mercuri	Staats
Cooper	Jones, M.	Metzgar	Stambaugh
Cutler	Jones, T.	Mihalek	Stehr
D'Orsie	Jozwiak	Miller, B.	Stender
Davanzo	Kail	Moul	Struzzi
Delozier	Kaufner	Mustello	Tomlinson
Diamond	Kauffman	Nelson, E.	Topper
Dunbar	Keefer	O'Neal	Twardzik
Ecker	Kephart	Oberlander	Warner
Emrick	Klunk	Ortitay	Watro
Fee	Krupa	Owlett	Wentling
Fink	Kutz	Pickett	White
Flick	Kuzma	Rader	Williams, C.
Flood	Labs	Rapp	Zimmerman
Fritz	Lawrence	Rigby	

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Kerwin

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 1678, PN 2812**, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 61 (Prisons and Parole) and 63 (Professions and Occupations (State Licensed)) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general administration, providing for earned vocational training and education credit; in Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, further providing for parole power and for short sentence parole; and, in powers and duties, further providing for consideration of criminal convictions.

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

(Bill analysis was read.)

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

The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

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

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—152

Abney	Frankel	Kutz	Rowe
Armanini	Freeman	Kuzma	Rozzi
Barton	Friel	Labs	Ryncavage
Bellmon	Fritz	Lawrence	Salisbury
Benham	Gallagher	Leadbeter	Samuelson
Bizzarro	Gaydos	Madden	Sanchez
Borowicz	Gergely	Madsen	Sappery
Borowski	Giral	Major	Scheuren
Boyd	Green	Malagari	Schlegel
Boyle	Guenst	Marcell	Schlossberg
Bradford	Guzman	Markosek	Schweyer
Brennan	Haddock	Matzie	Scott
Briggs	Hamm	Mayes	Shusterman
Brown, A.	Hanbidge	McAndrew	Siegel
Bullock	Harkins	McNeill	Smith
Burgos	Harris	Mehaffie	Smith-Wade-El
Burns	Heffley	Mercuri	Solomon
C Freytiz	Hogan	Merski	Staats
Cabell	Hohenstein	Mihalek	Stambaugh
Cephas	Howard	Miller, D.	Steele
Cerrato	Irvin	Mullins	Stehr
Ciresi	Isaacson	Munroe	Stender
Conklin	James	Mustello	Struzzi
Curry	Jones, M.	Neilson	Sturla
D'Orsie	Kaufert	Nelson, N.	Takac
Daley	Kazeem	O'Mara	Tomlinson
Davis	Keefer	Oberlander	Venkat
Dawkins	Kenyatta	Ortitay	Vitali
Deasy	Kephart	Otten	Warren
Delloso	Khan	Parker	Waxman
Delozier	Kim	Pashinski	Webster
Donahue	Kinkead	Pielli	White
Dunbar	Kinsey	Pisciottano	Williams, C.
Ecker	Klunk	Powell	Williams, D.
Emrick	Kosierowski	Probst	Young
Evans	Krajewski	Prokopiak	
Fiedler	Krueger	Rabb	McClinton,
Fleming	Krupa	Rader	Speaker
Flick	Kulik		

NAYS—49

Banta	Flood	Mako	Rigby
Benninghoff	Gillen	Maloney	Roae
Bernstine	Gleim	Marshall	Rossi
Bonner	Gregory	Mentzer	Schemel
Brown, M.	Greiner	Metzgar	Schmitt
Causar	Grove	Miller, B.	Scialabba
Cook	Jones, T.	Moul	Topper
Cooper	Jozwiak	Nelson, E.	Twardzik
Cutler	Kail	O'Neal	Warner
Davanzo	Kauffman	Owlett	Watro
Diamond	Mackenzie, M.	Pickett	Wentling
Fee	Mackenzie, R.	Rapp	Zimmerman
Fink			

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Kerwin

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 1819, PN 2731**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of January 14, 1952 (1951 P.L.1898, No.522), known as the Funeral Director Law, further providing for duties of board.

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?

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentlelady from Armstrong rise, Representative Major?

Ms. MAJOR. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I would like a ruling from the Chair. I would like to make a parliamentary inquiry; sorry.

The SPEAKER. The gentlelady may state her parliamentary inquiry.

Ms. MAJOR. Madam Speaker, I would like to make a parliamentary inquiry and request a ruling concerning any potential conflict I may have under House rule 65, and by extension Article III, section 13, of the Pennsylvania Constitution. HB 1819 concerns, among other things, funeral directors. In my case, I am a licensed funeral director working at a funeral home. Under the House rule, do I need to recuse myself from this vote? I am happy to abide by the ruling of the Speaker on this question. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. It is the Chair's opinion that the gentlelady is a member of a class and may vote on this legislation.

Ms. MAJOR. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentlelady from Bucks County rise, Representative Tomlinson?

Miss TOMLINSON. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I also rise with the same question.

The SPEAKER. The gentlelady is in order and may state her parliamentary inquiry.

Miss TOMLINSON. I would like to make a parliamentary inquiry and request a ruling concerning any potential conflict I may have under House rule 65, and by extension Article III, section 13, of the Pennsylvania Constitution. HB 1819 concerns, among other things, licensed funeral directors. In my case, I am

a licensed funeral director. Under House rule, do I need to recuse myself from this vote? I am happy to abide by the ruling of the Speaker.

The SPEAKER. It is the Chair's opinion that the gentlelady is a member of a class, and therefore, may vote.

Miss TOMLINSON. Thank you.

On the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—199

Abney	Flick	Kuzma	Rigby
Armanini	Flood	Labs	Roae
Banta	Frankel	Lawrence	Rossi
Barton	Freeman	Leadbeter	Rowe
Bellmon	Friel	Mackenzie, M.	Rozzi
Benham	Fritz	Mackenzie, R.	Ryncavage
Benninghoff	Gallagher	Madden	Salisbury
Bernstine	Gaydos	Madsen	Samuelson
Bizzarro	Gergely	Major	Sanchez
Bonner	Gillen	Mako	Sappery
Borowicz	Giral	Malagari	Schemel
Borowski	Gleim	Maloney	Scheuren
Boyd	Green	Marcell	Schlegel
Boyle	Greiner	Markosek	Schlossberg
Bradford	Grove	Marshall	Schmitt
Brennan	Guenst	Matzie	Schweyer
Briggs	Guzman	Mayes	Scialabba
Brown, A.	Haddock	McAndrew	Scott
Brown, M.	Hamm	McNeill	Shusterman
Bullock	Hanbidge	Mehaffie	Siegel
Burgos	Harkins	Mentzer	Smith
Burns	Harris	Mercuri	Smith-Wade-El
C Freytiz	Heffley	Merski	Solomon
Cabell	Hogan	Mihalek	Staats
Causar	Hohenstein	Miller, B.	Stambaugh
Cephas	Howard	Miller, D.	Steele
Cerrato	Irvin	Moul	Stehr
Ciresi	Isaacson	Mullins	Stender
Conklin	James	Munroe	Struzzi
Cook	Jones, M.	Mustello	Sturla
Cooper	Jones, T.	Neilson	Takac
Curry	Jozwiak	Nelson, E.	Tomlinson
Cutler	Kail	Nelson, N.	Topper
D'Orsie	Kaufner	O'Mara	Twardzik
Daley	Kauffman	O'Neal	Venkat
Davanzo	Kazeem	Oberlander	Vitali
Davis	Keefer	Ortitay	Warner
Dawkins	Kenyatta	Otten	Warren
Deasy	Kephart	Owlett	Watro
Delloso	Khan	Parker	Waxman
Delozier	Kim	Pashinski	Webster
Diamond	Kinthead	Pickett	Wentling
Donahue	Kinsey	Pielli	White
Dunbar	Klunk	Pisciottano	Williams, C.
Ecker	Kosierowski	Powell	Williams, D.
Emrick	Krajewski	Probst	Young
Evans	Krueger	Prokopiak	Zimmerman
Fee	Krupa	Rabb	
Fiedler	Kulik	Rader	McClinton,
Fink	Kutz	Rapp	Speaker
Fleming			

NAYS—2

Gregory Metzgar

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Kerwin

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.

**REPORT OF
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES**

The SPEAKER. The Chair is in receipt of a report from the Committee on Committees, which the clerk will now read.

The following report was read:

March 27, 2024

Committee on Committees

Supplemental Report

Rep. Lisa Borowski is elected to the Local Government Committee, Subcommittee on Townships, and appointed chair.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Carol Hill-Evans, Chairwoman
Committee on Committees

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?
Resolution was adopted.

BILLS RECOMMENDED

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

- HB 71;
- HB 651;
- HB 657;
- HB 660; and
- HB 1664.

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

BILLS REMOVED FROM TABLE

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

HB 491;
HB 1512;
HB 1593;
HB 1798; and
HB 1834.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Colleagues, the Chair is in receipt of some important information. The gentleman from Luzerne County, who opened session today with prayer, it is his birthday. Please wish our gentleman from Luzerne County, Representative Ryncavage, a happy, happy birthday.

For the information of the members, there will be no further votes.

The Chair wishes everybody happy holidays that will happen over the next few weeks.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS PASSED OVER

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

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER. The Chair is in receipt of a motion from the gentleman from Bucks County, Representative Munroe, that the House now adjourn until Monday, April 8, 2024, at 12 m., e.d.t., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?
Motion was agreed to, and at 3:34 p.m., e.d.t., the House adjourned.