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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2003

SESSION OF 2003 187TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 80

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, December 10, 2003

The Senate met at 11 a.m., Eastern Standard Time.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend Dr. CHRISTOPHER J. KURIEN, of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, Reading, offered the following prayer:

Good afternoon to you all.

Let us look to God in prayer.

Eternal God, Creator of the universe, we thank You for the gift of this new day, and we invoke Your presence in our midst at this hour. Thank You for all Your blessings that we enjoy day by day in our lives. Bless this day and be with each and every person here today. Help us to be good stewards of the various talents You have given to us.

Loving God, we stand in awe and gratitude for Your persistent love for each and every one of Your children - Christians, Jews, and all people of every faith.

Compassionate God, may the peace You freely speak of be such an integral part of our lives, that we may become instruments of Your peace in our homes and in our communities.

God of creation, we thank You for our great nation and all the freedoms we enjoy in this land. We remember, with gratitude, our Founding Fathers and for their vision and hard labors. At this time, we pray for our President and his cabinet, our Governor and his cabinet, our Lieutenant Governor, our Senators, our Representatives, and all of the elected officials in our Commonwealth.

God of wisdom, we pray that all the decisions that are made today will promote peace and justice for all, and that everyone be able to discharge their responsibilities with wisdom and courage. Grant to all our leaders attributes of love and concern for all and mutual respect in words and deeds.

Righteous God, You rule the nations. O God, men and women in our Armed Forces, we pray that You will hold them close to You at all times. Help us to be grateful for their services.

God of love and care, embrace all the children of our nation with wide open arms. We also pray for all those who have special needs. Bless them and be with them always.

God of justice, bless those who work for peace through justice. Strengthen their resolve in the face of seemingly endless violence and terror.

Creator God, protect all our citizens from the forces of evil and help us to celebrate life in all its splendor, especially commit today's Senate Session in Your hands, that all the deliberations be according to Your will.

Thank You, God, for listening to our prayers. This we pray in the name of our Creator and Sustainer. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Dr. Kurien and his beautiful wife who have joined us today. They are the guests today of Senator O'Pake.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled.)

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Berks, Senator O'Pake.

Senator O'PAKE. Madam President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Costa and Senator Stack, and legislative leaves for Senator Schwartz, Senator Stout, and Senator Tartaglione.

The PRESIDENT. Senator O'Pake requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Costa and Senator Stack, and legislative leaves for Senator Schwartz, Senator Stout, and Senator Tartaglione. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Senator PIPPY remains on military leave pursuant to Senate Rule XXI(3).

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. A quorum of the Senate being present, the Clerk will read the Journal of the preceding Session of December 9, 2003.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the preceding Session.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I move that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with and that the Journal be approved.

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

The yeas and nays were required by Senator BRIGHTBILL and were as follows, viz:

YEA-49

Armstrong	Hughes	Orie	Tomlinson
Boscola	Jubelirer	Piccola	Wagner
Brightbill	Kasunic	Pileggi	Waugh
Conti	Kitchen	Punt	Wenger
Corman	Kukovich	Rafferty	White, Donald
Costa	LaValle	Rhoades	White, Mary Jo
Dent	Lemmond	Robbins	Williams, Anthony H.
Earll	Logan	Scarnati	Williams, Constance
Erickson	Madigan	Schwartz	Wonderling
Ferlo	Mellow	Stack	Wozniak
Fumo	Mowery	Stout	
Gordner	Musto	Tartaglione	
Greenleaf	O'Pake	Thompson	

NAY-0

A majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

HOUSE MESSAGES**HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the Senate to **HB 85**.

SENATE BILL RETURNED WITH AMENDMENTS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 850**, with the information the House has passed the same with amendments in which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The PRESIDENT. Pursuant to Senate Rule XIV, section 5, this bill will be referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations.

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following Senate Bills numbered, entitled, and referred as follows, which were read by the Clerk:

December 10, 2003

Senator CONTI presented to the Chair **SB 799**, entitled:

An Act providing for the responsibilities of the Pennsylvania State Police regarding criminal history background reports for persons participating in harness or horse racing.

Which was committed to the Committee on LAW AND JUSTICE, December 10, 2003.

Senators MADIGAN, STACK and BRIGHTBILL presented to the Chair **SB 870**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of February 9, 1999 (P.L.1, No.1), known as the Capital Facilities Debt Enabling Act, increasing the limitation on redevelopment assistance capital projects.

Which was committed to the Committee on APPROPRIATIONS, December 10, 2003.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the President pro tempore has made the following appointment:

Senator Mellow as a member of the Advisory Council for the Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center.

BILLS SIGNED

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll) in the presence of the Senate signed the following bills:

HB 85 and **HB 545**.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY

The SECRETARY. Consent has been given for the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to meet during today's Session in the Rules room to consider Senate Bill No. 850 and certain nominations.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator LEMMOND, from the Committee on State Government, reported the following bills:

SB 907 (Pr. No. 1174)

An Act authorizing and directing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Department of Transportation and the Governor, to convey to Cumberland Township, certain permanent easements situated in Cumberland Township, Adams County.

SB 975 (Pr. No. 1302)

An Act authorizing and directing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Governor, to grant and convey to Butler County, certain lands situate in the City of Butler, Butler County, Pennsylvania.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Stack has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS GUESTS OF SENATOR ROBERT C. JUBELIRER PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Blair, Senator Jubelirer.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Madam President and Members of the Senate, it is a great honor for me today to introduce some remarkable young women who happen to be outstanding athletes as well. They come from Huntingdon County, and they are extraordinarily talented, both academically and athletically. They represent the State of Pennsylvania very well, for you see, Madam President, they are the State Class AA

Volleyball Champions for the year 2003, and I would appreciate it if you and the Members of the Senate would extend your warm wishes and congratulations to the Huntingdon County Girls' Volleyball Team, the State Class AA Champions.

The PRESIDENT. Will the volleyball champions please stand so we can give you a warm welcome.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, and congratulations.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Brightbill.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I ask for a recess of the Senate, first for the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations, which will be held in the Rules room to the rear of the Chamber, to be immediately followed by a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, which will then be immediately followed by a Republican caucus, also to be held in the Rules room. We expect to be through the process by 1:30, 1:35.

Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Brightbill has requested a recess of the Senate for a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations, a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, and then a Republican caucus.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Berks, Senator O'Pake.

Senator O'PAKE. Madam President, after the meetings of the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, I ask the Democrats to report to their caucus room to the rear of the Chamber.

The PRESIDENT. Senator O'Pake requests that the Democrats please report to their caucus room after the meetings of the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations.

Without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The time of recess having expired, the Senate will come to order.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator BRIGHTBILL, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported the following bill:

SB 850 (Pr. No. 1174) (Amended) (Rereported)
(Concurrence)

An Act authorizing the City of Scranton and Redevelopment Authority of the City of Scranton, Lackawanna County, to transfer, sell and convey to the University of Scranton certain Project 70 lands free of restrictions imposed by the Project 70 Land Acquisition and Borrowing Act.

Senator THOMPSON, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the following bills:

SB 870 (Pr. No. 1312)

An Act amending the act of February 9, 1999 (P.L.1, No.1), known as the Capital Facilities Debt Enabling Act, increasing the limitation on redevelopment assistance capital projects.

HB 999 (Pr. No. 1172) (Rereported)

An Act establishing the Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Education Program; and providing for powers and duties of the Department of Health.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Berks, Senator O'Pake.

Senator O'PAKE. Madam President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Ferlo.

The PRESIDENT. Senator O'Pake requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Ferlo. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Costa has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

CALENDAR

SB 876 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

SB 876 (Pr. No. 1098) -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 2 of the Third Consideration Calendar, by Senator BRIGHTBILL, as a Special Order of Business.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 876 (Pr. No. 1098) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

YEA-49

Armstrong	Hughes	Orie	Tomlinson
Boscola	Jubelirer	Piccola	Wagner
Brightbill	Kasunic	Pileggi	Waugh
Conti	Kitchen	Punt	Wenger
Corman	Kukovich	Rafferty	White, Donald
Costa	LaValle	Rhoades	White, Mary Jo
Dent	Lemmond	Robbins	Williams, Anthony H.
Earll	Logan	Scarnati	Williams, Constance
Erickson	Madigan	Schwartz	Wonderling

Ferlo	Mellow	Stack	Wozniak
Fumo	Mowery	Stout	
Gordner	Musto	Tartaglione	
Greenleaf	O'Pake	Thompson	

NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

HB 88 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I move that House Bill No. 88, Printer's No. 3064, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT. The bill will be placed on the Calendar.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 2**

BILL AMENDED

HB 88 (Pr. No. 3064) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act, further providing for the schedule of compensation; and further defining "employee."

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

Senator SCARNATI offered the following amendment No. A4533:

Amend Sec. 1 (Sec. 306), page 3, line 8, by inserting after "COUNSELORS": pertaining to the conduct of expert witnesses

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

It was agreed to.

Without objection, the bill, as amended, was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEE AS AMENDED OVER IN ORDER

HB 51 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 521 (Pr. No. 3062) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of October 6, 1998 (P.L.705, No.92), known as the Keystone Opportunity Zone and Keystone Opportunity and Expansion Zone Act, further providing for short title, for definitions, for keystone opportunity zones, for keystone opportunity expansion zones, for keystone opportunity improvement zones, for application, for review, for criteria, for authorization of keystone opportunity zone, for residency, for qualified businesses and for corporate net income tax.

Considered the third time and agreed to,
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

YEA-48

Armstrong	Greenleaf	O'Pake	Tartaglione
Boscola	Jubelirer	Orie	Thompson
Brightbill	Kasunic	Piccola	Tomlinson
Conti	Kitchen	Pileggi	Wagner
Corman	Kukovich	Punt	Waugh
Costa	LaValle	Rafferty	Wenger
Dent	Lemmond	Rhoades	White, Donald
Earll	Logan	Robbins	White, Mary Jo
Erickson	Madigan	Scarnati	Williams, Anthony H.
Ferlo	Mellow	Schwartz	Williams, Constance
Fumo	Mowery	Stack	Wonderling
Gordner	Musto	Stout	Wozniak

NAY-1

Hughes

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendments in which concurrence of the House is requested.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 763 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 3**

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 88 (Pr. No. 3082) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act, further providing for the schedule of compensation; and further defining "employee."

Considered the third time and agreed to,
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as
required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from
Westmoreland, Senator Kukovich.

Senator KUKOVICH. Madam President, I think the
amendments that Senator Scarnati and I have been able to work
out have made an improvement in the bill, have invoked more of
an element of fairness into the process. However, that being said,
and also pointing out that the Senator who is the chair of the
committee had said yesterday that he is more than willing to look
into the OVR issue and the broader issue of how we can get
injured workers rehabilitated and actually back to work is a
crucial element of all of this, and I am hopeful we will continue
to hold to that. That is not directly addressed in this bill. There
is still a concern that I have about an inequity to injured workers
that exists in this bill, and I am asking for a "no" vote.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from
Jefferson, Senator Scarnati.

Senator SCARNATI. Madam President, I rise in support of
this bill. As the gentleman stated, we have amended this bill with
two amendments and have agreed to hold hearings on the issue
of using the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation to help facilitate
injured workers. This bill is one that needs to move. All it does,
basically, is codifies the department's position that they have
taken up in court and have argued in the Supreme Court. So, I
ask for an affirmative vote on this bill and appreciate it.

Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from
Berks, Senator O'Pake.

Senator O'PAKE. Madam President, I would like to insert into
the record the remarks of Senator Tartaglione.

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, the remarks will be
submitted for the record.

*(The following prepared remarks were made a part of the
record at the request of Senator O'PAKE on behalf of the
gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator TARTAGLIONE.)*

In 1996, this legislature passed an historic piece of legislation that
reformed Pennsylvania's Workers' Compensation system. Passed during
a Republican Administration and a Republican Majority in this body,
that legislation has done irreparable harm to thousands of injured
workers since its passage. Of the numerous portions of that original
legislation that many Members took exception to, none were more
egregious to injured workers than the section dealing with earning
power.

Today, with House Bill No. 88, we are revisiting that statute and
pouring salt on the wounds of our injured workers. Today, when we
have an opportunity to make Pennsylvania's Workers' Compensation
system fairer for our injured workers, we are considering legislation that
continues the attack. It is once again a dark and shameful day in the
Senate of Pennsylvania. Once again we find ourselves serving the
interests of special interests rather than doing what is in the best interest
of the workers of this great Commonwealth.

From its very inception, the Workers' Compensation Act was
supposed to eliminate adversarial roles in cases between injured workers
and employers in favor of a no-fault approach. The system was

supposed to be fair and reasonable, and ensure just compensation
determinations and awards.

House Bill No. 88 ignores the premise of impartiality in the
Workers' Compensation system and perpetuates a hostile environment
with respect to the present use of vocational experts. The system of pick
and pay fosters an inherent bias against injured workers. The remedy
proposed by House Bill No. 88 fails to address the fundamental test of
fairness. The procedure for approving vocational experts is
unnecessarily broad and inadequate to ensure proper qualifications for
these expert witnesses. The system proposed by House Bill No. 88 and
the department's current regulations, for that matter, are very subjective.
We ought to be exploring solutions that would promote the
professionalism within the vocational evaluation field and protect
injured employees by eliminating potential prejudice. As drafted, House
Bill No. 88 does neither.

We should ensure and not ignore the underlying premise of fair and
reasonable compensation determinations and awards for injured
workers. Codifying a regulation that was promulgated in response to
bad legislation, Act 57, does not correct the system that is unfair to
injured workers. Support for this bill translates into support for the
current provisions, allowing earning power assessments based on
nonexistent jobs.

I cannot support proposals that simply manipulate the process
without addressing the underlying issue of fairness to injured workers.
I will vote "no" on House Bill No. 88 and once again do what I think is
right for Pennsylvania's workers.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of
the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

YEA-29

Armstrong	Greenleaf	Punt	Wenger
Brightbill	Jubelirer	Rafferty	White, Donald
Conti	Lemmond	Rhoades	White, Mary Jo
Corman	Madigan	Robbins	Williams, Constance
Dent	Mowery	Scarnati	Wonderling
Earll	Orie	Thompson	
Erickson	Piccola	Tomlinson	
Gordner	Pileggi	Waugh	

NAY-20

Boscola	Kasunic	Mellow	Stout
Costa	Kitchen	Musto	Tartaglione
Ferlo	Kukovich	O'Pake	Wagner
Fumo	LaValle	Schwartz	Williams, Anthony H.
Hughes	Logan	Stack	Wozniak

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted
"aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to
the House of Representatives with information that the Senate
has passed the same with amendments in which concurrence of
the House is requested.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 1000 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its
order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1018 (Pr. No. 2303) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 9, 1990 (P.L.340, No.78), known as the Public Safety Emergency Telephone Act, further providing for definitions, for local government immunity and for powers and duties of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency; establishing a Statewide integrated wireless E-911 State plan; establishing a Wireless E-911 Emergency Services Fund and disbursements therefrom; further providing for collection of an E-911 surcharge from wireless customers and for annual reporting; establishing a wireless E-911 Emergency Services Advisory Committee; and providing for rules and regulations.

Considered the third time and agreed to, And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

YEA-49

Table listing names of senators who voted 'YEA-49' in two columns.

NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendments in which concurrence of the House is requested.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 1785 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 668, SB 904, SB 959, HB 1189 and HB 1423 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS AS AMENDED

SB 850 (Pr. No. 1315) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act authorizing the City of Scranton and Redevelopment Authority of the City of Scranton, Lackawanna County, to transfer, sell and convey to the University of Scranton certain Project 70 lands free of restrictions imposed by the Project 70 Land Acquisition and Borrowing Act.

On the question, Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House, as further amended by the Senate, to Senate Bill No. 850?

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House, as further amended by the Senate, to Senate Bill No. 850.

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

The yeas and nays were required by Senator BRIGHTBILL and were as follows, viz:

YEA-49

Table listing names of senators who voted 'YEA-49' in two columns.

NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate inform the House of Representatives accordingly.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY

The SECRETARY. Consent has been given for the Committee on Law and Justice to meet imminently in the Rules room to consider Senate Bill No. 799.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTIONS

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following resolutions, which were read, considered, and adopted by voice vote:

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Anthony Joseph Barrilli, Jonathan H. Feineman, Kyle D. Wasko, Charles V. Johnson, Nnamdi A. U. Aduba, Thaddeus P. Boland, Jr., Robert S. Rathgerber, Michael Bucher and to Thomas C. Davis by Senator Conti.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Angelo B. Menta by Senators Conti and Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to A. Bradley Potter by Senator Erickson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ronald Ritchey by Senator Ferlo.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jeremy Kazio by Senator Gordner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Russell Kegg, Mr. and Mrs. James Rowles, Ida Wilt and to Leonard S. Fiore, Inc., of Altoona by Senator Jubelirer.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jessica Vilella, Arthur Drake and to James F. Brownfield by Senator Kasunic.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nava by Senator Kukovich.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Margaret Reilly by Senator Lemmond.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Edward G. Mayer, Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor, Sr., and to Kimberly Fawn Tanner by Senator Madigan.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Honorable Carl W. Nelson and to Jimmy Holland by Senator Mellow.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to R. Dow Stannard and to Dolores J. McAlister by Senator Mowery.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to management and staff of Baldwin Hardware Corporation of Reading and to the members of Wesley United Methodist Church of Reading by Senator O'Pake.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Grimm, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Shilatz, Michael John Mullin, Regis Herbert Huelsmann, Catherine Litz, Tammy Nelson, Amy Uminski and to Kay Berry, Inc., of Saxonburg by Senator Orie.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Marc G. Erlick by Senator Stack.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Lorraine Kirby by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. William S. Yanoschick and to Mr. and Mrs. James A. McQuown by Senator D. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cochran by Senator M.J. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to John C. W. Worsley III, Steven Massa and to Ryan Charles Hinkle by Senators Wonderling and Dent.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the North Penn High School Football Team by Senators Wonderling and Greenleaf.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator GORDNER. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now proceed to consideration of all bills reported from

committees for the first time at today's Session.

The motion was agreed to.

The bills were as follows:

SB 870, SB 907 and SB 975.

And said bills having been considered for the first time, Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for second consideration.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS GUESTS OF SENATOR ROBERT C. WONDERLING PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Wonderling.

Senator WONDERLING. Madam President, I rise just briefly to recognize the North Penn High School Knights, who this past Sunday evening became the PIAA Class AAAA State Champions in high school football by defeating Pittsburgh Central Catholic 37-10. We would just like the record to indicate, on behalf of my office, my constituents, and a lot of happy folks back in the North Penn area of Montgomery County, a hearty congratulations.

GUESTS OF SENATOR MICHAEL A. O'PAKE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Berks, Senator O'Pake.

Senator O'PAKE. Madam President, also in the gallery are some very distinguished award winners from the Reading area. The Olivet Boys' and Girls' Club is one of the fine youth organizations in Berks County, who are here celebrating a great victory as State photography champions, and I would like the Chair to recognize the fine young men who won this award.

The PRESIDENT. Would the visitors please rise so we can give you a round of applause.

(Applause.)

BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator CONTI, from the Committee on Law and Justice, reported the following bill:

SB 799 (Pr. No. 1316)

An Act providing for the responsibilities of the Pennsylvania State Police regarding criminal history background reports for persons participating in harness or horse racing.

BILL ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator RAFFERTY. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now proceed to consideration of the bill reported from committee for the first time at today's Session.

The motion was agreed to.

The bill was as follows:

SB 799.

And said bill having been considered for the first time, Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for second consideration.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Brightbill.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I move that the Senate recess to the call of the President pro tempore. My expectation is that we would not have any kind of proceedings until Monday.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Brightbill moves that the Senate recess to the call of the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The time of recess having expired, the Senate will come to order.

ADJOURNMENT

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Brightbill.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now adjourn until Monday, December 15, 2003, at 5:45 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate adjourned at 11:59 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.