

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2007

SESSION OF 2007 191ST OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 38

SENATE

TUESDAY, June 5, 2007

The Senate met at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend Dr. JOHN DELANCEY, of Stoneridge Covenant Church, Allison Park, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God in Heaven, we thank You that this is the day that You have made, and we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is a new day created by You, allowed by You, sustained by You. It is a good day because You have foreordained it according to Your mercy and grace, so on this new day we count our blessings from You.

As this Session embarks upon the discussions and business of the day, we humbly ask that You guide the men and women in this Chamber with Godly wisdom. As leaders in the days of the historical past of this great State have done, we petition You, Almighty God, and we ask that You guide every thought and idea entertained and every word spoken in this place. Bestow upon these, our Pennsylvania leaders, Your prudence and sound judgment as they do the business on our behalf.

We also pray on this new day for our nation. Humbly we lift up President Bush and those in Washington, and we pray for Your leading all of the daily decisions that take place as it pertains to our security and freedom and to our role in the world.

For those serving in harm's way, we pray for the protection of our service men and women who serve us so admirably. Shower Your grace and strength not only upon our soldiers in foreign lands, but upon their families here back home as well. And in your perfect timing, may the world seek the peace that only You can offer.

Here in our State, we also pray for our State, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and her people. We pray for those who serve us from the forefront, Governor Rendell, our State Representatives and Senate Members, and to the many who serve us behind the scenes. We thank You for the gifts and abilities for those in public service as they serve us day in and day out. May You supply each of them with a heart for people and with a desire for the advancement of policies that both honor You and help our citizens of this State.

We also remember in prayer those who are struggling on many fronts in this State, for those perhaps who have fallen victim to hard times, those who are experiencing the rough roads and difficult times in life.

Lord in Heaven, we lift up to You those who are in need of encouragement, of hope, of peace, and a fresh start. For those who are downcast and overburdened, Lord, with the psalmist, our prayer for them is that You may fill them with Your eternal joy.

So, it is with gratitude that we approach You with humility and with a trusting spirit this day, and as the rich tradition of starting these Sessions with prayer continues, may it reflect a true and complete dependency upon You. Echoing the words of the Founding Fathers of this great State, as taken from the historical pages of our Constitution, we pray that we, the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with gratitude to You, Almighty God, for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, may humbly invoke Your guidance upon our lives and upon the present and future days of our State. Bless us with a fresh realization of Your interest in us and your care for us. Bestow Your mercy, grace, and wisdom upon this body and upon this Session today, for we pray this in Your holy name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Dr. Delancey, who is the guest today of Senator Orié.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE BILL

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 760**, with the information the House has passed the same without amendments.

SENATE BILL RETURNED WITH AMENDMENTS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 218**, 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 6, this bill will be referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations.

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in the resolution from the Senate, entitled:

Weekly recess.

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

June 4, 2007

Senators PILEGGI, ARMSTRONG and SCARNATI presented to the Chair **SR 130**, entitled:

A Resolution adopting a temporary rule of the Senate relating solely to amendments to the General Appropriation Bill and other appropriation bills for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007, including any amendments offered to or for supplemental appropriations for prior fiscal years.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, June 4, 2007.

BILL SIGNED

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

SB 760.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator GORDNER, from the Committee on Labor and Industry, reported the following bills:

SB 333 (Pr. No. 1092) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of August 15, 1961 (P.L.987, No.442), known as the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act, further providing for definitions.

SB 466 (Pr. No. 1093) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of November 10, 1999 (P.L.491, No.45), known as the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, further providing for application and for exemptions.

Senator RHOADES, from the Committee on Education, reported the following bills:

SB 834 (Pr. No. 970)

An Act amending the act of June 14, 1961 (P.L.324, No.188), known as The Library Code, further providing for appointment, qualification and tenure of members of the Advisory Council on Library Development.

HB 842 (Pr. No. 1832) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, further providing for program of continuing professional development.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Senator PILEGGI asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator EARLL, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

Senator O'PAKE asked and obtained leaves of absence for Senator A.H. WILLIAMS and Senator C. WILLIAMS, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of May 7, 2007, and May 8, 2007, are now in print.

A quorum of the Senate being present, the Clerk will read the Journals of the Sessions of May 7, 2007, and May 8, 2007.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals.

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

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

YEA-47

Armstrong	Fontana	Musto	Stack
Baker	Fumo	O'Pake	Stout
Boscola	Gordner	Orie	Tartaglione
Browne	Greenleaf	Piccola	Tomlinson
Brubaker	Hughes	Pileggi	Vance
Corman	Kasunic	Pippy	Washington
Costa	Kitchen	Punt	Waugh
Dinniman	LaValle	Rafferty	White, Donald
Eichelberger	Logan	Regola	White, Mary Jo
Erickson	Madigan	Rhoades	Wonderling
Ferlo	McIlhinney	Robbins	Wozniak
Folmer	Mellow	Scarnati	

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS GUESTS OF SENATOR JANE C. ORIE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Orie.

Senator ORIE. Madam President, the Georgi family from Allison Park, Pennsylvania, were here earlier today but had to leave, and I just felt compelled to introduce them because they traveled all the way from Pittsburgh to participate in the National Character Education Foundation. Renee and Bruce were here with their daughter, Madison, age 14, and sons Jake, age 12, and

Luke, age 10. Maddie was here to perform a song, "Take My Hand," which she wrote for her brother who has autism spectrum disorder. She received an award for this, and was also honored by the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review as a young achiever.

Madam President, it is with regret that they are not here on the floor but on their way back to Pittsburgh, but I would like the Senate to welcome them.

The PRESIDENT. Let us give a round of applause to the Georgi family.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR ROBERT WONDERLING PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator WONDERLING. Madam President, it is my honor and pleasure today to introduce yet another group of interns who are spending the summer with us, in this case, in our Lansdale, Montgomery County, office.

Madam President, first I would like to recognize and introduce Linda Eyre, who lives in Dublin, Pennsylvania, and currently attends the Lansdale School of Business, which is right across the street from our district office. She is studying business administration and hopes to serve as a paralegal upon graduation. She is joined today by Kathryn Holody, who is also from Lansdale, Pennsylvania, and will be a senior at Penn State University where she is currently studying political science and English. Upon graduation, Kathryn hopes to join either the nonprofit sector or the for-profit sector in the area of public relations and communications.

Both Kathryn and Linda are a part of our summer crop of Wondershippers, as we call them, about 18 interns spending time with us this summer, and therefore, Madam President, I would ask for a hearty and traditional welcome from the Members of the Senate.

The PRESIDENT. Would Linda Eyre and Kathryn Holody please rise.

(Applause.)

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, I would like to introduce to the Senate a guest Page, a very bright young man who just graduated from Berks Christian School. He is a resident of Exeter Township and is an Eagle Scout, is on the honor roll, played varsity soccer, and will be attending Mansfield University in the fall, where he will major in political science and history. His name is Andrew Harrison, and I ask the Senate to extend its warm welcome to him. He is looking over the landscape here because some day he hopes to serve in the Pennsylvania Senate, and by then I will be retired.

The PRESIDENT. Will Andrew Harrison please rise so we can welcome you.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF THE PRESIDENT PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. For our other distinguished guests from the AARP across the Commonwealth, we all welcome you to the Pennsylvania State Senate today.

(Applause.)

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Madam President, at this time I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a meeting of the Republican caucus. I expect it will not last longer than an hour.

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

Senator O'PAKE. Madam President, I ask that the Democrats report to our caucus room immediately.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of Republican and Democratic caucuses, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 8 (Pr. No. 1089) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act establishing the Medical Safety Automation Fund; and providing grants to implement medical safety automation systems.

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?

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Madam President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Pippy and Senator Piccola.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pileggi requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Pippy and Senator Piccola. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

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-47

Armstrong	Fontana	Musto	Stack
Baker	Fumo	O'Pake	Stout
Boscola	Gordner	Orie	Tartaglione
Browne	Greenleaf	Piccola	Tomlinson
Brubaker	Hughes	Pileggi	Vance
Corman	Kasunic	Pippy	Washington
Costa	Kitchen	Punt	Waugh
Dinniman	LaValle	Rafferty	White, Donald
Eichelberger	Logan	Regola	White, Mary Jo
Erickson	Madigan	Rhoades	Wonderling
Ferlo	McIlhinney	Robbins	Wozniak
Folmer	Mellow	Scarnati	

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.

SB 100 (Pr. No. 1037) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for the regulation of home improvement contracts and for the registration of certain contractors; prohibiting certain acts; and providing for penalties.

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?

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, spending the day in Harrisburg is a very interesting group of outstanding students from the Earl Elementary School in Berks County. They are here from the fifth grade with many of the teachers and parents, and we are very proud of them and would like the Senate to extend its usual warm welcome to them.

The PRESIDENT. Will the fifth grade students, teachers, and parents from the Earl Elementary School in Berks County all please rise so we can welcome you to the Senate of Pennsylvania.

(Applause.)

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-47

Armstrong	Fontana	Musto	Stack
Baker	Fumo	O'Pake	Stout
Boscola	Gordner	Orie	Tartaglione
Browne	Greenleaf	Piccola	Tomlinson
Brubaker	Hughes	Pileggi	Vance
Corman	Kasunic	Pippy	Washington
Costa	Kitchen	Punt	Waugh
Dinniman	LaValle	Rafferty	White, Donald
Eichelberger	Logan	Regola	White, Mary Jo
Erickson	Madigan	Rhoades	Wonderling
Ferlo	McIlhinney	Robbins	Wozniak
Folmer	Mellow	Scarnati	

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.

RECONSIDERATION OF SB 100

BILL ON FINAL PASSAGE

SB 100 (Pr. No. 1037) -- Senator PILEGGI. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now reconsider the vote by which Senate Bill No. 100, Printer's No. 1037, just passed finally.

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

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-46

Armstrong	Fontana	Musto	Stout
Baker	Fumo	O'Pake	Tartaglione
Boscola	Gordner	Orie	Tomlinson
Browne	Greenleaf	Pileggi	Vance
Brubaker	Hughes	Pippy	Washington
Corman	Kasunic	Punt	Waugh
Costa	Kitchen	Rafferty	White, Donald
Dinniman	LaValle	Regola	White, Mary Jo
Eichelberger	Logan	Rhoades	Wonderling
Erickson	Madigan	Robbins	Wozniak
Ferlo	McIlhinney	Scarnati	
Folmer	Mellow	Stack	

NAY-1

Piccola

A majority of 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.

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

SB 116 (Pr. No. 1038) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for selection of prospective jurors.

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 Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I rise to speak very briefly and ask my colleagues to provide an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 116. Senate Bill No. 116 is legislation that addresses an issue that exists throughout this Commonwealth, and it is very relevant and prevalent in Allegheny County, where I reside.

What this legislation essentially does is it allows for an opportunity for counties to be able to access individuals who would be able to become part of a jury pool. Currently, the problem that exists in our county is that we are not able to provide a jury pool in our criminal justice system in particular with individuals who are reflective of our counties. This legislation essentially draws from a variety of sources through State departments. It draws from individuals from the Department of State, the Department of Public Welfare, the Department of Transportation, as well as the Department of Revenue. Lists are provided to the AOPC, which will then provide each of the counties, if they so choose, a list of those individuals. The lists are sanitized so you do not know where those names come from, and the purpose is to allow the counties to be able to put into place a more diverse jury pool from which to select a jury.

Madam President, one of the most very basic fundamental rights that people have in this Commonwealth and country is the right to a jury by one's peers. What has taken place in a number of communities and counties in our Commonwealth is that this is not taking place. This legislation works to rectify that and allows for pools to be more reflective of a county's population and allows for more diversity with respect to the individual jurors who would be eligible to serve on the jury pool, and I ask for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Dinniman.

Senator DINNIMAN. Madam President, I rise to support Senator Costa. This is a very important matter. In many of our counties, our juries do not represent the totality of the population, and this will give counties an option rather than just using the voter registration rolls. Some people do not register to vote because they are poor and they fear losing a day of work.

Our juries are not diverse. I did a study in my own county, and I can tell you from that study that if you are just using voter registration rolls, you are getting mainly voters in the late forties and fifties and you do not have younger voters. You also do not have diversity in terms of income and you do not have diversity in terms of race. This will give counties another option, an option which is more representative of the diversity of the population.

Remember, our Constitution says we are going to be judged by our own peers, but in many of our counties this does not take place. Under Senator Costa's bill, which is an excellent bill, this will allow it to take place in every county in the Commonwealth.

Thank you, Madam President.

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-47

Armstrong	Fontana	Musto	Stack
Baker	Fumo	O'Pake	Stout
Boscola	Gordner	Orie	Tartaglione
Browne	Greenleaf	Piccola	Tomlinson
Brubaker	Hughes	Pileggi	Vance
Corman	Kasunic	Pippy	Washington
Costa	Kitchen	Punt	Waugh
Dinniman	LaValle	Rafferty	White, Donald
Eichelberger	Logan	Regola	White, Mary Jo
Erickson	Madigan	Rhoades	Wonderling
Ferlo	McIlhinney	Robbins	Wozniak
Folmer	Mellow	Scarnati	

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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 317, HB 688, SB 826 and SB 831 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

**BILL REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEE AS
AMENDED OVER IN ORDER**

SB 385 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 87, SB 413 and SB 632 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 726 (Pr. No. 882) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of August 24, 1963 (P.L.1175, No.497), known as the Mechanics' Lien Law of 1963, further providing for definitions and for waiver of lien by claimant.

Upon motion of Senator PILEGGI, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

SB 726 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator PILEGGI. Madam President, I move that Senate Bill No. 726, Printer's No. 882, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 799 and SB 844 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 125, ADOPTED

Senator PILEGGI without objection, called up from page 5 of the Calendar, **Senate Resolution No. 125**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of June 2007 as "Corrections Officers and Employees Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mercer, Senator Robbins.

Senator ROBBINS. Madam President, I offer the following remarks for the record.

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 the gentleman from Mercer, Senator ROBBINS:)

Madam President, I rise today to offer a Senate resolution honoring the backbone of the State correctional system, corrections officers and employees. Senate Resolution No. 125 designates June 2007 as "Corrections Officers and Employees Month" in Pennsylvania.

Corrections officers and employees place themselves in danger every day as they patrol the toughest precincts in the Commonwealth. They are also charged with the care, custody, and control of our State prisoner population, making them the first element in the rehabilitation of incarcerated persons.

The more than two dozen State corrections facilities in our system include the State Regional Correctional Facility at Mercer and SCI Cambridge Springs, in my district. I can tell you that these officers and employees are dedicated and hard-working, and deserve "thanks" for what can seem like a thankless job.

TV dramas would have you believe that our correctional facilities are places of non-stop violence, where officers are just as dangerous as the most violent inmate. The truth is that they are dedicated public servants - and they deserve better.

It should also be noted that corrections officers and employees are actively involved in their communities through volunteer service and civic participation.

These are difficult jobs, and corrections officers and employees should be proud of their contributions to Pennsylvania. By adopting this resolution, we are saying that these good deeds do not go unnoticed.

Thank you, Madam President.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Madam President, I request a recess of the Senate for a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to be held immediately in the Rules room.

The PRESIDENT. For the purpose of a meeting of 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.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

Senator PILEGGI, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported the following resolution:

SR 130 (Pr. No. 1090)

A Resolution adopting a temporary rule of the Senate relating solely to amendments to the General Appropriation Bill and other appropriation bills for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007, including any amendments offered to or for supplemental appropriations for prior fiscal years.

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

SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senator ORIE, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 132**, entitled:

A Resolution commending the Heart of Gold Foundation for raising awareness of sarcoidosis through its First Annual Walk-Run for Sarcoidosis on June 10, 2007, in Highland Park, Pittsburgh.

Which was read, considered, and adopted by voice vote.

Senators TOMLINSON, BOSCOLA, FERLO, PUNT, TARTAGLIONE, ORIE, McILHINNEY, ROBBINS, ERICKSON, COSTA, LOGAN, RAFFERTY, GREENLEAF,

LAVALLE, WASHINGTON, MUSTO, FUMO, FONTANA, BROWNE, EARLL and FOLMER, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 133**, entitled:

A Resolution commemorating June 10, 2007, as "Delaware Valley Vietnam Veterans Day"; and expressing appreciation for the special commitment and service of these veterans to the United States.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Tomlinson.

Senator TOMLINSON. Madam President, this resolution designates June 10, 2007, as Delaware Valley Vietnam Veterans Day and expresses appreciation for the commitment and service of these veterans to the United States. Southeastern Pennsylvania is home to many men and women who served in the Vietnam war, and it is only fitting that we recognize and honor them for their dedication and service to their country.

A special remembrance for those who served will be held this weekend in Bucks County, and it is really a wonderful event. We create a huge flag in the ground and we get many, many volunteers to come out, and it is a wonderful celebration and wonderful remembrance for all those veterans of the Vietnam war who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Thank you, Madam President.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

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 the Puerto Rican Cultural Coalition of Bethlehem by Senator Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ryan McGinnis by Senator Brubaker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to R. Alexander Day by Senator Corman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Leon K. Bell, Nicholas Pease, Kevin Ivan Tupitza and to Devin John Doherty by Senator Dinniman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Dale Derr, Adam David Folk and to Joshua Michael Reedy by Senator Gordner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. and Mrs. Earl Cook, David Morris, Kyle R. Hallowell and to Ryan Montgomery Baelz by Senator Greenleaf.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Breehana Jacobs by Senator Kasunic.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Jennings and to Gerald V. Allen by Senator Madigan.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Donna C. Giovanis by Senator Piccola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Oreka, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wareham, Mr. and Mrs. William Barker, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wray Delp and to Jane Smith by Senator Scarnati.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Honorable Robert A. Rovner by Senator Stack.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hopple, Marion Pearl Gruver, Jason T. Hunt and to William A. Gast by Senator Vance.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Barry G. Hoffman by Senator Waugh and others.

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

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Sara Senior by Senator C. Williams.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Susan Maxton Lefebvre and to the Green Pastures Community Church of Easton by Senator Wonderling.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Matthew T. Gerould, Phil Lipkin, Karl Stirner, ProJeCt of Easton, Inc., Easton Coffee Exchange, Action International Coaching of Easton, Minuteman Press of the Lehigh Valley and to Lafayette College of Easton by Senators Wonderling and Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Betsy Smith and to Citizen's Hose Company No. 5 of Lock Haven by Senator Wozniak.

POSTHUMOUS CITATION

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

A posthumous citation honoring the late Herbert Dixon was extended to the family by Senator Piccola.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator Erickson. 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 333, SB 466, SB 834 and HB 842.

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

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator WONDERLING. Madam President, I would like to thank my colleagues in the Senate today for the unanimous vote in approving Senate Bill No. 8. Senate Bill No. 8 would establish for the first time in this Commonwealth a matching grant program so that we can begin the process in Pennsylvania to digitize our health care information.

Unfortunately, Madam President, the health care sector in the United States, specifically here in this Commonwealth, is

woefully lacking in converting paper, tons and tons of medical records, into a digital format that you and I and consumers across this Commonwealth have taken for granted in such sectors as financial services, banking, and real estate. Senate Bill No. 8 would set up a matching grant program in which grants would be provided up to \$1 million to health care providers that would require a 100-percent match, and for federally qualified health clinics a 50-percent match. The funds would be distributed by a formula that would ensure that all Pennsylvanians and all health care providers would be able to participate in this program, not just the more well-funded providers in our urban and suburban areas.

Why, Madam President, should we advance Senate Bill No. 8 and move it into law? I think there are three reasons why we need to do so and need to do so quickly.

First, we will improve patient safety through the reduction of medical errors, and there is case study after case study indicating that when you remove the transaction of paper in the health care arena, whether it be an emergency room, a doctor's office, or on the floor of a hospital, you reduce medical errors.

Second, we will begin to attack the cost of health care, particularly publicly subsidized health care in this Commonwealth.

Third, what I think is probably equally, if not more important, we will be giving Pennsylvania consumers a greater say with greater information and greater access to information about decisions that are made concerning their own health care, not only as they visit a doctor's office, specialist, hospital, or emergency room, but also through digitization those records become portable as they traverse the health care system inside this Commonwealth and to points beyond.

Now the obvious question would be how are we going to pay for this? We have estimated a \$10 million up-front cost, and we are proposing, at least for discussion at this point, that if indeed it is the will of this General Assembly and this Senate and the House of Representatives to advance the Governor's proposal to borrow in the short term from the tobacco settlement funds, and specifically the Governor's proposal to borrow about 9.5 percent of the total endowment to, as he dubbed, find a cure quickly for cancer and other here-to-for incurable diseases, something called the Jonas Salk Legacy Fund, then I think we can jump-start not only a cure for cancer but also the medical record and the application of technology that accompanies that in going forward.

That is our proposal, not necessarily contained today in Senate Bill No. 8, but it will be forthcoming in the form of an amendment as we progress with our budget discussions. That is just one Senator's notion, my notion, of how to fund this program. I am sure there are other Members of this body who have other ideas on how to do that, and I am certainly all ears because the goal here is to improve health care quality, reduce costs, and do so through the deployment of technology.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Madam President, I will be rather quick, but I do want to stand up and second and applaud the good work by Senator Wonderling. This piece of legislation is important

because it attacks what we need to attack, which is the driving cost of health care.

It is understandable that in the past, government's approach in dealing with the rising cost of health care was to try to get everybody insured and to pay for the health care insurance. That is understandable and laudable because it is the most immediate problem. However, if we do not start going after what is causing the rising cost of health care, we are, in my opinion, just pushing off Armageddon, and at the end of the day we will all go bankrupt if we do not go after what is driving up the cost.

The problem is that any solution for what is driving up the cost is not an overnight savings. It is something that we put into place and over time we are going to get savings. When you have people who do not have health insurance now, you want to address that, and that is understandable, but you also have to address this portion of it well and continue to do it.

Senator Wonderling's bill, Senate Bill No. 8, will go a long way to making medical records more portable, which will reduce medical errors, which will reduce the usage of the health care system, which will reduce costs. That is very significant, and hopefully this is just the beginning of many pieces of legislation that will pass this Chamber and passed into law that will attack what is driving up the costs of health care. Hopefully, someday people will be able to afford health insurance and we will not need programs to ultimately pay for it for them, so I applaud Senate Bill No. 8, because I think it does a great job. Again, hopefully, it is just the beginning of our health care initiatives of going after what is actually driving up the costs.

Thank you, Madam President.

GUESTS OF SENATOR JAMES FERLO PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Ferlo.

Senator FERLO. Madam President, prior to the recess we had in our offices and in the balcony a spirited delegation of older residents, not only from Pittsburgh, but I believe many of the AARP members came to the Capitol today from all over the State.

I did notice a great delegation from the Pittsburgh area, particularly the communities of Morningside, Bloomfield, and North Side. We had some folks here from the House as well who had, for example, residents from West Mifflin Borough and probably a lot of other communities. I just wanted to once again, albeit belatedly, welcome the AARP members not only to the State Capitol but certainly to our Chamber in absentia now. They were here for a broad range of economic justice and human service budgetary concerns that they expressed collectively and individually to Members of the Senate. I do note that the North Side delegation had our Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's grandmother, Joan Ravenstahl, in the delegation, and so we want to welcome all the AARP members here to the State Capitol.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator Ferlo, for your additional welcoming of all the AARP members from across the Commonwealth and of course calling attention to how many did come from Pittsburgh and from across the State.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES**(continued)**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Tomlinson.

Senator TOMLINSON. Madam President, I would like to submit my remarks for the record.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Tomlinson submits his remarks for the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made a part of the record at the request of the gentleman from Bucks, Senator TOMLINSON:)

Madam President, the issue of how to regulate home improvement contractors has been discussed for years. A number of my constituents have been the victim of dishonest individuals who carry out home improvement scams. Nationally, it is of tremendous concern to consumers, especially seniors.

My district attorney approached me about this problem, and in cooperation with the Attorney General and our Bucks County Consumer Advocate, I believe we have a fresh approach to a several decades old problem. Senate Bill No. 100 will ensure that homeowners get what they pay for while ensuring that the many trustworthy contractors across the Commonwealth can continue to make an honest living in their profession. I would ask for your support of this important legislation.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR**NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communications in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which were read as follows and referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations:

**MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF WHITE HAVEN STATE HOSPITAL**

June 5, 2007

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, B.J. Clark, 611 East Darby Road, Havertown 19083, Delaware County, Seventeenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of White Haven [data missing] Hospital, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2013, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Edward Matisak, Sugarloaf, resigned.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY
BOARD OF ASSISTANCE**

June 5, 2007

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Sam Cohn, 491 Hillside Drive, Mountville 17554, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District,

for appointment as a member of the Washington County Board of Assistance, to serve until December 31, 2009, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Frank Burkus, Millsboro, deceased.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 5, 2007

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Jennifer L. Nicholson, Esquire, 611 Cleland Mill Road, New Castle 16102, Lawrence County, Forty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Lawrence, Magisterial District 53-3-02, to serve until the first Monday of January 2010, vice J.V. Lamb, resigned.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

**RECALL COMMUNICATION
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communication in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which was read as follows and referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations:

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 5, 2007

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated May 14, 2007, for the appointment of Sam Cohn, 491 Hillside Drive, Mountville 17554, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Lawrence, Magisterial District 53-3-02, to serve until the first Monday of January 2010, vice J.V. Lamb, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

The following announcements were read by the Secretary of the Senate:

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2007

9:30 A.M.

FINANCE (to consider Senate Bills No. 7, Room 461
23, 24 and 707; and House Bill No. 876) Main Capitol

9:30 A.M.	PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE (public hearing on hospital acquired infections)	Senate Maj. Caucus Rm.
10:00 A.M.	CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE (to consider Senate Bills No. 455 and 838)	Room 8E-B East Wing
10:00 A.M.	LAW AND JUSTICE (to consider Senate Bill No. 674; and House Bill No. 896)	Room 8E-A East Wing
<u>MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2007</u>		
11:30 A.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMER- GENCY PREPAREDNESS (to consider House Bill No. 906)	Room 8E-B East Wing
<u>TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2007</u>		
9:00 A.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMER- GENCY PREPAREDNESS (joint hear- ing with the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee to consider testimony on a proposal to pro- vide funding to sustain services and out- reach to veterans provided by service officers employed by veteran service organizations)	Senate Maj. Caucus Rm.
10:00 A.M.	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY and CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE (joint public hearing on Energy Policy for Pennsylvanians)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, June 6, 2007, at 10:30 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 3:40 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.