

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Legislative Journal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

SESSION OF 2009 193RD OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 79

SENATE

THURSDAY, September 17, 2009

The Senate met at 2 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Joseph B. Scarnati III) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend JEDIDIAH SLABODA, of Second City Church, Harrisburg, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, send down upon these Senators who hold office in this Commonwealth the spirit of wisdom and love and justice, so that with steadfast purpose, they may faithfully serve in their offices and promote the well-being of all the citizens of this Commonwealth. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Slaboda, who is the guest today of Senator Piccola.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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 STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS

September 16, 2009

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, Michele A. Boone, PT, NHA, 214 Hyview Road, Stillwater 17878, Columbia County, Twenty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators, to serve for a term of four years or until her successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer

than six months beyond that period, vice Leonard Oddo, North Huntingdon, whose term expired.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS

September 16, 2009

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, James Miller, 124 Bel Aire Drive, Archbald 18509, Lackawanna County, Twenty-seventh Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators, to serve for a term of four years or until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

HOUSE MESSAGE

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 348**.

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

2009 HAZARDOUS SITES CLEANUP FUND ANNUAL REPORT

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communication, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

September 8, 2009

Mr. Mark R. Corrigan
Secretary of the Senate
Senate Post Office Box 203053
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3053

Dear Mr. Corrigan:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is pleased to present to you its Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund Annual Report. This report summarizes the accomplishments of the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program, which provides the department with the ability to immediately respond to spills of hazardous substances and to eliminate threats to public health and the environment from hazardous substances through removal and remedial actions.

Act 77 of 2007, the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund Funding Act -- passed by the General Assembly and signed by Governor Edward G. Rendell -- provides revenue to the Cleanup Fund of \$40 million annually. On June 30, 2011, with the phase-out of the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax, this revenue source (which represents 90 percent of the yearly revenue) will no longer be available to support the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program. A long-term solution is needed to keep the full program operational beyond that time. The Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund is essential to Pennsylvania's ability to address brownfield remediation, emergency response to toxic spills and cleanup of contaminated sites across the Commonwealth. DEP respectfully requests your support in identifying a permanent funding source for this important program.

The successes documented in the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund Annual Report demonstrate just how important this program is. As provided in the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund Funding Act, DEP is distributing the report electronically and providing a link for accessing the report online. The report can be found at www.depweb.state.pa.us, keyword: HSCA. Once you enter the site, click on the link for the "Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund Annual Report -- August 2009." Should you desire a hard copy from us, please contact DEP's Bureau of Waste Management at 717-787-9870.

Thank you for your interest in this report and for continuing to partner with DEP to promote a clean environment and safer communities for all Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,

JOHN HANGER
Secretary

The PRESIDENT. This report will be filed in the Library.

BILL SIGNED

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Joseph B. Scarnati III) in the presence of the Senate signed the following bill:

HB 348.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna, Senator Mellow.

Senator MELLOW. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Dinniman, Senator Leach, and Senator Logan.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Mellow requests legislative leaves for Senator Dinniman, Senator Leach, and Senator Logan. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of July 20, 2009, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of July 20, 2009.

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. 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 PILEGGI and were as follows, viz:

YEA-49

Alloway	Ferlo	O'Pake	Vance
Argall	Folmer	Orie	Vogel
Baker	Fontana	Piccola	Ward
Boscola	Gordner	Pileggi	Washington
Browne	Greenleaf	Pippy	Waugh
Brubaker	Hughes	Rafferty	White, Donald
Corman	Kasunic	Robbins	White, Mary Jo
Costa	Kitchen	Scarnati	Williams
Dinniman	Leach	Smucker	Wozniak
Earll	Logan	Stack	Yaw
Eichelberger	McIlhinney	Stout	
Erickson	Mellow	Tartaglione	
Farnese	Musto	Tomlinson	

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS GUEST OF SENATOR ROBERT J. MELLOW PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna, Senator Mellow.

Senator MELLOW. Mr. President, I have a special friend who is with me on the floor of the Senate today, a gentleman who has been deeply involved in the political process for many, many years. He had the opportunity of serving as the mayor of the city of Scranton and then realized there is higher ground than serving as mayor of any city in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is now a private businessman. I would like to have the Senate recognize not Mayor Jim McNulty, but Mr. Jim McNulty, who is with us today as a guest of the Senate.

The PRESIDENT. Would the Senate join in welcoming Senator Mellow's guest.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR ELDER VOGEL, JR., PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Beaver, Senator Vogel.

Senator VOGEL. Mr. President, I would like to introduce a constituent of mine. This is no ordinary man I am about to introduce to you. Mr. Leo Sicard of Ellwood City is here visiting us today. Mr. Sicard served as an original crew member of the USS Iowa and, in 1943, served as an aide to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the Tehran Conference. Today, Mr.

Sicard serves as the Lawrence County Commander of the American Legion and First Vice Commander of the Ellwood City Post 157. He also serves as the Pennsylvania American Legion POW/MIA Vice President. I ask, Mr. President, that we recognize Mr. Sicard, who is here with us today, along with his friend, Dolly Gardner.

I am very proud of Mr. Sicard's service to our State and our nation, as I am sure you are, and I ask that we offer our thanks for his service and provide him with our usual warm welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Vogel please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

RECESS

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

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for purposes of, first, a meeting of the Committee on State Government to be held in the Rules room immediately, to be followed by a Republican caucus to be held in the Majority Caucus Room.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna, Senator Mellow.

Senator MELLOW. Mr. President, I request that upon the conclusion of the meeting of the Committee on State Government, the Democratic Members report to our caucus room at the rear of the Chamber.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of a meeting of the Committee on State Government to be held in the Rules room, to be followed by 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.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY

The SECRETARY. Consent has been given for the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to meet in the Rules room imminently to consider House Bill No. 1828 and certain nominations.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. For the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations in the Rules room, 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 PILEGGI, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported the following bill:

HB 1828 (Pr. No. 2638) (Rereported) (Concurrence)

An Act amending the act of December 18, 1984 (P.L.1005, No.205), known as the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act, amending the title of the act; in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in preliminary provisions, providing for methodology; in municipal pension plan actuarial reporting, further providing for contents of actuarial valuation report and providing for actuarial asset valuation and for revised actuarial valuation report; in minimum funding standard for municipal pension plans, further providing for minimum funding standard and defined benefit plans self-insured in whole or in part; in revisions applicable to municipal pension fund financing, further providing for revision of financing from State revenue sources and General Municipal Pension System State Aid Program; in financially distressed municipal pension plan determination procedure, further providing for initiation of distress determination, for pension plans to be included in determination and for determination procedure; in financially distressed municipal pension system recovery program, further providing for application, for election determination procedures, for recovery program level I, for recovery program level II, for recovery program level III, for remedies, for supplemental State assistance program and fund and for regulations; providing for standards for municipal pension systems; in alternative funding mechanisms, making an editorial change, further providing for alternative funding mechanism and providing for cities of the first class and for special taxing authority; providing for deferred retirement option plans; and making a related repeal.

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

SB 987 (Pr. No. 1224)

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Governor, to grant and convey to Washington County Authority, certain lands situate in Cecil Township, Washington County.

HB 792 (Pr. No. 2676) (Amended)

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Governor and the Department of Corrections, to grant and convey to Schuylkill County certain lands situate in Ryan Township, Schuylkill County.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Piccola.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pileggi requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Piccola. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

CALENDAR

GOVERNOR'S ITEM VETO MESSAGE OVER IN ORDER

SB 850 -- Without objection, the item veto message was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

NONPREFERRED APPROPRIATION
BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1036, SB 1037, SB 1038, SB 1039 and SB 1040 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 746, SB 893, SB 899 and SB 1042 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 1070 (Pr. No. 1372) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating Route 611, from Main Street in the Village of Tobyhanna to Interstate 380 in Coolbaugh Township, Monroe County, as the Trooper Joshua D. Miller Memorial Highway.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Luzerne, Senator Musto.

Senator MUSTO. Mr. President, I offer remarks for the record on behalf of Senator Mellow.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Musto offers remarks for the record on behalf of Senator Mellow. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentleman from Luzerne, Senator MUSTO, on behalf of the gentleman from Lackawanna, Senator MELLOW:)

Mr. President, Senate Bill No. 1070 would designate a portion of Route 611 as the Trooper Joshua D. Miller Memorial Highway. Trooper Miller, a Luzerne County native, was killed on June 7, 2009, while attempting to apprehend a kidnapping suspect along this stretch of Route 611 in Monroe County. Designating an area of highway from Tobyhanna to Interstate 380 in Coolbaugh Township in his honor is a small gesture and the very least we can do to pay tribute to this man who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of protecting the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

As a Marine and then a member of the Pennsylvania State Police, Trooper Miller set an example of what it means to live a life of service. We must never forget Trooper Miller's unwavering commitment to the people of Pennsylvania and the sacrifice he made in carrying out his oath to protect and serve. This memorial will serve as a constant reminder of his heroism.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Luzerne, Senator Baker.

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, I rise in support of this bill and want to share the tremendous outpouring of support that Trooper Miller's widow, Angela, and his three daughters have received in our community since his passing. His fellow Troopers who attended the funeral and so many others across our community were heartfelt in their outpouring of support, so I ask everyone to join us in a recognition most deserving of this Trooper and his family.

Thank you, Mr. 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-49

Alloway	Ferlo	O'Pake	Vance
Argall	Folmer	Orie	Vogel
Baker	Fontana	Piccola	Ward
Boscola	Gordner	Pileggi	Washington
Browne	Greenleaf	Pippy	Waugh
Brubaker	Hughes	Rafferty	White, Donald
Corman	Kasunic	Robbins	White, Mary Jo
Costa	Kitchen	Scarnati	Williams
Dinniman	Leach	Smucker	Wozniak
Earll	Logan	Stack	Yaw
Eichelberger	McIlhinney	Stout	
Erickson	Mellow	Tartaglione	
Farnese	Musto	Tomlinson	

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.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 303 (Pr. No. 1210) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act establishing a grant program for volunteer emergency service organizations to provide incentives for establishing partnerships; conferring powers and duties on the Center for Local Government Services within the Department of Community and Economic Development; establishing the Volunteer Emergency Services Partnership Bond Fund; and providing for funding.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 993 and SB 1007 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 1088 (Pr. No. 1399) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in administration and enforcement, further providing for declaration of exemption from Federal laws prohibiting slot machines.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1**

**SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS
TO SENATE AMENDMENTS**

HB 1828 (Pr. No. 2638) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 18, 1984 (P.L.1005, No.205), known as the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act, amending the title of the act; in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in preliminary provisions, providing for methodology; in municipal pension plan actuarial reporting, further providing for contents of actuarial valuation report and providing for actuarial asset valuation and for revised actuarial valuation report; in minimum funding standard for municipal pension plans, further providing for minimum funding standard and defined benefit plans self-insured in whole or in part; in revisions applicable to municipal pension fund financing, further providing for revision of financing from State revenue sources and General Municipal Pension System State Aid Program; in financially distressed municipal pension plan determination procedure, further providing for initiation of distress determination, for pension plans to be included in determination and for determination procedure; in financially distressed municipal pension system recovery program, further providing for application, for election determination procedures, for recovery program level I, for recovery program level II, for recovery program level III, for remedies, for supplemental State assistance program and fund and for regulations; providing for standards for municipal pension systems; in alternative funding mechanisms, making an editorial change, further providing for alternative funding mechanism and providing for cities of the first class and for special taxing authority; providing for deferred retirement option plans; and making a related repeal.

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate amendments to House Bill No. 1828?

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate amendments to House Bill No. 1828.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, 18 years ago, this Chamber created a group to oversee the finances of the city of

Philadelphia. It was not a miracle cure for the problems that faced the city, the same problems that challenged large cities across America, but it has been successful in encouraging fiscal responsibility while balancing the needs of the citizens of Philadelphia with its obligation to taxpayers all across Pennsylvania. It has been successful in protecting taxpayers from the shifting winds of politics and the statewide habit of Philly-bashing. The Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority, PICA, is the eyes and ears of the legislature, and the key to its success is the word "cooperation."

Two months ago, the board that was appointed by leaders in both Chambers, both sides of the aisle, unanimously recommended a plan to guide the city through some very, very, very difficult times. The plan will not make everyone happy and will not erase future difficulty, but it recognizes the harsh reality facing my city, and it fits with the mission of oversight and cooperation. The plan is now before us as House Bill No. 1828, and thanks to the cooperation and hard work of many lawmakers and many staff members on both sides of the aisle, House and Senate, it now recognizes that my city is not made up simply of numbers. It recognizes that beneath the numbers are thousands of men and women in uniform who are sworn to protect and defend. The plan defends them, as they defend us. The plan does not immunize the city, its residents, from future difficulty and responsibility, but it recognizes that the legislature has an obligation of oversight while honoring its mission of cooperation.

Although I have expressed my frustration at seeing my city pushed to the brink by a logjam of problems, priorities, and politics, I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in both Chambers for their hard work in reaching this point. I hope that as the plan becomes law, we will recognize that the difficult road ahead will require continued cooperation and hard work.

Pennsylvania cities of all sizes are being forced to reinvent themselves in the face of shifting lifestyles and a growing responsibility to the poor and vulnerable. Most of us in this Chamber today represent citizens of a city, big or small, that has been changed dramatically over the past five decades and will need the leadership and cooperation of men and women in this room to protect its citizens and restore its finances. I hope that we continue to dig beneath the number and see the faces of the thousands of men and women who face these challenges every day. They face the problems every day, and their welfare must be included in the solution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator FERLO. Mr. President, regarding House Bill No. 1828, today, I have to stand here and must express my frustration that we are voting on a stripped-down version of what we passed out of this Senate Chamber back on August 26.

The bill that left this Chamber offered reasonable and measured pension reform. When House Bill No. 1828 came to the Senate, it was only a sales tax increase and pension payment deferral plan for our great sister city of Philadelphia. But by the time it reached this Chamber, we had, for several months, thanks to the leadership of Senator Browne and others, for those several months, Mr. President, we had been discussing and debating

much broader pension relief and reform for municipalities statewide, in response to the challenges created by the harsh economic conditions of the past few years.

House Bill No. 1828 presented us with an opportunity to save the pension funds that were caught in the death spiral of negative cash flow, extremely unfunded liability, poor market performance, and excessive benefit plans. At the time, we offered tools to the pension plans that still had a chance of making it on their own. The Senate-passed version included a State takeover for the plans that are the worst off, an estimated 30 to 40 plans statewide that have funding ratios well below the 50 percent safeguard; and new plans for employees that would begin without any liabilities, including the phaseout of plans currently overburdened by huge unfunded liabilities. We protected all current employees, we protected all current pensioners, by preserving and protecting their benefits and helping to insure that their pension funds would be healthy enough to continue paying those benefits for years to come. Our Senate bill, at the time, offered new employees the option of a defined contribution plan that would relieve municipal pension funds of future liabilities and still provide for an employee's future retirement needs.

Our bill also provided a reasonable modification in the collective bargaining process. Again, I want to restate that. I feel strongly that our reform measure provided a reasonable modification in the collective bargaining process that recognized the obligation of working taxpayers expected to bear the cost burden of pension plans headed toward bankruptcy.

All of these added up to offer both temporary relief for pension funds and reasonable cost controls that I feel would have helped nurse many of our ailing municipal pension funds back to health. The bill may not have been perfect, and some have argued it was inequitable, but it was needed reform that would have brought lasting improvements to retirement systems across the State. It seems that most Members, or at least many Members of the legislature--and I mean this respectfully--continue to want to buy the world an ice cream cone with no money to pay for it.

All of these decisions are being made in the shadow of the 800-pound gorilla in the room, Mr. President. The decisions that we are going to have to make by 2012 regarding SERS and PSERS are going to prove to be much more difficult. In fiscal year 2012-13, the State's annual contribution to SERS is expected to skyrocket from our current \$200 million obligation each year to over \$1.5 billion, and further expected to top \$2 billion by year 2030. The current employer contribution rate, meaning our Commonwealth, is expected to go from 4 percent to 25 percent overnight. It is a sucker-punch payment that we have no revenue to pay for.

If we cannot deal with the struggles of a minority of our municipal pension plans, how are we ever going to grapple with the looming budgetary disaster that we face in a couple of years? Will our unwillingness to raise revenue of any type this year carry forward into 2012, making extreme cuts in necessary services the only alternative?

Not only that, we are raising the sales tax in Philadelphia by an additional 1 percent, and as we all know, that tax will go to 8 percent. If the sales tax is the only tax on the table at the time in the future when we have to grapple with that 800-pound gorilla,

we are going to put Philadelphia in the unenviable position of having a 9-percent sales tax.

So what is left in House Bill No. 1828? The bill before us today is not necessarily a bad bill. It still offers the actuarial help necessary to assist municipalities to get through the current crisis created by the stock market crash of 2008. It offers the city of Philadelphia relief from its current budgetary crisis and will keep thousands of city employees on the job, including critical police and firefighters, and I commend the work of Mayor Nutter in getting needed attention to this city's reality. It contains important controls on DROPs and the selection of fund managers and professional service providers by pension funds. And lastly, it contains a backstop for the city of Pittsburgh in the event that it is unable to raise the revenue necessary, from the leasing of parking garages and on-street parking meters, to kick-start their earnest effort to put their pension fund onto much better financial footing.

Frankly, I still do not understand how a 50-percent funding ratio can be considered sound financial footing, but that seems to be the benchmark, or the bar, that we apparently are setting. However, the net effect of the House amendments are to continue to kick the can down the road. House Bill No. 1828 provides for reductions in pension benefits in the near term to provide budgetary relief for boroughs, townships, and cities without the necessary long-term cost controls that would eventually allow us to stabilize our municipal pension systems. We have not changed the rules of the game. As usual, we are merely delaying the inevitable, which is either the complete bankruptcy of a pension system or other systems, perhaps one as large as the city of Pittsburgh, or a major overhaul of how our municipal pension systems operate.

That being said, Mr. President, with serious displeasure, I am voting in favor of this bill because of the short-term help that it provides Philadelphia and other municipalities around the State and because of the needed reforms it delivers regarding pay-to-play, fund management, and the so-called DROP program, about which I know one of my colleagues, Senator Farnese, has eloquently spoken. I hope that my communication to various labor leaders over the past few days will be realized with their advice, participation, and discussion as to how to resolve the weighty matter for the working people we both represent.

Some have asked why I will march in protest during next week's G-20 summit in Pittsburgh, and what the heck does any of this have to do with my duties as an elected State Senator? I contend it has everything to do with my obligations and my opportunities as an elected official to speak up, to continue to educate and to advocate for a change in our nation's economic policies and priorities. While an unregulated financial services sector that has brought us to financial ruin gets bailed out with the hard-earned dollars of working people, we are expected to balance budgets, maintain services, and support quality-of-life programs with no tax increases and no increased revenues. While Wall Street gets taken care of, who the heck is looking out for the interests of Main Street?

We must rebuild our nation's crumbling infrastructure, Mr. President, starting with the industrial manufacturing base, if we

are to build a sustainable State economy. The G-20 summit in Pittsburgh next week must prioritize the pursuit of a coordinated international recovery and sustainable growth plan to create American jobs, American companies, and American manufacturing, insure public investment in climate protection, and not continue the trillions of dollars in wasteful spending on military exploits all around the globe.

The health and well-being of Pennsylvania's economy and the ability of this legislature to grapple with tough economic choices is directly dependent on the outcomes and priorities of our government and G-20 member nations. I will continue to fight for the needs of the working people I represent, and I hope that the Senate revisits the need for pension reform in a meaningful manner in the near future, with all of the various stakeholders present at the table.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

YEA-32

Alloway	Farnese	Logan	Scarnati
Argall	Ferlo	Mellow	Stack
Boscola	Fontana	Musto	Stout
Brubaker	Greenleaf	O'Pake	Tartaglione
Corman	Hughes	Orie	Tomlinson
Costa	Kasunic	Pileggi	Washington
Dinniman	Kitchen	Pippy	Williams
Erickson	Leach	Rafferty	Wozniak

NAY-17

Baker	Gordner	Vance	White, Mary Jo
Browne	McIlhinney	Vogel	Yaw
Earll	Piccola	Ward	
Eichelberger	Robbins	Waugh	
Folmer	Smucker	White, Donald	

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.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Senator ROBBINS, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported communications from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, recalling the following nominations, which were read by the Clerk as follows:

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CANCER CONTROL, PREVENTION AND RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD

September 14, 2009

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 July 14, 2009, for the appointment of Gary Leipheimer, M.P.H., 6635 Terrace Way, Apartment B, Harrisburg 17111, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, as a member of the Pennsylvania Cancer Control, Prevention and Research Advisory Board, to serve for a term of four years and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Col. James E. Williams, Jr., Camp Hill, whose term expired.

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

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCING AUTHORITY

September 11, 2009

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 July 9, 2009, for the reappointment of Herb T. Vederman, 1701 Locust Street, Philadelphia 19103, Philadelphia County, First Senatorial District, as a member of the Pennsylvania Economic Development Financing Authority, to serve for a term of four years and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

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

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA OF THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

September 15, 2009

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 August 28, 2009, for the appointment of Daniel Betancourt, 123 East Lemon Street, Lancaster 17602, Lancaster County, Thirteenth Senatorial District, as a member of the Council of Trustees of Millersville University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2013, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Nelson Sears, Lancaster, whose term expired.

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

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

NOMINATIONS RETURNED TO THE GOVERNOR

Senator ROBBINS. Mr. President, I request that the nominations just read by the Clerk be returned to His Excellency, the Governor.

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

The PRESIDENT. The nominations will be returned to the Governor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senators TARTAGLIONE, BOSCOLA, FERLO, KITCHEN, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, HUGHES, O'PAKE, LOGAN, COSTA, PILEGGI, ORIE, BRUBAKER, DINNIMAN, MUSTO, SMUCKER, PIPPY, EARLL, ALLOWAY and STACK, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 173**, entitled:

A Resolution observing September 15 through October 15, 2009, as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I am pleased to offer this resolution recognizing September 15 through October 15 as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

"Hispanic Heritage Month" was started in 1968 by President Johnson as "Hispanic Heritage Week," and was expanded to 1 month by President Reagan on September 15, 1988. The dates for Hispanic Heritage Month were changed to encompass the anniversaries of independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, and Chile. The dates also include Columbus Day, or Dia de la Raza, which takes place on October 12. Hispanics were the earliest European settlers to arrive at our great nation, founding settlements in Florida in the 1500s, and are the largest minority ethnic group in the United States today. Spanish was the first European language spoken in the New World.

Mr. President, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing "Hispanic Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania, and I encourage all of our citizens to celebrate the diversity and the rich culture that makes this Commonwealth and our nation so extraordinary.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

Senators BRUBAKER, LOGAN, KASUNIC, FARNESE, BOSCOLA, TOMLINSON, O'PAKE, FERLO, BAKER, TARTAGLIONE, WAUGH, MELLOW, DINNIMAN, HUGHES, RAFFERTY, YAW, ARGALL, COSTA, PILEGGI, FONTANA, STACK, ORIE, ERICKSON, GREENLEAF, EARLL, ALLOWAY and D. WHITE, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 174**, entitled:

A Resolution commending the Pennsylvania Association of Regional Food Banks on the 25th anniversary of its establishment.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator John C. Rafferty, Jr.) in the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Brubaker.

Senator BRUBAKER. Mr. President, 25 years ago, the Pennsylvania Association of Regional Food Banks was established as a mechanism for networking among the charitable food distribution centers throughout this great Commonwealth. In the last quarter-century, the Pennsylvania Association of Regional Food Banks has assisted with the acquisition of food, developed public awareness about hunger issues, and steadfastly advocated on behalf of its partners' mission to national, State, and local levels of government. In the past year, the need for Pennsylvanians to utilize food banks has increased between 30 and 50 percent, Mr. President.

As chairman of the Legislative Hunger Caucus, I am introducing this resolution to raise awareness of the increasing hunger crisis within our Commonwealth. I ask for an affirmative vote on this resolution from my colleagues in the Senate.

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 Jeremy M. Houser by Senator Argall.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Terrence Casey and to Patrice Persico by Senators Baker and Musto.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Honorable Jerome P. Cheslock, Abington Area Joint Recreation Board and to Alliance Landfill, Apex Waste Services and Beach Lake Transfer Station by Senator Mellow.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Thomas, Bill Berardelli, Brian Wethey, Douglas Pauls, Bill Muller, Julie Krail Evans, Sharon Fuss Hare, Tim Kulig, Otto Bohmueller, Jerry Bonfiglio, Nicholas Joseph Frigiola, Alissa Moser Gorman, Donald Delp, 1981 North Penn High School Softball Team, 1985 North Penn High School Softball Team, 1960 North Penn High School Football Team and to the Chester Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., by Senator Pileggi.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kurt T. Payne and to Johnathan Payne by Senator Stack.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Carol Austin, Neil Bisno, Jim Savage, Thomas P. Gallo, Jr., Alice Hoffman and to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 752 and the Joint Labor and Management Health and Safety Committee of the Philadelphia Zoo by Senator Tartaglione.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Reverend Dr. Ethelyn Taylor, Melissa Weiler-Gerber, Faatimah Gamble, David L. Cohen, Romona Riscoe Benson, Gloria Thomas, Stella M. Tsai, Barbara Daniel Cox, Rondal Cousar, Benjamin and Robert Bynum, Susan Marie Cook, Donna J. Blatch, Jerald Moody, Louis T. Merchant, Marion Johnson, Robert L. Archie, Jr., Kernie L. Anderson and to Saks Fifth Avenue by Senator Washington.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Fritz, Mr. and Mrs. Murray Henry and to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Fiechuk, Jr., by Senator D. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Reverend Michael Bernard Beckwith, Dr. Robin L. Smith, Dr. Daniel A. Monti, Dr. Frederick D. Burton and to Dr. Anthony J. Bazzan by Senator Williams.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. William C. Gerfen and to Victor Vincent Valchine III by Senator Wozniak.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. John Klepper, Mr. and Mrs. David E. Wallis, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin E. Hugill and to the Sunrise United Methodist Church of Mifflinburg by Senator Yaw.

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION

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

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Jerome Ferdinand Henry by Senator Williams.

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 Andres Kusma was extended to the family by Senator Pileggi.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator BRUBAKER. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now proceed to consideration of all bills reported from committee for the first time at today's Session.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bills were as follows:

SB 987 and HB 792.

And said bills having been considered for the first time,

Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for second consideration.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Stack.

Senator STACK. Mr. President, I will be very brief. I was happy we were able to pass the revised House Bill No. 1828 today. Quite frankly, I have been honored to serve in this Chamber and represent, among my constituents, many, many police

officers and firefighters. They do us all credit in their bravery and their commitment to public service. Their families often do not know or are not sure whether these heroes will come home from work. They constantly put their lives on the line to serve and protect all of us. One of the main reasons I was supportive of House Bill No. 1828 was the fact that I felt that the issue of the future of our police officers and their pension benefits was substantially protected, and it has been an honor for me to have the support of so many great police officers and to have had a chance to stand up and fight for them.

You in particular, Mr. President, also known as Senator Raftery, were a stalwart on this bill, and I appreciated working with you. I also want to compliment the leadership on the other side of the aisle. Many Senate Republicans demonstrated a commitment on this issue to the interests of Philadelphia and to police and firefighters, as well as organized labor on the whole.

I have always felt that one of the great things about this Chamber is that when we really do focus on the real issues that affect the men, women, and children of this State, the sometimes partisan bickering seems to dissipate, and folks work together, Republican and Democrat alike, to get the job done. This, today, is an occasion where I believe that was done. With regard to Mayor Michael Nutter, I appreciate his leadership and his presence here in Harrisburg. I do not think that we have seen a mayor from Philadelphia who has spent as much time here as Mayor Nutter did.

I do not necessarily believe that the solution we have here is the most creative or the best way to solve the fiscal and pension problems that exist in Philadelphia. But I do believe, through all the circumstances and battling over the months, that it is the best solution that we have here today, and that we had a duty to try to get this solution so that Philadelphia can avoid laying off police and firefighters and other city workers, manage its fiscal situation, and become the great city—in fact, as National Geographic had said, the next great city, which, all of us know, it has been a great city, it will continue to be a great city, and we are proud that Philadelphia will have a chance to do that.

I know that Pittsburgh's situation has also gotten some relief here. I know that in the future, we are going to work to get an even more complete solution to the problem. But I wanted to say I am proud, pleased, honored, and happy to have worked with Republicans and Democrats on this issue. It is not perfect, like most issues, but it is a solution, and I look forward to working with each and every one of my colleagues into the future to continue to solve these very challenging problems.

Thank you, Mr. President.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNOR

CORRECTION TO NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The PRESIDING OFFICER 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:

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS

September 17, 2009

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

Please note the nomination dated September 16, 2009, for the appointment of James Miller, 124 Bel Aire Drive, Archbald 18509, Lackawanna County, Twenty-seventh Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators, to serve for a term of four years or until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, should be corrected to read:

James Miller, 124 Bel Aire Drive, Archbald 18509, Lackawanna County, Twenty-second Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators, to serve for a term of four years or until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor

HOUSE MESSAGE

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE BILL

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 925**, with the information the House has passed the same without amendments.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES (Continued)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Farnese.

Senator FARNESE. Mr. President, I will try to be as brief as possible. I know it is getting late. Today, of course, is a great day for Philadelphia, and I applaud the work of all of my colleagues in the Philadelphia delegation to get Philadelphia the help that it needs to help itself. But as I have learned very quickly in this Chamber, we must now begin to look forward to the next obstacle, and one of the issues that has come up right now is the question of table games in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

As we all know, back on July 7, this Chamber passed a piece of bipartisan legislation that I, along with many Members from both sides of this Chamber, worked very hard on, including you, Mr. President, and that is Senate Bill No. 711. After much debate, I think we all agreed, collectively, that the purpose of Senate Bill No. 711 was to fix a piece of legislation, the Gaming Act, that we all believed was broken, that was in dire need of reform, including, specifically, openness and transparency.

I know, with those pieces that I worked on, one of my main goals was to bring an opportunity for the people in Philadelphia and across Pennsylvania to be heard, through public opportunities and disclosures, when we have re-siting or redesign. But over the last several weeks, there has been discussion about table games in Pennsylvania, and including table games as possibly an amendment to Senate Bill No. 711.

I stand before you today, Mr. President, and I urge not only the leadership in this Chamber, but both Houses and actually both sides of the aisle, my Republican colleagues and my col-

leagues in the Senate, who are at the table discussing this issue--I have said it before, and I will say it again: I am not anti-gaming. I did not agree with the way that the selection process occurred in 2006 and the sites of those two casinos.

But if you are talking about amending a reform bill, a bill that we all agree is to reform a piece of legislation that is broken, we have no right and there is no sensible, logical reason to then amend that bill to expand gaming. The same vehicle that reforms gaming should not be used as a vehicle to then expand it.

I believe that if Senate Bill No. 711, Mr. President, is amended to include table games, then the work that this Chamber has done, in a bipartisan effort, to reform the broken legislation that is the Gaming Act will not be remembered as a reform bill. Senate Bill No. 711 will cease to be remembered as a reform bill, but rather, it will go down as simply a delivery device for table games in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We did not work for that, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does not deserve that, and I urge, in the next few weeks, as this discussion begins to take more form, that we remember the work that we put in, in this Chamber, and we keep Senate Bill No. 711 as a separate bill.

Give the Senators and the Representatives in both Houses and both Caucuses an opportunity to vote for reform and then make a decision, a rational and reasoned decision, to vote, if they want to, for the expansion of gaming through table games. That is the opportunity that each and every one of us deserves, and that is the right that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the citizens in this Commonwealth, deserve.

Thank you, Mr. President.

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

The Clerk of the House of Representatives presented to the Senate the following bills for concurrence, which were referred to the committees indicated:

September 17, 2009

HB 721 -- Committee on Public Health and Welfare.

HB 1330 -- Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

HB 1861 -- Committee on Judiciary.

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

September 17, 2009

Senators PICCOLA, RAFFERTY, FERLO, ALLOWAY, ROBBINS and COSTA presented to the Chair **SB 630**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the Medical Practice Act of 1985, adding definitions; and providing for licensure of prosthetists, orthotists, pedorthists and orthotic fitters.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, September 17, 2009.

Senators ROBBINS, KASUNIC, STOUT and WARD presented to the Chair **SB 1078**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, further providing for definitions, for restricted account and for registration of snowmobile or ATV; providing for vintage snowmobile permits; and making an editorial change.

Which was committed to the Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, September 17, 2009.

Senators MELLOW, KITCHEN, FONTANA, HUGHES, TARTAGLIONE, FERLO, WASHINGTON, COSTA, WILLIAMS, BOSCOLA, STACK, STOUT and LEACH, presented to the Chair **SB 1080**, entitled:

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

Which was committed to the Committee on LABOR AND INDUSTRY, September 17, 2009.

Senators MELLOW, LOGAN, MUSTO, WASHINGTON, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, HUGHES, EARLL, RAFFERTY, O'PAKE, PIPPY, COSTA, KITCHEN, STOUT, KASUNIC, STACK and FARNESE presented to the Chair **SB 1081**, entitled:

An Act providing for confidentiality of information for public officials and employees.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, September 17, 2009.

Senators GREENLEAF, TARTAGLIONE, ERICKSON, RAFFERTY, O'PAKE, EARLL, LOGAN, WILLIAMS, BOSCOLA, STACK, COSTA, WASHINGTON, KITCHEN and FARNESE presented to the Chair **SB 1082**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 68 (Real and Personal Property) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in seller disclosures, further providing for real estate seller disclosure form.

Which was committed to the Committee on URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING, September 17, 2009.

Senators GREENLEAF, TARTAGLIONE, ERICKSON, RAFFERTY, O'PAKE, EARLL, LOGAN, WILLIAMS, BOSCOLA, STACK, COSTA, WASHINGTON, KITCHEN and FARNESE presented to the Chair **SB 1083**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 6, 1951 (P.L.69, No.20), known as The Landlord and Tenant Act of 1951, requiring the disclosure of flood history to lessees of residential real property.

Which was committed to the Committee on URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING, September 17, 2009.

Senators GREENLEAF, ERICKSON, O'PAKE and FARNESE presented to the Chair **SB 1084**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, further providing for general powers of board.

Which was committed to the Committee on LAW AND JUSTICE, September 17, 2009.

Senators DINNIMAN, FOLMER, KITCHEN, FARNESE, MUSTO and BOSCOLA, presented to the Chair **SB 1086**, entitled:

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 election of school directors.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, September 17, 2009.

Senators ARGALL, RAFFERTY, WARD and ALLOWAY presented to the Chair **SB 1089**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of February 1, 1966 (1965 P.L.1656, No.581), known as The Borough Code, in powers and duties of elected borough officials, further providing for powers of council, for salary of mayor limited, for general powers of mayor and for duties of mayor.

Which was committed to the Committee on LOCAL GOVERNMENT, September 17, 2009.

Senators PICCOLA, EARLL, WAUGH, BRUBAKER, FOLMER, RAFFERTY and D. WHITE presented to the Chair **SB 1090**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 3, 1992 (P.L.28, No.11), known as the Tuition Account Programs and College Savings Bond Act, further providing for definitions, for declaration of policy, for Tuition Account Programs Bureau, for tuition account programs and funds, for investment policies and guidelines, for participation in Tuition Account Guaranteed Savings Program by eligible educational institutions, for Tuition Account Guaranteed Savings Program, for general provisions governing both tuition account programs, for payments on account of tuition shortfalls, for Tuition Account Program Contracts, for termination and refund and for safeguards and protections.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, September 17, 2009.

BILL SIGNED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair wishes to announce the following bill was signed by the President in the presence of the Senate:

SB 925.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY

The following announcement was read by the Secretary of the Senate:

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

Off the Floor

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND
EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS
(to consider House Bill No. 1828
and certain nominations.)

Rules Cmte.
Conf. Rm.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York, Senator Waugh.

Senator WAUGH. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Friday, September 18, 2009, at 11 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 4:13 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.