

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2012

SESSION OF 2012 196TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 28

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, May 9, 2012

The Senate met at 11 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend JUSTIN WITHROW, Pastor of Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, offered the following prayer:

We stand before You, Lord, our God, and we ask for Your light and strength as the elected leaders of this State of Pennsylvania. You desire justice for all. Enable us to uphold the rights and the dignity of others. Do not allow us to be misled by ignorance or corrupted by fear or favor. As we gather here in the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, may all our decisions be grounded in justice and compassion. May everything we do begin with Your inspiration and continue with Your help so that all our works may be happily ended by You. Help us to relish, to do what is right and just, and to strive to preserve the unity of our Commonwealth.

Confirm us in our common vision and goals by sending Your blessing upon this Assembly, whose Members You brought together today to work in harmony and peace, and who are committed to helping the citizens of this great State. Stir the hearts of our lawmakers so they may wholeheartedly devote themselves to assisting those in need. When they gather, let them not be divided in mind and heart. Let there be no bitterness or quarrel and an end to strife. Give to our Governor, to our Senators, and to all our elected leaders courage and strength of spirit, and enable them to accomplish what is right and good. Protect them from violence, and keep them safe from the weapons of hate. Let no adversity harm them nor any obstacle hinder them from their important work. May all things work for the well-being and the benefit of the people of Pennsylvania and their leaders so that what they rightly desire, they may successfully achieve. Grant that all who plan and conduct business in this Capitol building may, through Your guidance, come to right and just decisions and carry them out fairly and justly.

Through Your gift of wisdom, Lord God, grant that the undertaking we begin today may progress to a successful conclusion. Blessed be the Lord, our God, who does all things wisely and justly. May He enlighten your minds and enable you to communicate truthfully to uphold justice and promote the welfare of our citizens. May the Lord guard your going and your coming, both now and forever. God bless Pennsylvania, and God bless America. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Father Withrow, who is the guest today of Senator Ward.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BILL SIGNED

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley) in the presence of the Senate signed the following bill:

HB 2134.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator BRUBAKER, from the Committee on Finance, reported the following bills:

SB 1265 (Pr. No. 2174) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for an angel investment tax credit.

SB 1388 (Pr. No. 2175) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in realty transfer tax, further providing for acquired company.

SB 1460 (Pr. No. 2176) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, providing for industry partnership tax credits.

SB 1490 (Pr. No. 2177) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, further providing for extension of time to file reports, for changes made by Federal Government and for petition for reassessment; providing for compromise by secretary and for dispute resolution procedures; and further providing and for petitions for refunds.

HB 1913 (Pr. No. 3211)

An Act authorizing abatement of real estate taxes because of destruction or damage of property by Hurricane Irene or Tropical Storm Lee, or the refund of the amount of such taxes by certain political subdivisions; and authorizing reassessment of properties retroactive to August 1, 2011, and a limited moratorium on the increase of certain real estate taxes.

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

SB 1362 (Pr. No. 2173) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, providing for contracting for State trooper services.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Brewster and Senator Washington.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Costa requests legislative leaves for Senator Brewster and Senator Washington. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Senator PILEGGI asked and obtained leaves of absence for Senator BAKER, Senator ORIE and Senator RAFFERTY, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of March 14, 2012, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of March 14, 2012.

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-47

Alloway	Erickson	Mensch	Vance
Argall	Farnese	Piccola	Vogel
Blake	Ferlo	Pileggi	Ward
Boscola	Folmer	Pippy	Washington
Brewster	Fontana	Robbins	Waugh
Browne	Gordner	Scarnati	White Donald
Brubaker	Greenleaf	Schwank	White Mary Jo
Corman	Hughes	Smucker	Williams
Costa	Kasunic	Solobay	Wozniak
Dinniman	Kitchen	Stack	Yaw
Earll	Leach	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Eichelberger	McIlhinney	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
GUESTS OF SENATOR RICHARD L. ALLOWAY
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Franklin, Senator Alloway.

Senator ALLOWAY. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome some guests from Gettysburg in Adams County. They are from the PA Tourette Syndrome Alliance, Inc., and they are housed in Adams County in my home district. I would like to welcome Sabrina Bosse and her guests.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Alloway please rise so that the Senate may give you its usual warm welcome.

(Applause.)

**GUESTS OF SENATOR SHIRLEY M. KITCHEN
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator KITCHEN. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to welcome guests from my district, the Olney/Logan E3 Center. The center offers individuals between the ages of 16 and 22 the opportunity to make a successful transition into adulthood. The center focuses on working with individuals who have left school without earning a diploma or a GED, and court-involved individuals who are returning from the legal placement facilities.

This center does a great service in the city of Philadelphia. It helps young adults become successful contributors to their communities. I want to thank the E3 Center for being a good community partner, and I welcome them to Harrisburg today. I ask my colleagues to join me in giving them our usual warm welcome.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Kitchen please rise so that the Senate may give you its usual warm welcome.

(Applause.)

**GUESTS OF SENATOR ANDREW E. DINNIMAN,
SENATOR DOMINIC F. PILEGGI, AND
SENATOR EDWIN B. ERICKSON
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, it is my honor, on behalf of Senator Pileggi and Senator Erickson, to recognize the Bayard Rustin High School Marching Band. All three of us have communities that feed into Bayard Rustin High School. The Bayard Rustin High School Marching Band won the State Championship, so we are proud that three Senators can say that we have the best marching band in Pennsylvania. They also, in the nationals, won the national percussion section for the band. So, Mr. President, I ask that we give, on behalf of Senator Pileggi, Senator Erickson, and myself, a warm welcome to the Bayard Rustin High School Marching Band, our State champions.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Dinniman please rise so that the Senate may give you its usual warm welcome.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR KIM L. WARD PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator Ward.

Senator WARD. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure today that I welcome the Hempfield Rifle Team to Harrisburg. They have won the 11th Annual Pennsylvania State Scholastic Team Small-bore Rifle Championships. I would also like to thank their coach, Tom Miller, and assistant coach, Jessica Metz, for all of their help in getting them here. We also have an individual State Champion this year, Nicole Metz. She captured the State title in the individual portion of the 11th Annual Pennsylvania State Scholastic Team Small-bore Rifle Championships.

These kids work hard, they are dedicated, and it is tough. I have gone to their practices, and I let them wrap me up the way they have to wrap you up really tight to shoot those guns. It is a lot of work, and I had a hard time just keeping control of myself because I could not move. You can see by the way I use my hands that is a problem, but it is with great pleasure today that I welcome them, and I am so proud of our Hempfield Rifle Team.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Ward please rise so that the Senate may give you its usual warm welcome.

(Applause.)

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

PREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILL OVER IN ORDER TEMPORARILY

SB 1466 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order temporarily at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

PREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 1472 (Pr. No. 2066) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making an appropriation from the State Employees' Retirement Fund to provide for expenses of the State Employees' Retirement Board for the fiscal year July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-47

Table with 4 columns: Alloway, Erickson, Mensch, Vance; Argall, Farnese, Piccola, Vogel; Blake, Ferlo, Pileggi, Ward; Boscola, Folmer, Pippy, Washington; Brewster, Fontana, Robbins, Waugh; Browne, Gordner, Scarnati, White Donald; Brubaker, Greenleaf, Schwank, White Mary Jo; Corman, Hughes, Smucker, Williams; Costa, Kasunic, Solobay, Wozniak; Dinniman, Kitchen, Stack, Yaw; Earll, Leach, Tartaglione, Yudichak; Eichelberger, McIlhinney, 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.

SB 1473 (Pr. No. 2067) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making an appropriation from the Public School Employees' Retirement Fund to provide for expenses of the Public School Employees' Retirement Board for the fiscal year July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-47

Table with 4 columns: Alloway, Erickson, Mensch, Vance; Argall, Farnese, Piccola, Vogel; Blake, Ferlo, Pileggi, Ward; Boscola, Folmer, Pippy, Washington; Brewster, Fontana, Robbins, Waugh; Browne, Gordner, Scarnati, White Donald; Brubaker, Greenleaf, Schwank, White Mary Jo; Corman, Hughes, Smucker, Williams; Costa, Kasunic, Solobay, Wozniak; Dinniman, Kitchen, Stack, Yaw; Earll, Leach, Tartaglione, Yudichak; Eichelberger, McIlhinney, 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.

SB 1474 (Pr. No. 2068) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Professional Licensure Augmentation Account and from restricted revenue accounts within the

General Fund to the Department of State for use by the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs in support of the professional licensure boards assigned thereto.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-47

Alloway	Erickson	Mensch	Vance
Argall	Farnese	Piccola	Vogel
Blake	Ferlo	Pileggi	Ward
Boscola	Folmer	Pippy	Washington
Brewster	Fontana	Robbins	Waugh
Browne	Gordner	Scarnati	White Donald
Brubaker	Greenleaf	Schwank	White Mary Jo
Corman	Hughes	Smucker	Williams
Costa	Kasunic	Solobay	Wozniak
Dinniman	Kitchen	Stack	Yaw
Earll	Leach	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Eichelberger	McIlhinney	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.

SB 1475 (Pr. No. 2069) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund and from Federal augmentation funds to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for the fiscal year July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-47

Alloway	Erickson	Mensch	Vance
Argall	Farnese	Piccola	Vogel
Blake	Ferlo	Pileggi	Ward
Boscola	Folmer	Pippy	Washington
Brewster	Fontana	Robbins	Waugh
Browne	Gordner	Scarnati	White Donald
Brubaker	Greenleaf	Schwank	White Mary Jo
Corman	Hughes	Smucker	Williams
Costa	Kasunic	Solobay	Wozniak
Dinniman	Kitchen	Stack	Yaw
Earll	Leach	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Eichelberger	McIlhinney	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.

SB 1476 (Pr. No. 2070) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making an appropriation from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Small Business Advocate in the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-47

Alloway	Erickson	Mensch	Vance
Argall	Farnese	Piccola	Vogel
Blake	Ferlo	Pileggi	Ward
Boscola	Folmer	Pippy	Washington
Brewster	Fontana	Robbins	Waugh
Browne	Gordner	Scarnati	White Donald
Brubaker	Greenleaf	Schwank	White Mary Jo
Corman	Hughes	Smucker	Williams
Costa	Kasunic	Solobay	Wozniak
Dinniman	Kitchen	Stack	Yaw
Earll	Leach	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Eichelberger	McIlhinney	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.

SB 1477 (Pr. No. 2071) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the restricted revenue accounts within the State Gaming Fund and from the State Gaming Fund to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, the Department of Revenue, the Pennsylvania State Police and the Attorney General for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-47

Alloway	Erickson	Mensch	Vance
Argall	Farnese	Piccola	Vogel
Blake	Ferlo	Pileggi	Ward
Boscola	Folmer	Pippy	Washington

Brewster	Fontana	Robbins	Waugh
Browne	Gordner	Scarnati	White Donald
Brubaker	Greenleaf	Schwank	White Mary Jo
Corman	Hughes	Smucker	Williams
Costa	Kasunic	Solobay	Wozniak
Dinniman	Kitchen	Stack	Yaw
Earll	Leach	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Eichelberger	McIlhinney	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.

SB 1478 (Pr. No. 2072) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Workmen's Compensation Administration Fund to the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Community and Economic Development to provide for the expenses of administering the Workers' Compensation Act, The Pennsylvania Occupational Disease Act and the Office of Small Business Advocate for the fiscal year July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-47

Alloway	Erickson	Mensch	Vance
Argall	Farnese	Piccola	Vogel
Blake	Ferlo	Pileggi	Ward
Boscola	Folmer	Pippy	Washington
Brewster	Fontana	Robbins	Waugh
Browne	Gordner	Scarnati	White Donald
Brubaker	Greenleaf	Schwank	White Mary Jo
Corman	Hughes	Smucker	Williams
Costa	Kasunic	Solobay	Wozniak
Dinniman	Kitchen	Stack	Yaw
Earll	Leach	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Eichelberger	McIlhinney	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.

SB 1479 (Pr. No. 2073) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making an appropriation from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Consumer Advocate in the Office of Attorney General.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-47

Alloway	Erickson	Mensch	Vance
Argall	Farnese	Piccola	Vogel
Blake	Ferlo	Pileggi	Ward
Boscola	Folmer	Pippy	Washington
Brewster	Fontana	Robbins	Waugh
Browne	Gordner	Scarnati	White Donald
Brubaker	Greenleaf	Schwank	White Mary Jo
Corman	Hughes	Smucker	Williams
Costa	Kasunic	Solobay	Wozniak
Dinniman	Kitchen	Stack	Yaw
Earll	Leach	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Eichelberger	McIlhinney	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.

NONPREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILLS
OVER IN ORDER

SB 1467, SB 1468, SB 1469, SB 1470 and SB 1471 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 165 (Pr. No. 3272) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the offense of cruelty to animals.

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

HB 165 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 165, Printer's No. 3272, 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.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 351 (Pr. No. 745) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in particular rights and immunities, further providing for Good Samaritan civil immunity for use of automated external defibrillator and for nonmedical good Samaritan civil immunity.

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

SB 351 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 351, Printer's No. 745, 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.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 932 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 1433 (Pr. No. 2164) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for the Homeowner Assistance Settlement Act; establishing a fund for the purpose of funding the Homeowner's Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program; and providing for an appropriation.

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 Columbia, Senator Gordner.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I want to speak briefly in regard to this legislation. The HEMAP program was first established in Pennsylvania in 1983, and since that time, over 46,000 homes have been saved from foreclosure because of our State HEMAP program. We have provided over \$245 million in appropriations during that period. This is a loan program, and the good news is that we have had, in addition to that, \$275 million of principal and interest payments paid by those homeowners come back into the program, which has resulted in \$500 million worth of loans that have gone out to Pennsylvania homeowners.

This program has had an 85-percent success rate. I think that is incredible. It is a tremendous acknowledgment to PHFA that they have properly screened those folks to make sure that they should be eligible for this program. But to have an 85-percent success rate is great. It means that folks are not losing their homes, and that they are being saved and kept so that they can have the American dream.

Unfortunately, because of our budget concerns, we have limited funding in our current budget, and since September of 2011, PHFA has not accepted any new applicants into this program. So since September, we have not had any new people able to take advantage of HEMAP. Along in February came a national settlement. Forty-nine States with 49 Attorneys General entered into settlements with banking and lending institutions that had done

wrong. As a result of that, there is a large pot of money that is going to those homeowners who were affected, but there is also money going to each State to be involved in some sort of program that would help homeowners. For Pennsylvania, we expect around \$64 million or \$65 million to be available.

What this legislation does is takes 90 percent of that money and directs it to the HEMAP program, takes 5 percent of it to go to the Attorney General's Office, which that office may be able to use to help consumers, and 5 percent to legal services entities that, likewise, work with consumers and help them to avoid foreclosure. We have set it up so that it will be funded over, hopefully, about a 5-year period, and it also front-loads some money. Again, since September, there have been no applicants. There is pent-up demand, and this would provide \$6 million in additional moneys this year to help meet that.

I want to say that I am very proud of our PHFA. They do a tremendous job. Brian Hudson is the executive director there, and they really do a great job in housing projects around our State and helping folks with mortgage assistance. I appreciate the Senate bringing this bill up today. I hope for unanimous support so that we can send it over to the House and, before we leave in June, get this bill done so we can again help Pennsylvania homeowners. Let me mention again, since 1983, we have saved 46,000 homes through our HEMAP program, and with the passage of this bill, I look forward to working with the Attorney General and making sure that we can get this program running again and helping to preserve the American dream. Thank you.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I would like to echo the comments of the gentleman when he spoke about Senate Bill No. 1433 and its significance as it relates to how we are going to work to restore funding to the HEMAP program. We recognize that is a very important program that has been in existence for a number of years, and one that needs to be continued. It was disappointing to see that we reduced that level of funding over the past several years, not just the last year, but the last several years. It is important that we utilize these resources specifically for that purpose. Mr. President, over the course of the past several weeks, Senate Democrats, collectively, have been encouraging both the Governor and the Attorney General in particular to utilize these resources largely in a manner that is being displayed in Senate Bill No. 1433.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the work of a couple of folks on our side of the aisle, Senator Washington and Senator Fontana, who were strong advocates initially along the line of trying to do what we want to do today. All Senate Democrats joined in a letter making that request, and we think it is appropriate that this bill move forward. I, too, like the fact that there are resources that are being allocated for legal services for those programs that are housing programs as well because that, too, is part of the process that needs to be considered.

So again, I want to echo the comments and congratulate the gentleman on the fine work being done and for listening to what our Senate Democratic Caucus had to say on this important point. We look forward to not only unanimous passage here, but similarly in the House, and the Governor's signature at a later point in time.

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-47

Alloway	Erickson	Mensch	Vance
Argall	Farnese	Piccola	Vogel
Blake	Ferlo	Pileggi	Ward
Boscola	Folmer	Pippy	Washington
Brewster	Fontana	Robbins	Waugh
Browne	Gordner	Scarnati	White Donald
Brubaker	Greenleaf	Schwank	White Mary Jo
Corman	Hughes	Smucker	Williams
Costa	Kasunic	Solobay	Wozniak
Dinniman	Kitchen	Stack	Yaw
Earll	Leach	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Eichelberger	McIlhinney	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.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 1480 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 135 and **HB 208** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILL REREFERRED

SB 512 (Pr. No. 513) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of August 10, 1951 (P.L.1189, No.265), entitled, as amended, "An act regulating the appointment, promotion, suspension, reduction, removal and reinstatement of employes (except superintendents, assistant superintendents, inspectors, chief clerks and school guards) in bureaus of police in cities of the second class; and defining the powers and duties of civil service commissions in such cities for such purposes," further providing for qualifications for appointment in the competitive class of the civil service.

Upon motion of Senator PILEGGI, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 632, HB 804, HB 970, HB 973 and **SB 991** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 1090 (Pr. No. 2089) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, 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 tuition account programs and funds.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

SB 1135 (Pr. No. 2090) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in personal income tax, further providing for classes of income.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1255 and **SB 1303** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILLS REREFERRED

SB 1309 (Pr. No. 2091) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in consolidated county assessment, further providing for appeals by taxing authorities.

Upon motion of Senator PILEGGI, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

SB 1314 (Pr. No. 1731) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 16, 1992 (P.L.155, No.28), known as the Assessors Certification Act, further providing for nonapplicability.

Upon motion of Senator PILEGGI, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1381, SB 1398, HB 1398, SB 1449 and **SB 1459** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 1509 (Pr. No. 2150) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Governor, to grant and convey to the Erie Art Museum, certain lands situate in the City of Erie, Erie County.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

SB 1510 (Pr. No. 2151) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Governor, to grant and convey to the Erie Art Museum, certain lands situate in the City of Erie, Erie County.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

BILL REREFERRED

HB 1525 (Pr. No. 3271) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 21, 1989 (P.L.672, No.87), known as the Health Club Act, further providing for employee available to administer CPR.

Upon motion of Senator PILEGGI, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 1682 and **HB 1825** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PILEGGI.

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

SB 1466 CALLED UP

SB 1466 (Pr. No. 2165) -- Without objection, the bill, which previously went over in its order temporarily, was called up, from page 1 of the Third Consideration Calendar, by Senator PILEGGI.

PREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 1466 (Pr. No. 2165) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act to provide from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive and Judicial Departments and the State Government Support Agencies and the General Assembly of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, for certain institutions and organizations, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012; to provide appropriations from the State Lottery Fund, the Tobacco Settlement Fund, the Aviation Restricted Revenue Account, the Hazardous Material Response Fund, The State Stores Fund, the Milk Marketing Fund, the Home Investment Trust Fund, the Emer-

gency Medical Services Operating Fund, the Tuition Payment Fund, the Banking and Securities Department Fund, the Firearm Records Check Fund, the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority Fund, the Oil and Gas Lease Fund, the Home Improvement Account and the Cigarette Fire Safety and Firefighter Protection Act Enforcement Fund, to the Executive Department; to provide appropriations from the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account to the Judicial Department for the fiscal year July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013; to provide appropriations from the Motor License Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2012, to June 30, 2013, for the proper operation of several departments of the Commonwealth and the Pennsylvania State Police authorized to spend Motor License Fund moneys; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive Department of the Commonwealth and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012; and to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds from the General Fund for the Executive and Legislative Departments of the Commonwealth for the fiscal year July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, and to provide appropriations from the Motor License Fund, the Home Improvement Account and the Cigarette Fire Safety and Firefighter Protection Act Enforcement Fund.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

KITCHEN AMENDMENT A10355 OFFERED

Senator KITCHEN offered the following amendment No. A10355:

Amend Bill, page 280, line 14, by striking out all of said line and inserting:

State appropriation.....216,426,000

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

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

Senator KITCHEN. Mr. President, pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 277, this amendment increases funding for general cash assistance by a mere \$150 million. Based on the latest report of the Commonwealth's Independent Fiscal Office, sufficient revenue, in excess of the amount contained in the 2012-13 budget as reported from the Committee on Appropriations, is projected to be available, so that this amendment yields a balanced budget. Mr. President, further, I speak on behalf of the abused women, the disabled, and children living with noncustodial parents across Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I ask for a negative vote. This is a similar amendment to one we faced in the Committee on Appropriations yesterday. It is certainly well-intended, and I know some individuals in my own district who are concerned about this line, but in putting this budget together, I know the Governor is concerned about it, as well as others, that we need to make sure that not only do we balance the budget this year, but set ourselves on a path of sustainability for the future. This budget's spending level as of right now is \$27.6 billion. If you just make modest increases next year, which, obviously, with corrections and other costs, carryforward items that will increase

spending, then this budget will allow for a small increase next year, and we would only have just barely enough revenues to cover that.

We do not look at the budgets at just a one-year level. Yes, there may be some revenue at the end of this year, but we look at them in a multiyear level, and unfortunately, at least at this point in time, we do not believe the revenues are there to keep us on a sustainable track. If May and June become different, we may be able to reconsider, but at this time, unfortunately, Mr. President, I ask for a negative vote.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I ask for an affirmative vote on this very, very important amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Philadelphia. Mr. President, I think it has been articulated by the gentlewoman. It is a very, very important amendment that needs to be considered specifically for the folks she talked about who deserve to have the type of opportunity to be able to have the resources available, as was discussed.

This is one of those amendments, Mr. President, that was not able to make it into the final product at that point in time, but one that we continue to work on to make sure that we will be able to do so. So again, as I stated, I ask for an affirmative vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Philadelphia.

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

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

YEA-18

Blake	Ferlo	Leach	Washington
Brewster	Fontana	Schwank	Williams
Costa	Hughes	Solobay	Yudichak
Dinniman	Kasunic	Stack	
Farnese	Kitchen	Tartaglione	

NAY-29

Alloway	Erickson	Pippy	Waugh
Argall	Folmer	Robbins	White Donald
Boscola	Gordner	Scarnati	White Mary Jo
Browne	Greenleaf	Smucker	Wozniak
Brubaker	McIlhinney	Tomlinson	Yaw
Corman	Mensch	Vance	
Earl	Piccola	Vogel	
Eichelberger	Pileggi	Ward	

Less than a majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the negative.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

FERLO AMENDMENT A10357 OFFERED

Senator FERLO offered the following amendment No. A10357:

Amend Bill, page 294, line 7, by striking out all of said line and inserting:

State appropriation 841,695,000

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

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

Senator FERLO. Mr. President, as I indicated yesterday in the discussion and vote of the Committee on Appropriations, folks from every corner of our Commonwealth have clearly expressed outrage, anger, and opposition to Corbett Budget I, the shock and awe, as I referred to it, of the major cutbacks in the budget for very vital services for folks, communities, and municipalities affecting all 67 counties. I was very pleased to see that the Republican Majority, in what I would consider a seismic paradigm shift, restored \$520 million to some 20-odd line items in the budget, expressing concern that the budget cuts were too deep, too harsh, and that this Senate and the Majority, along with our Democratic support, wanted to express a different spending plan, meeting the needs of our residents and our constituents, but a plan that was responsible, based on what we reasonably expect anticipated revenues to be as reported not only by the daily revenue reports, but also by the Independent Fiscal Office.

This amendment would restore the Human Services Development Fund, which, as we well know, provides funding for programs in Pennsylvania counties that help senior citizens stay healthy, keep people out of institutions, and nurture children, youth, and families. The fund provides counties with a flexible source of funding to be used within the human services programs for which county governments are responsible - adult services, Aging, Children and Youth, drug and alcohol, homeless assistance, the community Mental Health/Mental Retardation programs and services, and other unique programs that benefit those with individual intellectual disabilities. These funds are used to expand existing programs in any and all of the program areas for the coordination of services among these programs and for specialized as well as generic services. The flexibility offered by the HSDF allows counties to maximize both program and cost efficiencies in serving individuals and families with multiple needs, as well as specialized needs of certain client groups.

The amendment would restore funding. It does not attempt or suggest that we should change from the Corbett administration's proposal to create a block grant consolidation approach, giving counties more latitude, and hopefully some discretion. I will not challenge that. I think it is creative and thinking outside the box. The issue here is the amount of money, and the intent of this amendment, Mr. President, is to restore \$83.788 million to get the Human Services Development Fund back up to par of previous year funding, as opposed to the initial Budget Address in February.

I will not go through all the programs. I think everybody is keenly aware, whether we are from large urban counties like Philadelphia or Allegheny County, or all the other 65 counties, every one of us has been involved in programs at the county level that we have mandated these counties to perform. Whether a big county, urban area, small rural community, or big town, we have all seen the beneficial results of a small amount of investment in helping those who are most in need in our society, and are looking to us to provide the leadership and the funds to get a job done. We talk about the thousand points of light. That is

important. Certainly, the philanthropic community has always stepped up to the plate, especially the foundation community and individual givers, but we need structured programs, and that burden and cost falls on the county. I know in Allegheny County, the cutback already resulted in the 1 millage tax rate increase, and I am sure that is going to be the situation around the State and around the other counties we all represent. Again, I not only represent Allegheny County, but parts of Westmoreland and Armstrong Counties.

We all know the programs - from adult day care, chore services, counseling, employment, home-delivered meals, home-maker services, housing, life skills, education, protective services, and I could go on and on. To the credit of everyone in this room, I know each colleague has been involved at some level or another working with community agencies providing funds, volunteering, contributing their time and effort, and are supportive of the intent. I hope and pray that we take a minute before this vote and think about the Sermon on the Mount. Take 1 minute to reflect on that sermon as interpreted by Matthew. So before you vote, think about that. Thank you.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, this is obviously an area of concern for, I think, everyone in this Chamber. This is part of the reason that we began to try to address this line item in the budget. The original proposal asked for a 20-percent reduction. This budget only reflects a 10-percent cut, which is a savings of \$84 million. I know this amendment would restore it completely, which is certainly laudable, but falling back on the previous argument, Mr. President, we need to make sure that this budget not only balances this year but balances in future years. Still, difficult decisions are out there for all of us.

We were able to help in other lines with the areas of mental health and intellectual disabilities, and it certainly will be a priority for all of us. But this particular amendment, as laudable as it is, unfortunately, we will have to ask for a negative vote because I just do not believe the revenues are there to cover this in the out-years. It is important that we keep our State budget in balance, not only in the current year, but also moving forward so that we do not run into huge deficits as we have had in years past.

So, Mr. President, I ask for a negative vote.

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 Brubaker.

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

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

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

YEA-20

Blake	Farnese	Kitchen	Tartaglione
Boscola	Ferlo	Leach	Washington
Brewster	Fontana	Schwank	Williams
Costa	Hughes	Solobay	Wozniak
Dinniman	Kasunic	Stack	Yudichak

NAY-27

Alloway	Erickson	Pileggi	Vogel
Argall	Folmer	Pippy	Ward
Browne	Gordner	Robbins	Waugh
Brubaker	Greenleaf	Scarnati	White Donald
Corman	McIlhinney	Smucker	White Mary Jo
Earll	Mensch	Tomlinson	Yaw
Eichelberger	Piccola	Vance	

Less than a majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the negative.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

GUESTS OF SENATOR JAY COSTA
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I appreciate the indulgence of my colleagues to introduce two guests who are here today who just came over from the House of Representatives. They are very, very familiar to those of us from Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, and the western Pennsylvania region in particular. One of our guests is Rick Sebak, who is a producer and host at WQED Multimedia, our public broadcast station in Pittsburgh. We are honoring him today for his 25 years of dedicated and, I must say, distinguished service to that station. Since joining WQED in 1987, Rick has produced more than 20 documentaries about the history, neighborhoods, buildings, people, and food of western Pennsylvania. His unique documentaries celebrate varied aspects of modern American life and the unexpected charms of Pittsburgh.

Audiences far and wide have learned to recognize his very familiar and friendly narrative style and his unusual topics that he does with such enthusiasm. The PBS stations around the country often rebroadcast Rick's programs because audiences respond so favorably to the quirky blend of Americana places and personalities. During his tenure at WQED, Rick has been the recipient of 10 regional Emmy Awards, has been very instrumental in the production of more than a dozen national programs for PBS, and has been nominated for two prime-time Emmy Awards for his work on "Fred Rogers: America's Favorite Neighbor."

Joining Rick today is the president and CEO of WQED, Deb Acklin. Deb's tenure with the station also includes many achievements and two consecutive Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards for station excellence given by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences to a general manager of a commercial or public television station in Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia, or New Jersey. In addition to her work at WQED, Deb has also helped to launch the very first public television channel in Bermuda.

I ask the Members to join me in celebrating Rick on his 25th anniversary with WQED, and ask that we give our distinguished guests our usual warm Senate welcome.

Thank you, Mr. President.
(Applause.)

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I also have a citation sponsored by me and my colleagues that the Senate approved, recognizing Mr. Sebak's many, many achievements. I offer that to him at this time.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

FONTANA AMENDMENT A10356 OFFERED

Senator FONTANA offered the following amendment No. A10356:

Amend Bill, page 291, line 19, by striking out all of said line and inserting:
State appropriation 154,265,000

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

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

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, I am encouraged today that we are considering a revised State budget; however, I am disappointed that this State budget proposal still contains cuts that impact some of our youngest citizens, our children. In fact, Mr. President, this budget nearly doubles the size of the cut for childcare services proposed by the Governor. He proposed an \$8.9-million reduction, but that would become \$17.6 million under this plan. This line item, Mr. President, supports subsidized childcare and the Keystone STARS program.

Mr. President, we live in an age when many working parents rely on childcare. Daycare centers across the Commonwealth are providing families with a safe, reliable place to send their children to play, make friends, and learn. These centers provide young children with their first experiences in socialization and early education. Mr. President, we know that daycare is expensive and many families have to weigh the cost of daycare versus their weekly paycheck. But for many, there is no choice, they have to work, and the only way they can work is if they have childcare. Working families should not be constrained because they cannot find affordable daycare services. Subsidized daycare helps these families.

If we cut this line item, Mr. President, we are cutting into families' paychecks. We are forcing them to make tough choices, possibly the choice between working and not working. We are certainly going to add to the waiting list, which is already at 10,000 folks. Families across this Commonwealth are already struggling with rising food and fuel costs, stagnant wages, and fewer employment options. They should have a little peace of mind knowing that they can afford to work and to provide a safe environment for their children.

Additionally, Mr. President, we should all have peace of mind knowing that children, from newborns to preschoolers, are in a

quality environment. The Keystone STARS program does just that. Keystone STARS helps daycare centers to maintain and improve their quality of care. It is an innovative program that assures our little ones are receiving care in a safe, educational, and happy environment. Without the program's infrastructure and support, Mr. President, this nationally-recognized program will no longer be able to provide high-quality early care and educational experiences that prepare children for school success.

Mr. President, study after study has shown the long-term benefits of early childhood education. Early education programs give our children the basic skills they need to prepare for kindergarten, achieve academically, and become successful adults. If we invest in our children, we are investing in the health and vitality of this Commonwealth. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and to restore the \$17.6 million in funding that was cut to the childcare services line.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, it is important to note that the increase in the reduction from the Governor's proposal does not have anything to do with eligibility or people getting funding. No one will be cut off from child care services who are currently receiving child care services under the Governor's proposal. The increase that is added to this amendment deals with equipment, playground equipment, projects, things like funding that schools can apply for, one-time sort of projects. It does not have anything to do with the actual care of the children.

Granted, these things are important as well, and most years we are able to do that. This year, it was a tough budget, you make tough decisions. We were focusing on making sure that the services are there, and that no one will be cut off. But unfortunately, we will have to cut back on some of the extras. I do agree with the Senator on the need and the support for early childhood education, and this budget does reflect increases in Head Start and increases in Pre-K Counts. So this is something we would agree on, and I think we address that in this budget. So, Mr. President, again, with the fiscal reality that we are in and we are facing in the future, I ask for a negative vote on this amendment.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

YEA-20

Blake	Farnese	Kitchen	Tartaglione
Boscola	Ferlo	Leach	Washington
Brewster	Fontana	Schwank	Williams
Costa	Hughes	Solobay	Wozniak
Dinniman	Kasunic	Stack	Yudichak

NAY-27

Alloway	Erickson	Pileggi	Vogel
Argall	Folmer	Pippy	Ward
Browne	Gordner	Robbins	Waugh
Brubaker	Greenleaf	Scarnati	White Donald
Corman	McIlhinney	Smucker	White Mary Jo
Earll	Mensch	Tomlinson	Yaw
Eichelberger	Piccola	Vance	

Less than a majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the negative.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

DINNIMAN AMENDMENT A10353 OFFERED

Senator DINNIMAN offered the following amendment No. A10353:

Amend Bill, page 243, line 17, by striking out all of said line and inserting:
State appropriation 100,000,000

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

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

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, first, all of us in this Chamber, in the Majority and the Minority, are doing our best to make sure that education is properly funded. I think we all should be grateful for that. I am glad that the Majority has understood the deficiencies of the Governor's budget and is supporting some of the restorations that are absolutely essential. I certainly appreciate the fact that in the Accountability Block Grant program, \$50 million has been restored. But, my aim in introducing this amendment is to get the final \$50 million added to it so that it will remain even with last year in terms of the Accountability Block Grant program.

What is important for us to understand is that, with the cuts in education, what has occurred in many of our school districts throughout this Commonwealth is that they are cutting all-day kindergarten. Some are considering getting rid of kindergarten entirely. We all know that the future of this Commonwealth depends on children getting an early, good start. I mean, there is no question about that. If you look at any study, the economic studies have shown that for every dollar invested in early childhood education, we save \$16 later on. So, I think, while our aim, of course, is we are limited in what we can spend, we also have to be, as my grandmother would say, not just penny-wise and then pound-foolish, that every cent you spend on helping a child ultimately succeed saves many more cents later on and makes sense, S-E-N-S-E.

So, Mr. President, all I am asking is that we restore an additional \$50 million, which, according to the Independent Fiscal Office, is available, to the Accountability Block Grant program, which has many purposes, including helping students with tutoring, helping students with the necessary remediation work. Once again, all I want to do is go back to last year's level, and I am grateful for the additions that have already been made, I want to go back to last year's level since there is money available, according to our Independent Fiscal Office. I want to make sure that every child in this Commonwealth has an opportunity to succeed.

With the cuts going on in school district after school district, plus the cuts that we have done here in Harrisburg, I think the

Accountability Block Grant program is very, very important. And remember, 75 percent of the money of these grants goes to schools that have not succeeded in terms of our PSSA and other assessments. If our schools do not succeed, we certainly need to help them succeed.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dauphin, Senator Piccola.

Senator PICCOLA. Mr. President, I must respectfully request a negative vote on this amendment. While nobody denies what the gentleman has said about the Accountability Block Grant program and its benefits to early childhood education, the restoration, which I think he applauded, and we all applaud, of \$50 million over the Governor's recommendation, I think, is a major accomplishment. I point out to the Members of the Senate a further mitigating factor that I think justifies a negative vote on this amendment, and that is, within the basic education line item, there is reserved about \$50 million for distressed schools. Some of that money will be directed to those school districts, in a triage sort of manner, who suffer the most from educational basic ed cuts, similar to what we did last year.

In addition, between now and the end of June, the Senate Committee on Education hopes to be able to report out a distressed schools bill that will further direct some of those moneys in a way that will triage them to those districts in crisis situations economically. I think these two approaches, the restoration of the \$50 million and the Accountability Block Grant line item, along with the distressed schools approach that we hope to be taking before the end of June, will mitigate that smaller reduction of \$50 million. I urge a negative vote on the amendment.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

YEA-20

Blake	Farnese	Kitchen	Tartaglione
Boscola	Ferlo	Leach	Washington
Brewster	Fontana	Schwank	Williams
Costa	Hughes	Solobay	Wozniak
Dinniman	Kasunic	Stack	Yudichak

NAY-27

Alloway	Erickson	Pileggi	Vogel
Argall	Folmer	Pippy	Ward
Browne	Gordner	Robbins	Waugh
Brubaker	Greenleaf	Scarnati	White Donald
Corman	McIlhinney	Smucker	White Mary Jo
Earll	Mensch	Tomlinson	Yaw
Eichelberger	Piccola	Vance	

Less than a majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the negative.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

STACK AMENDMENT A10354 OFFERED

Senator STACK offered the following amendment No. A10354:

Amend Bill, page 265, by inserting between lines 20 and 21:
For Adult Basic Coverage Insurance.
State appropriation 100,000,000

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

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Stack.

Senator STACK. Mr. President, this amendment adds \$100 million for the adultBasic health insurance program, based on the latest revenue estimates supplied by the Independent Fiscal Office that shows in excess of \$175 million in revenue is available to make additional restorations to this very vital program. Mr. President, last year, 41,000 people were dropped from the adultBasic program. These 41,000 hardworking Pennsylvanians lost health insurance, and many of them have not been able to obtain other insurance.

According to the Insurance Commissioner's budget testimony this year, only about 30 percent of the 41,000 adultBasic customers enrolled in the Special Care program or Medical Assistance. And those who did, Mr. President, are dropping off rapidly because of the unaffordability of the program. This means that tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians, former adultBasic enrollees who were kicked off the rolls, have no health insurance. Most of these are working women, Mr. President. In fact, over 70 percent of the adultBasic recipients/enrollees were working women.

Mr. President, another important issue is that Pennsylvania ranks sixth among States with the highest impact of chronic disease. According to a study released by the Milken Institute, the cost of treating these conditions totaled \$13.6 billion in 2003, and the impact of lost work days and lower employee productivity resulted in an annual economic loss in Pennsylvania of \$50.5 billion. All of this leads to increased poverty and decreased productivity, and, Mr. President, it is all avoidable.

Mr. President, we can change the situation in the Commonwealth by passing this amendment. We will help working Pennsylvanians obtain affordable health insurance until the Health Insurance Exchange program begins in 2014. It also gives us a chance to review the adultBasic program and make the administrative changes to what is covered, how much is covered, doing better eligibility checks and cost-sharing options to help insure the program's financial survival. And it is only for a short time, Mr. President. It is a program with a long-term track record under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

So, Mr. President, our financial outlook is clearly improving. Bit by bit, we are getting better. But for the 41,000 folks and the 500,000 people who were on the adultBasic waiting list, their outlook is bleak, and it is getting worse, Mr. President. They are one illness, one trip to the emergency room away from financial ruin, and we can prevent these devastating consequences right now, Mr. President. We can make a difference today by passing this amendment. So let us do the right thing, Mr. President.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment. Vote "yes" to saving millions of dollars in uncompensated care. Vote "yes" for decent healthcare for working women.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Don White.

Senator D. WHITE. Mr. President, I rise to respectfully oppose Senator Stack's amendment. There has been nobody in this Chamber probably more consistent, loyal, and persistent on restoring adultBasic, but the facts are that the program expired 18 months ago because there was no more funding to support the program. If we approve the Stack amendment, we would be re-starting a program that does not have a sustained source of funding, thereby providing false hope to those who may be enrolled for a short period of time. Since adultBasic has expired, nearly half of those previously covered have either enrolled in Medicaid or the Special Care program, while others have declined offers to join those programs or were discovered to be enrolled in adultBasic even though they were not eligible under the guidelines.

Additionally, the individuals previously on adultBasic are now likely eligible for the Pennsylvania Fair Care program, which is our high-risk pool, which was recently established under Obamacare. For those reasons, and also for the fact that we have, on the immediate horizon, the Federal Healthcare Reform Act that we need to address, and we are progressing along that route currently, we would have, on January 1 of 2014, full implementation of a plan that a lot of people think is in the best interest of each and everybody worried about their healthcare. So that is to be seen. But for now, I ask for a "no" vote on Senator Stack's amendment.

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

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

YEA-20

Table with 4 columns: Blake, Farnese, Kitchen, Tartaglione; Boscola, Ferlo, Leach, Washington; Brewster, Fontana, Schwank, Williams; Costa, Hughes, Solobay, Wozniak; Dinniman, Kasunic, Stack, Yudichak

NAY-27

Table with 4 columns: Alloway, Erickson, Pileggi, Vogel; Argall, Folmer, Pippy, Ward; Browne, Gordner, Robbins, Waugh; Brubaker, Greenleaf, Scarnati, White Donald; Corman, McIlhinney, Smucker, White Mary Jo; Earll, Mensch, Tomlinson, Yaw; Eichelberger, Piccola, Vance

Less than a majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the negative.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

STACK AMENDMENT A10329 OFFERED

Senator STACK offered the following amendment No. A10329:

Amend Bill, page 374, by inserting between lines 1 and 2:

Section 2108.1. Transfer of surplus funds.--The sum of \$60,000,000 made available to the Legislative Department from appropriations made for prior fiscal years and remaining unspent, unencumbered or uncommitted shall be deposited into the Tobacco Settlement Fund established under the act of June 26, 2001 (P.L.755, No.77), known as the Tobacco Settlement Act, and shall be used for the adult basic program for the purposes delineated in Chapter 13 of the Tobacco Settlement Act.

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

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Stack.

Senator STACK. Mr. President, this amendment transfers \$60 million from the General Assembly's budget surplus to the Tobacco Settlement Fund to fund adultBasic. Mr. President, I think I have said everything I want to say on this for now, so if you would like, we can move this amendment to a vote. I feel confident we are going to pass this one.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, part of the reason why adultBasic fails to exist is because it was funded by a source of funding that was not sustainable over the long haul. When that funding went away, so did the program. This would just set up the same scenario once again. So I ask for a negative vote.

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

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

YEA-12

Blake	Farnese	Schwank	Washington
Boscola	Kasunic	Solobay	Wozniak
Brewster	Kitchen	Stack	Yudichak

NAY-35

Alloway	Erickson	Mensch	Vance
Argall	Ferlo	Piccola	Vogel
Browne	Folmer	Pileggi	Ward
Brubaker	Fontana	Pippy	Waugh
Corman	Gordner	Robbins	White Donald
Costa	Greenleaf	Scarnati	White Mary Jo
Dinniman	Hughes	Smucker	Williams
Earll	Leach	Tartaglione	Yaw
Eichelberger	McIlhinney	Tomlinson	

Less than a majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the negative.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?
It was 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 Delaware, Senator Pileggi.

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, last year, this General Assembly faced the challenge of assembling a State budget during extraordinarily difficult economic times. Working together with Governor Corbett and the House of Representatives, we made the tough choices that were necessary to craft a budget that reflected those times, spending only what the State could afford.

This year, since the Governor's budget proposal on February 7, State revenues have been improving. For 3 consecutive months - February, March, and April - tax collections were above the official estimate. That is good news because it allows us to make some important budgets restorations. However, we must remember that the State will still end this year with a revenue shortfall. The focus of the spending plan contained in Senate Bill No. 1466 is using the additional revenues not to increase funding for programs, but to maintain spending at the current level and to avoid a reduction in funding to critical programs.

This plan does not create a single new program, it does not raise a single tax; in fact, it continues the reduction of the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax. This is a responsible, sustainable State budget. Senate Bill No. 1466 proposes to spend \$26,656,000,000 from the General Fund. That is an increase of just 1.8 percent over the current fiscal year, and it is a lower spending level than Fiscal Years 2008, 2009, and 2010. It also represents a 1.7-percent increase over General Fund spending in Fiscal Year 2007, 5 years ago. As a point of comparison, over that same time period, the cost of living has increased by 11.7 percent.

Mr. President, our Caucus is committed to fiscal responsibility for Pennsylvanians. This budget reflects that commitment. In this proposal, we restored important funding for higher education, for local schools, and for county social services. We restored the health research program known as CURE under the Tobacco Settlement Fund. We restored funding to the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, commonly known as Key 93. There is no question that we accomplished all of this in a way that is sustainable in future years.

Mr. President, I ask for an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 1466.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I personally rise to offer my support for this budget document that goes a long way in terms of moving the process forward both with today's vote and, more significantly, with the restorations that are part of this budget document. My colleague, Senator Pileggi, referenced some of the areas where restorations have been made, and we applaud those restorations. Those restorations line up very well, not perfectly, but very well with the Senate Democratic priorities that were established back in February by our Caucus.

Mr. President, we think it is important to note that while we are pleased and I am pleased with the progress of this document, there is more work that needs to be done. It is imperative that we continue to have the conversation both in this Chamber, and also

across the hall with the administration, as it relates to some of the areas that our Members have offered amendments, the Human Services Development Fund, child care programs and the like, and a number of others. We will continue to have that discussion and debate as we go forward.

I would like to take the opportunity to recognize and thank our colleagues on the other side of the aisle for the participation that we have had through this process. We think it is a process that works better when you have Caucuses working together to achieve something that gets us about half or three-quarters of the way where we would like to get to.

Mr. President, I would like to offer the balance of my remarks for the record.

The PRESIDENT. 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 Allegheny, Senator COSTA:)

Mr. President, the budget plan before us, Senate Bill No. 1466, is a start, and we have come a distance since the Governor announced his budget proposal in February. The plan includes a number of funding streams that have been fully or partially restored from the Governor's plan that include:

- \$245 million in funds for higher education;
- \$50 million each for distressed schools and the Accountability Block Grant program;
- \$35 million in funds for hospitals and nursing homes;
- \$10 million and we have protected fund transfers sought by the Corbett administration, including life science investments.

The Senate Republicans and Democrats have been talking, and we have taken the total budget number to \$27.6 billion and adding \$517 million in key funds to key lines. We realize there are still areas where work needs to be done. It is better and far removed from where we started. I would like to thank Senator Pileggi and Senator Corman for bringing us into the budget talks this year, but we still have work to do.

After last year's budget, we have a long way to go just to recover from the depths of those cuts. More than a billion in basic education dollars were slashed, higher education was deeply cut, DCED job creation programs were eviscerated, and our social safety net was shredded. This budget does not make up for the Corbett budget cuts from last year. We need to continue our work and seek more funds for critical areas. We have to be responsible as we move this plan forward in the process.

The Senate Democrats outlined our budget priorities in a number of news conferences, speeches, and policy meetings since February. Our announced budget priorities include:

- investments in jobs and the economy without a tax increase;
- investments in education to secure our future;
- protection of our safety net;
- smart budget decisions;
- partnering with local government to save dollars.

Senate Bill No. 1466 goes down the path outlined by Senate Democrats, but it does not get us to where we think we need to be for our future. As the process continues, we will need to focus our work in several areas, and we will continue to seek changes that include:

- Restoring more education funds. This plan restores \$112 million for basic education, only \$50 million for the Accountability Block Grants, and \$50 million for distressed schools.
- The plan includes only a partial restoration of a suggested cut to the PHEAA grant program. It would reduce grants by \$11 million below the current year.
- The plan restores 50 percent of Governor Corbett's proposed cut of County Human Services program. This is a big budget item for counties and will impact local taxpayers.

- Child Care Services already reduced in the Governor's proposed plan is cut another \$8.7 million in Senate Bill No. 1466.
- General Assistance grants for abused women, disabled, and children without the custodial parents, plus, a restoration of funds for the adultBasic program.
- Restoring funds for job creation programs and initiatives that invest in our communities and neighborhoods.
- Transportation funding and a fixed program for rebuilding roads, bridges, and maintaining our infrastructure.
- Investing in programs like the ACCESS program in Allegheny County. Without an infusion of funds, the Paratransit program serving the elderly and disabled faces a 35-percent reduction in service.
- Makes smart Department of Corrections changes and invest in key programs. This includes increasing the Intermediate Punishment program to 15 percent of eligible offenders, increasing aid to victims of domestic violence by \$10 million, and adding \$10 million for legal aid.

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

Senator VOGEL. Mr. President, today I rise to offer my support for Senate Bill No. 1466. This budget bill is a commonsense bill to restore public education funding by \$73 million. It restores higher education funding cuts by \$245 million. It offers a soft landing for our social safety net programs in this difficult budget season. This budget proposal keeps State spending in check, is sustainable, and limits spending to match current revenues.

I would be remiss, Mr. President, if I did not point out how this budget, in a manner, restores many items of importance to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Affairs. As chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Affairs, I am pleased to stand before you today lending my support and explaining that this budget is a budget the ag community can be proud of. This budget restores funding for several agricultural programs, including the promotion of Pennsylvania-produced agricultural products through the PA Preferred program, maintaining ag excellence programs, supporting equine and livestock opportunities at the Farm Show Complex, and importantly reinstates funds to the Penn State Extension research, as well as funds for the University of Pennsylvania for veterinary activities and infectious diseases.

In a time of need, Mr. President, this budget authorizes \$5 million from the State Food Purchase Program to leverage more of our Federal complement of food assistance, supporting Pennsylvania seniors and enabling them to receive fresh, nutritional food. I will close, Mr. President, by noting that this is a budget proposal that does not raise taxes, allows us to live within our means, and it protects the most meaningful of priorities currently receiving State support. Hardworking Pennsylvanians expect and deserve no less. I ask my colleagues to support this budget proposal.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I also want to state that I would like an affirmative vote on this budget. While there have been a number of programs that have been restored, there is still some work we have to do. I hope as the revenue projections come in and we have a surplus, that we can sit down and maybe put some of the rest of the programs back in the budget.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Stack.

Senator STACK. Mr. President, first of all, I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and on the Committee on Appropriations for working together to approve a State budget that is clearly less painful than the Governor's proposal. We are fortunate that our revenues are higher than expected, and that means that the money should go right back to the taxpayers to afford the programs and services that they need and that they deserve. This budget plan is certainly a step in the right direction, but it is only a step.

I am going to vote against this plan because I think we can do better. I think we can put more money back in basic education, higher education, and child care subsidies. Our public schools are hurting. That is no mystery, Mr. President. And, ultimately, I think the budget is going to result in increased property taxes. Districts are put in the difficult decision area of raising taxes or cutting programs in the schools and cutting jobs that are vital to our economy. Some districts are going to have to do this even more so to make ends meet.

So there is still no restoration to the charter school reimbursement line item. While the Accountability Block Grant program has been somewhat restored, it is still \$50 million short, compared to last year. This Accountability Block Grant helps schools fund important services like full-day kindergarten, which have been a resounding success in our State. Mr. President, our State-related colleges suffered a significant cut last year. There has been room to restore some of these current cuts, and to keep the costs down and keep colleges more affordable for middle-class families.

The additional \$8.7 million cut to the child care subsidy in this latest proposal is going to hurt working families who need support, so that they can place their children in a safe child care environment. There are already 10,000 children, Mr. President, on the child care subsidy list. Clearly, it is a program that is greatly needed already. The Governor already proposed cutting it by \$8.9 million, and this additional cut will do nothing to decrease that waiting list. If anything, it is going to force families to choose whether or not they can work. And, Mr. President, inevitably, that will increase the welfare rolls.

Additionally, the child care services line item funds a terrific State program called Keystone STARS, which helps day care centers maintain high standards in early education and care. The children of this Commonwealth and their families deserve access to quality, affordable educational opportunities, from day care to university. I know we can do more, Mr. President, to move our education systems forward. I also know that we can do more to help the citizens who are just looking for a hand up in these tough economic times.

You know I have spoken many times in this Chamber, and I spoke in this Chamber again today about the adultBasic program, Mr. President. And I will not stop talking about it because I still hear from those across the State who need this healthcare program, even though it was eliminated over 18 months ago. We only have to get these working men and women some kind of insurance through to 2014, when the Federal health exchange program kicks in. I know we voted against those amendments here in this Chamber, Mr. President, but I still think we should make the effort to create a situation which provides some kind of insurance to these folks who are going to be in dire need.

Finally, I would like to point out that there are still cuts to the Human Services Development Fund, which helps counties fill gaps in their social services spending. These are local programs and services that individuals and their families count on for a better quality of life.

Mr. President, I want to go back to an issue that we have talked about a number of times, and that is the capital stock and franchise tax. If we just pause that tax for 1 year, we could generate \$90 million, which would go toward education, adultBasic, or human services, and that is just one way to generate revenue. If the Governor can come up with \$100 million for funds to buy the Forum Place right across the street, Mr. President, and he could find \$4 million to fund this new voter ID bill, well, then we can find ways to restore funding to these important line items.

Now, I know that this legislative body, I know the men and women, Republicans and Democrats, in this Chamber do not want to see our constituents suffer. We can and we must come up with better ways to insure that we are providing adequate funding to programs and services while working together to move this Commonwealth forward. I know this vote today will not be the end of the road. We will continue to work on a budget with the House, and hopefully the Governor. But I encourage my colleagues to take the next step in the next few weeks and really work to insure that line items like education, child care, and healthcare and human services are properly funded. I do not believe they are properly funded right now, Mr. President, and that is why I urge my colleagues to vote "no." I will be voting "no," Mr. President. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Farnese.

Senator FARNESE. Mr. President, as it is this time again, budget time, I want to rise today and continue my comments on Governor Corbett's budget, a revised budget, a budget put out by this body. Although I applaud both sides of the aisle, Leadership on both sides, for working together, for me, and I have said this many times on this floor, budgets are made up of priorities, and they are made up of leadership priorities in what is chosen to be funded, and the leadership and guts to go after what you believe, as an elected official, still needs to be funded for the people whom you are sent to represent.

For the first time, Mr. President, in 2 years, the Democratic Caucus was invited to participate in the budget negotiating process. They were inside the room. Now, I do not say that so that it can be met with applause, as some kind of a major accomplishment. Quite frankly, Mr. President, I am embarrassed. I am embarrassed that even has to be mentioned, and I believe it is an embarrassment to the entire process itself. But I guess sometimes you have to take your accomplishments where you can find them. So I applaud that as at least a step in the right direction to giving the nearly 5 million people in this Commonwealth whom the Senate Democrats represent, and finally, the people across the aisle are beginning to respect that and take that seriously. I applaud them for that, and I thank them for it.

In all honesty, Mr. President, this is an increase of less than 2 percent over last year's budget, a budget that we sat here at approximately 11:45 p.m. and hammered away for hours and hours about how bad it was for the people of Pennsylvania, a budget that none of my colleagues nor I supported last year, a budget that in our opinion, at least in my opinion, was a zero, a negative. An increase of less than 2 percent over a negative to me is just

not there yet. I know that some of my colleagues will be supporting this budget, and I support them in their effort and in their decision, but for me, like I said, I am just not satisfied.

There is some good news in this budget. You are going to hear about it. You are going to hear about how it has been worked on by both sides in a bipartisan way, and that is important. The people of Pennsylvania should realize that as a step in the right direction. The budget that was voted out of the Committee on Appropriations yesterday, and I, Mr. President, voted "yes" to move this process along, like I have done so many other times in the past, and like I have stood at this podium and said that we should vote more bills out of the Committee on Appropriations, that more bills should be voted out of committees and voted on this floor so they can be heard. This is the place that legislation should be debated, not in back rooms, not in somebody's office, but on this floor. Vote more stuff out of those rooms, get it up here, whether it is voted up or down, get it here so people can see it.

The people in this room who talk about being reformers, they say, get your Constitutions out. The people who talk about being reformers, they should support that idea, because the more things that get on the floor here, the more opportunities that people in Pennsylvania get to be heard. So I supported that bill yesterday in the Committee on Appropriations for the very same reason that I support other bills moving out of the Committee on Appropriations, so that we have an opportunity to do exactly what we are doing right now. One of the greatest things that we do when we come up here is exactly what we are doing right now, getting an opportunity to be heard on this floor, letting the people whom we represent have a voice. I took that opportunity yesterday to move this process along.

Some of the improvements to a disastrous budget suggested by Governor Corbett include, as you already know, restorations to basic education, the Accountability Block Grant Program, distressed school district subsidies, and learning programs and libraries. While these restorations are significant and fund many of the budget priorities championed by this side of the aisle, the Senate Democrats, there are programs that remain deficient in funding within this proposed plan.

For example, PHEAA funding for grants to students has not been reinstated to last year's spending amount. Mr. President, if we are really serious about giving all students the opportunity to seek higher education, then we need to fully restore these cuts. Another example includes cancer screening services that are still being cut this year. Cutting funding, even by a small amount of \$26,000, would be devastating to many of our citizens. Early cancer detection and treatment saves lives, Mr. President. I have taken this podium many times in my 4 years here and said that. My father is a survivor, and I believe to this day that he is a survivor because of early detection and preventative treatment.

In addition, Mr. President, this budget, sadly, does not provide funds to restore the elimination of the General Assistance transition grants that are mostly used as a last resort safety net, Mr. President, by abused women, the disabled, and children without custodial parents, providing only a couple hundred dollars per month to those in absolute need.

We are also only increasing funding to many of our most vulnerable, and this is something that has troubled me from day one about this administration, turning its backs on the people who need government the most at a time when it is the most

critical to them and their families, those on the intellectual disability waiting list. By a nominal amount, we almost have, I believe, 16,000 people on that waiting list right now. As I have expressed before, Mr. President, I was contacted by a mother in my district whose son will be graduating from an autistic support class in Philadelphia this June. I mentioned this young man this past February and March during the hearings of the Committee on Appropriations, and she has been trying to file a waiver funding to enroll him in an adult day program. Unfortunately, when we contacted DPW, they expressed that due to the waiting list—as I said, 16,000 people statewide, the emergency waiting list in Philadelphia currently has over 200 on it—his chances for funding to get onto that list did not look good. This total lack of funding has taken on this and other families in very stressful and unfair ways. A \$10 million increase to the Community Waiver Program, while better than nothing, Mr. President, is not enough to help thousands of our citizens and their families with limited support this coming year.

In addition, Mr. President, the budget plan does not address the elimination of the adultBasic health insurance program. We heard Senator Stack advocate for this program for the last 2 years. I join him in his untiring support of this program. Child care services, already cut in the Governor's proposed budget, would sadly be further reduced.

So ask yourself, Mr. President, is this the best that we can do? As you sit here today, are you proud that this budget is better than what we did at 11:50 p.m. on June 30, 2011? Have we come so far in the last 12 months that we can say now that the budget we are putting together is truly our best work, our best effort for the people whom we were sent here to represent? If so, then I think we should all, Democrats and Republicans, be supporting it. But, Mr. President, as I have said earlier, I simply cannot. Rather, I think we can do better than a 2-percent increase over last year, a budget that will go down in history to be defined as one simple term: cut. Cut. Cut. Cut.

So it is my hope, Mr. President, as we move forward in this process, and I understand that the clock is ticking and that many folks want to wrap up this process early. So on my calendar, Mr. President, it is already June. Actually, let us call it June 1, my birthday, because in many respects, Mr. President, when we come back, the calendar is going to read the last week in May, beginning of June. Then we only have weeks left, weeks left in a process to do the most important job that we were sent here to do. Do not forget that. We were sent here to really do one thing, one thing, to pass a budget, by our Constitution. So if you do not take that seriously, to make sure that we put our best effort forward, then quite frankly, Mr. President, I do not know what we were sent here to do.

So I am hopeful, in the coming weeks, that we can put a budget together that I can stand here with my colleagues and support. Again, for me, Mr. President, two things: priorities and leadership. I demand it from those who lead, and I demand it from myself.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Hughes.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I want to say, first and foremost, that although this process is not over, this process has to end and is required to end by June 30. Although this process is not over and there still remains much work to be done, this is a good first step. This is a very good first step. Now, I know that my good friend and colleague, Senator Corman, who is the chairman of our Committee on Appropriations, would say that, in fact, this is really the second step. But when it comes to representing the true interests of the needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this is the first step. This is the very first step.

We are now beginning a process of truly representing the needs, concerns, and interests of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Quite frankly, it feels good to know that the work that our Caucus has done over the last several months, maybe even a little bit longer than that, Mr. President, to even last year, the work, press conferences, editorials, rallies, town hall meetings, speeches on this floor, it seems that someone has finally been paying attention. We appreciate that, and that is a good thing. We have stood up. We have spoken out. We have said that education is important. We have said that basic education is important. We have said that higher education is important. We have said that those who are suffering and need mental health services are important. We have said that we have to do things to truly represent the concerns and the issues of the people of the Commonwealth, and that if we had the money, we need to invest that money appropriately in the concerns that millions of people of this State have represented to us. This budget does that. What we are confronted with today in this, the first step that represents the interests of the people, is to vote on a document that comes with a little bit more clarity on the issues of the concerns that the people have spoken to us about.

We have put that money, in a bipartisan fashion, working with our Republican colleagues, we have put back money into higher education. We have put back money into basic education. We have put back money into the Human Services Development Fund. We put back money into cancer treatment programs through the Cure Fund. We have done this all in the spirit of cooperation, and I hate to say it, but I am forced to, I wish other folks, especially our colleagues and friends down in Washington, would operate with a little bit better sense of cooperation and then maybe they can move some stuff forward like we are trying to move forward today.

But, Mr. President, even though we added a half-billion dollars back into the Governor's proposal as a response to the needs and concerns of the people of the Commonwealth, even though we focused, in a laser-like perspective, on the students of this State and the quality of education of this State, even though we focused and have been responsive to the mental health issues for many of our citizens in this State, there still remains much work to be done. There still remains much work to be done. We will not have completed our job and been totally responsive if we leave childcare services out by the time we get to June 30. If on June 30 we have not responded to the concerns of those who are suffering on the edge of life through economic and social chal-

lenges, the women, the children, the disabled of this State, because we have not figured out a way to address their concerns in the General Assistance category, if we have left those individuals out, we have not made the mark.

So there is a lot of work that has to be done. We have worked in a bipartisan fashion. We have been in the room, we have been at the table, we have had these conversations, and this Caucus' concerns have been heard and are reflected here. But it is not over yet. There still remains much work to be done. I am glad now that I can say that I am working in the process, at least at this point, and I believe to continue forward, that gives hope for those who need us to respond to their concerns and their issues.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I will be brief, because I think I am the last one to speak before we can all vote and get out of here. So, understanding that sensitivity, let me just say that this budget proposal that is before us reflects the revenues that we have. That is the case when times are tough, and that is the case when times may be a little bit better than what we anticipated. This budget has a modest increase in spending from last year and balances not only this year, but gives us a projection to balance next year, which is important.

It also addresses some concerns that I think we all had. Back in February, when the revenues were not showing up as well, Governor Corbett had to make some very difficult decisions, and he laid out a budget proposal for us to work off of. Fortunately, the revenue picture has cleared up a little bit and improved somewhat. So it allows us to still stay in that fiscal discipline that the Governor has asked us to do and project to the future as he has asked us to do, but still at the same time address some of the concerns, areas in particular of social services, areas of agriculture, as we talked about earlier, areas of basic education, particularly the area of early childhood education, and higher education.

I think, again, if you listen to some of the Governor's remarks in the past about higher education, he has talked about how higher subsidies from the State has not meant lower tuition. Fortunately, in this budget, his wishes are coming true, that if we are able to maintain this restoration and flat-fund State-related universities and the State system, we have a commitment from those presidents and chancellors to work as partners with us to keep any tuition increase at a bare minimum, certainly below the rate of CPI, which is a real victory, Mr. President, for all the families of those students, or the adult students themselves, who have had to deal with skyrocketing tuition in the past. So this budget reflects a real victory for them and I think is a good partnership between the Commonwealth and those universities in providing that quality education that they can provide at an affordable rate that the citizens of Pennsylvania can absorb.

So I look forward to beginning--I will say this is the second step. Governor Corbett's proposal back in February was our first step, this is the second. Clearly, this will not be the final one. The House is going to have their say when they get this bill, and ultimately then, we will sit down with the Governor and negotiate a final product, but I think this is a product that, again, reflects the times we are in, but still makes some strategic investments to move Pennsylvania forward, which I think is all of our responsibilities.

Finally, Mr. President, I just want to say, anytime we put an appropriations bill together, it takes a lot of behind-the-scenes work. I get to stand here in front of the microphone and talk about it, but my staff does a heck of a lot of work. My executive director, Gregory Jordan; Anna Fitzsimmons; and the remainder of the staff do a tremendous amount of work on putting this together, finding the savings, doing the recalculations so that we can put a budget together for Pennsylvania that is meaningful. So I want to thank them for all of their hard work. Unfortunately, they are not done yet. As I said, this is just another step. But still, we are here today because of the hard work of people behind the scenes, and I want to thank them for their hard work.

Thank you, Mr. President. I urge an affirmative vote.

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-39

Alloway	Earll	McIlhinney	Vance
Argall	Eichelberger	Mensch	Vogel
Blake	Erickson	Piccola	Ward
Boscola	Ferlo	Pileggi	Waugh
Brewster	Folmer	Pippy	White Donald
Browne	Fontana	Robbins	White Mary Jo
Brubaker	Gordner	Scarnati	Wozniak
Corman	Greenleaf	Smucker	Yaw
Costa	Hughes	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Dinniman	Kasunic	Tomlinson	

NAY-8

Farnese	Leach	Solobay	Washington
Kitchen	Schwank	Stack	Williams

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.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED**

Senators TARTAGLIONE, PILEGGI, ERICKSON, WILLIAMS and LEACH, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 313**, entitled:

A Resolution honoring fallen firefighters Lieutenant Robert Neary and Daniel Sweeny of Delaware County, 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, 1 month ago, the predawn darkness in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia was broken by a fast-moving fire in an abandoned warehouse. While politicians and lawyers have debated for years about what to do with abandoned properties and absentee landlords, firefighters do not have the luxury of endless deliberation.

They just go, they go without debate, they go without rebuttal, and they go without question. On that April morning, hundreds went, but two never came home. A generation apart, but united by purpose and a commitment to duty, Lieutenant Robert Neary and firefighter Daniel Sweeny died together under the rubble of a collapsed wall after helping to save the neighborhood from a catastrophe.

Lieutenant Neary was 59 years old. He was a husband, a father of three, a 37-year veteran decorated four times for heroism. Only 25, Daniel Sweeny was already a 6-year veteran, the son of a fire captain, and an emergency medical technician. Their loss is being felt throughout the city of Philadelphia, as it would be felt anywhere in this country where alarms go off, doors roll open, and trucks roll out. Through this resolution today, I am asking my colleagues to tell the friends, family, and colleagues of those two fine men that their loss is being felt here as well.

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 VOGEL, SCHWANK, PILEGGI, ALLOWAY, ARGALL, BAKER, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, EARLL, EICHELBERGER, ERICKSON, FERLO, FONTANA, GORDNER, GREENLEAF, HUGHES, KASUNIC, KITCHEN, MENSCH, RAFFERTY, ROBBINS, SOLOBAY, STACK, TARTAGLIONE, WAUGH, D. WHITE, WOZNIAK, YUDICHAK and BOSCOLA, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 314**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing May 15, 2012, as the 150th anniversary of the creation of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and commending the employees of the USDA for their stewardship and productivity which is relied upon daily by the citizens of this Commonwealth.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator VOGEL. Mr. President, today I offer a resolution designating May 15, 2012, as the 150th anniversary of the United States Department of Agriculture. The USDA was established on May 15, 1862, when President Abraham Lincoln signed into law an act to establish a Department of Agriculture. The purpose of the act was to provide useful agricultural information to the people of the United States and also to distribute new and valuable seeds and plants.

Since its inception, the mission of the USDA has been expanded to include food, agriculture, natural resources, and related policy issues, but has remained rooted in the ideal of helping farmers achieve the best product possible with the utmost ease and opportunity. With the help of the USDA, farmers have become key players in both the domestic and international economies. The USDA has promoted greater agricultural education for farmers and non-farmers alike, boosted proper nutrition and health throughout the nation, and instituted stronger communica-

tion between the public and private sectors in an effort to better lead a constantly evolving agricultural system. For this reason, I would like to recognize May 15, 2012, as the 150th anniversary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and I ask for its unanimous support.

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.

Senator BROWNE, on behalf of ALLOWAY, Senators ERICKSON, HUGHES, RAFFERTY, TARTAGLIONE, SOLOBAY, TOMLINSON, KASUNIC, FONTANA, STACK, ORIE, PILEGGI, GREENLEAF, BOSCOLA, D. WHITE, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, BROWNE, COSTA, FERLO, EARLL, PIPPY, FARNESE and BRUBAKER, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 315**, entitled:

A Resolution designating May 15 through June 15, 2012, as "Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

Which was read, considered and adopted by voice vote.

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 Matthew McFarland by Senator Alloway.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ronald Yurchak, Lori A. Michael, Robert W. Seltzer, Jr., Tom Twardzik, Daniel Starry, Matthew Oliver, Beckett Evans, Dustin Hunter Hoffman, Tristan Joshua Evans, Walmart Distribution Center No. 7030 and to the Schuylkill Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance, Inc., of Pottsville, by Senator Argall.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mark I. Navin, Ryan Christopher Hoyt, Judith Shupp, Blanch Torrick and to DVE-TV of Milford by Senator Baker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Sister Siena Finley by Senators Baker and Greenleaf.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Allen Erwine and to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Parente by Senators Baker and Yudichak.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Rabbi Joseph F. Mendelsohn, Kory Paul Helcoski, Gertrude Ott Reese, Matthew Brunetti, Raymond S. Angeli, Nicholas Theodore Stambolian, Jason Kohn and to Tyler Gene VanGorder by Senator Blake.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Justin T. Smith, Nicholas J. Patti, Operation Smile, United Steelworkers Union Local 2599 and to the Portuguese-American community of Bethlehem by Senator Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Arthur L. Scott and to Susan Kubik by Senators Boscola, Browne and Mensch.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Northampton County New Jobs Corporation by Senator Boscola and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. William Kupsy, Karen L. Whitehill, Vincent Richard Bontempo, Sidney Paul Lariar, Daniel Lee Worman Frantz,

Alyssa Bray, Rachel Kosciusko and to The Daily Grind Deli of Bath by Senator Browne.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Joseph J. Roy, Kurt Keller, Megan Frey, Julius Schrott, Timothy Jones, Julian Moody, Priya Sharma, Jared Kelley, Katrina Haase, Asheley Brown, Laquan Williams, Jessica Lyzenga, Timothy Reed, Jesse Koch, Timothy Shook, Ryan Zwickle, Kelvin Lopez, Howard Graeffe, Evan Barrall, Ashley Considine, Brittany Dengler, Shayla Rollock-Serio, Duncan Rodriguez, Daniel Espinal, Emily Triano, Kimberly Hakvaag, Ashanti Littlejohn, Brittney DeAngelis, Holly Smith, Pat Trise Mattox, Ashley Nixon, RoseMary Repsher, Haley White, Olivia Bednar, Stephanie Miller, Allison Coe, Matthew Morrell, Patrick Smith, Dominique Luckey, Francis Barahona, Amanda Rivera, Cindy Tran, Paige Gerstenberg, Ryan Williams, David Fritz, Nicholas Demko, Alyssa Lancsak, Jacqueline Gallagher, Zachery Myers, Jason Ziegler, Derek Stringer, Shane Fulmer, Edwin Roman, Lehigh County Conservation District, Bennett Automotive Group of Allentown, C. E. Roth Formal Wear of Allentown, Cosmopolitan Restaurant of Allentown, Rodale of Emmaus, Crayola of Easton, Lehigh Valley Building and Construction Trades Council, Children's Home of Easton, Air Products of Allentown, Just Born, Inc., of Bethlehem, The Guardian of Bethlehem, Lisa Beslanovits and the B. Braun US Campaign Team of Bethlehem and to The Sacred Heart HealthCare System of Allentown by Senator Browne and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Horn, Mr. and Mrs. J. Clarence Kipp, Mr. and Mrs. Jay S. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mellinger, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Eckert, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Byers, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woolard, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Strohl, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hudak, Cameron Smith, Alexander Vu, Ryo Kojitani, William Shell, Scott Springer and to the Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery of Lititz by Senator Brubaker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Dennis Zimmerman by Senators Brubaker and Folmer.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. James W. Boring, Dr. David R. Maneval, Jacob Mackenzie Matter, Kiana Sechler, Dakota Moore, Nigel Rogers, Nathan Robert Jacobs, Evan Heiser, Dorothy A. Pines, Nicholas E. Lemaster, Andrew S. Gannon, Nicholas Joachim Lyon, Kish Bank of Reedsville and to the Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity, Alpha Beta Chapter, of University Park, by Senator Corman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Walter A. Schratz and to Penn Hills Senior Service Center by Senator Costa.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Shemica Johnson, Keith Lawrence Gasho, Ross David Burton, Garrett Reid Sullivan, William Arthur Barrett-Strake, Dalton Roger Greer, Daniel M. Frantz, Eric Alan Hodge, Mitchell Ross Nussbaum, Alfred Beale Foster, members and coaches of the Henderson High School Academic Team, Devon Preparatory School Academic Challenge Team, Vickers Restaurant of Exton, DiBiase Heating and Cooling Company of Downingtown and to Swope Lees Commercial Real Estate of West Chester by Senator Dinniman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Stephen A. Borland by Senators Dinniman and Browne.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Warren V. Musser by Senators Dinniman and Erickson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to ONE Physical Therapy and Wellness of Bryn Mawr by Senators Dinniman and Leach.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Matthew Briggs, David Whyson, Steven Dewight Miller, Fred N. Imler, Sr., and to Taylor James Smilnak by Senator Eichelberger.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Sharmon Priaux and to the Springfield Walmart by Senator Erickson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum Trust, Inc., of Pittsburgh, by Senator Ferlo and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Salvatore L. Maiorana, Robert G. Okonak and to JoAnn Swingholm by Senator Folmer.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Reverend Michael J. Maranowski and to Christopher J. Siak by Senator Fontana.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sweeney, Shay D. Paul, Nathaniel Lee Laubach, Kevin James Brubaker and to Ryan Pace by Senator Gordner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mason G. Pakhtigian, Laura Wall, Gioia A. Flowers Smith, Lyn Fields and to Bruce Dearnley by Senator Greenleaf.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Tyrone Rush, Geneva A. Black, Wash Cycle Laundry, The Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center and to the Haddington Multi-Services for Older Adults, Inc., by Senator Hughes.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Reverend Monsignor John Edward McCullough, Florence Shutsy-Reynolds, David Winns, Dan Karpency, James Pratt, Brandon Cunningham, Heather Hunchuck, Jacynth Drumhiller, Jennifer Naymick, Rachael Franks, Guy Berkebile, members and coaches of the Penn State Fayette Women's Volleyball Team and to the Penn State Fayette Women's Basketball Team by Senator Kasunic.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Chief Ronald M. Fonock and to the Norristown Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Committee by Senator Leach.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Pascal Schillings, Penrose Hallowell, Annie Scheiter, Elizabeth Saupe, Jerry Blanchard, Peddler's Village of Bucks County, citizens of the Borough of Doylestown, citizens of the Borough of New Hope, Wesley Enhanced Living of Doylestown and to the Greater Philadelphia Falun Dafa Association by Senator McIlhinney.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to George Sanko by Senator Orie.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Thomas Albert Caswell, Robert Bruce McNew, Jr., Joseph Cirilli, William A. Nichol, Clinton Blackwell, Oram Allen, Maryanna K. Carey, Gladys M. Martin, Barbara S. Meadows, Walter L. Thomas, Virginia T. Wakefield and to PathWays PA by Senator Pileggi.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Chief Joseph F. Ferrelli, Emma Caesar, William Smith, Robert Phifer, Loretta Palmosina, Alex P. Kiselica, Jason F. Harnack, Mary Phifer and to Kay Barna by Senator Pippy.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Patrick S. Dittmar, Mark A. Stead, Joseph A. Daye and to Olatunde Oladipo by Senator Rafferty.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Bill Buchanan, John T. Mastrian, Will Knecht, Mike Gagich and to Tom Stanton by Senator Robbins.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Wurster, Amber Preston, Ryan Devlin and to Logan Gorg by Senator Scarnati.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Shane Pusey, citizens of the Borough of Bally and to the Berks Ballet Theatre of Reading by Senator Schwank.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Allan Bunner, Honorable Tim Murphy, Ann Bargerstock, Joseph J. Simatic, Fred Angerman, Darrell Harding, Brian Herman, Walter Malinchak, Ben Jones, Casper Voithofer, Tom Urbanik, Peg C. Flynn, Warren Martin, and to Jack B. Piatt by Senator Solobay.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Jack Adien Carroll, The Salvation Army and to the Tacony Senior Citizens Club by Senator Tartaglione.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Reverend Charles Mudie, Robert Lebo, Jack Petro, Michael James Clark, Mitchell Smedley, Michael Smedley and to the Neshaminy Service Unit of the Girl Scouts of the USA by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Webb S. Hersperger, John T. Henderson, Jr., Brian Eastman, Lindsey Wedemeyer, Katerina Maylock, Chase L. Quirk, Constance Cowman and to Sebastian M. Strobel by Senator Vance.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to James Thomas Pennington, Norah Miller and to the Habitat for Humanity of Beaver County by Senator Vogel.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Michael Ryan Brunson and to Richard Haselbarth by Senator Ward.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz, David E. Poindexter, Marietta Jones Tanner, Milagros Vega, Oscar P. Vance, Jr., Adrian John DeAngelo and to the Women's Christian Alliance by Senator Washington.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kyle Melander, Timothy M. Moffa, James Slaugh, Sr., Timothy Patrick Clymer, Alexander C. Keperling and to Scott Melander by Senator Waugh.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to June Thomas, Connor Harvey, Isabele M. Frick and to Goodman's Foodliner of Curwensville by Senator D. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Aimee Osborn and to the Cherry Run United Methodist Church Camp by Senator M.J. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. David Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Metzger, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Chubb, Mr. and Mrs. David H. Nyman, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Allison, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Moser and to the citizens of Bradford County by Senator Yaw.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bartuska, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hirthler, Dr. D. Darell Dones, Dr. Thomas Pollock, Christian Lisella, Lisa Gennaro, Joseph Moran, Sr., Pierina Pennisi, Jason Figura, Justin Young, Jacob Heydt, Aaron Smith, Thomas Skelly, Derick Reis, Vincent T. Spisak, Mauch Chunk Catholic High School Football Team and to the Dollar General of Wilkes-Barre by Senator Yudichak.

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTIONS

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

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Michael Frank Coley by Senators Dinniman, Washington and Kitchen.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Reverend Canon Thomas Wilson Stearly Logan, Sr., by Senator Hughes.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Wanda Olivia Teagle Bryant by Senator Kitchen.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Theresa Joan Mazullo and to the family of the late Mary Jackson Powell by Senator Mchllhinney.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Robert Joseph Nicolella, Sr., by Senator Solobay.

POSTHUMOUS CITATIONS

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

A posthumous citation honoring the late Brenda J. Worob was extended to the family by Senator McIlhinney.

A posthumous citation honoring the late Staff Sergeant Gustavus Kefurt was extended to the family by Senator Robbins.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator BROWNE. Mr. 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 by voice vote.

The bills were as follows:

SB 1265, SB 1362, SB 1388, SB 1460, SB 1490 and HB 1913.

And said bills having been considered for the first time,

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

BILLS SIGNED

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Jim Cawley) in the presence of the Senate signed the following bills:

HB 1862, HB 1955 and HB 1956.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MONDAY, MAY 14, 2012

8:30 A.M.	LAW AND JUSTICE (public hearing on State Police complement and potential barracks closures)	Gap Family Ctr., 835 Houston Run Dr., Suite 200 Multipurpose Rm., Gap, PA
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10:00 A.M.	TASK FORCE ON CHILD PROTECTION (to consider response to reports of child abuse)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2012

11:00 A.M.	DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE (Roundtable Discussion on cuts in the proposed 2012-13 budget that would adversely affect human services programs and providers in our Commonwealth)	Lackawanna College, 501 Vine St. Scranton, PA
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TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2012

10:00 A.M.	MAJORITY POLICY COMMITTEE (hearing to gather testimony on the economic impact resulting from Pennsylvania's CURE Program)	Senate Maj. Caucus Rm.
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2012

9:30 A.M.	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bill No. 874 and House Bill No. 1857)	Room 461 Main Capitol
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RECESS

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

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, May 21, 2012, at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 1:16 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.