

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Legislative Journal

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015

SESSION OF 2015 199TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 12

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, February 18, 2015

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

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend PAUL AUCKLAND, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Sellersville, offered the following prayer:

Shall we pray.

Eternal God, Heavenly Father, we acknowledge You as the giver of every good and perfect gift. We thank You for the freedom that You have enabled us and allowed us to have as a people and as a nation. You taught us that we would know the truth and the truth would make us free. We also know that You instituted human government and that the powers that exist are ordained by You. Today, we ask You to bless these Senators, grant them wisdom in all that they do today. Bless and guide them in all of the decisions they make. Keep their minds sharp and grant them courage to make the right choices. May they be filled with Your love so they may seek the common good of the people of this great Commonwealth. Be with each Senator, be with his or her family, bless their staffs, and God, please continue to bless the United States of America and the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This is our prayer. Amen, and amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Pastor Auckland, who is the guest today of Senator McIlhinney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BILL INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

February 18, 2015

Senators FOLMER, TEPLITZ, SCAVELLO, YUDICHAK, WILLIAMS, BAKER, WARD, VANCE, BLAKE, BOSCOLA, DINNIMAN and AUMENT presented to the Chair **SB 495**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, in party organization, further

providing for definition of political parties and political bodies; and, in nomination of candidates, further providing for nominations by minor political parties and for nominations by political bodies.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, February 18, 2015.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

Senator David G. Argall as a member of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee.

Senator Jake Corman as a member of the Legislative Data Processing Committee.

Senator Andrew E. Dinniman as a member of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee.

Senator Scott E. Hutchinson as a member of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee, and as a member of the Hardwoods Development Council.

Senator Dominic Pileggi as a member of the Legislative Data Processing Committee.

Senator Matt Smith as a member of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee.

Senator Pat Stefano as a member of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee.

Senator Sean Wiley as a member of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee.

Senator John Yudichak as a member of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee.

Mr. Burt A. Waite as a member of the Citizens Advisory Council to the Department of Environmental Protection.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator WHITE, from the Committee on Banking and Insurance, reported the following bills:

SB 487 (Pr. No. 427)

An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, providing for limits on copayments for insured medical services provided by a physical therapist, chiropractor and occupational therapist.

SB 489 (Pr. No. 429)

An Act amending the act of February 18, 1998 (P.L.146, No.22), known as the Check Casher Licensing Act, further providing for definitions, for authority of department, for conditions for licensing and for

fees and charges; and providing for recovery of losses due to theft and fraudulent misrepresentation.

SB 494 (Pr. No. 442)

An Act amending the act of July 11, 1996 (2nd Sp.Sess., P.L.1879, No.10), known as the Flood Insurance Education and Information Act, further providing for flood insurance education and information.

HB 159 (Pr. No. 145)

An Act amending Title 40 (Insurance) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for medical professional liability reciprocal exchange-to-stock conversion and for adoption of plan of conversion; imposing duties on Insurance Commissioner; providing for contents of plan of conversion, for optional provisions of plan of conversion, for alternative plan of conversion, for effective date of plan, for rights of subscribers whose policies are issued after adoption of plan and before effective date, for corporate existence, for conflict of interest, for failure to give notice, for limitation on actions, for reciprocal insurer insolvent or in hazardous financial condition, for rules and regulations, for laws applicable to stock company, for licensing of stock company and commencement of business as an insurance company, for amendment of policies and for prohibition on acquisitions of control.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Vulakovich and Senator Yaw.

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

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Smith, and a legislative leave for Senator Dinniman.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Vulakovich and Senator Yaw.

Senator Fontana requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Smith, and a legislative leave for Senator Dinniman.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 279 (Pr. No. 444) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act establishing the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Development Advisory Council; and providing for duties of the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Development Advisory Council and the Department of Environmental Protection and for administrative support.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-48

Alloway	Dinniman	McGarrigle	Teplitz
Argall	Eichelberger	McIlhinney	Tomlinson
Aument	Farnese	Mensch	Vance
Baker	Folmer	Pileggi	Vogel
Bartolotta	Fontana	Rafferty	Vulakovich
Blake	Gordner	Scarnati	Wagner
Boscola	Greenleaf	Scavello	Ward
Brewster	Haywood	Schwank	White
Brooks	Hughes	Smith	Wiley
Browne	Hutchinson	Smucker	Williams
Corman	Kitchen	Stefano	Wozniak
Costa	Leach	Tartaglione	Yaw

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.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Vulakovich, Senator Yaw, and Senator Smith have returned, and their temporary Capitol leaves are cancelled.

GUESTS OF SENATOR ELISABETH J. BAKER PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, I am pleased today to introduce two young ladies who have made history as the first- and second-place individual 2014 PIAA cross country State champions from Dallas High School. They are here today with their coach, Matt Samuel; the assistant coach, Amy Rome, who is one of the runner's mom; and Maureen Oremus, who is the mother of Lindsey.

Ally Rome was the 2014 PIAA cross-country State champion. Prior to this year, she medaled at the State meet in her freshman and sophomore years, helping her team win the 2013 Class AA State team championship. Leading up to her win this year, she also won her conference and district meet. She is a three-time district medalist in cross country. Ally is a junior at Dallas High School, where she is active in all school events. She is vice president of student council and she is also part of the student leadership in civics club, which is a group that is designed to better serve the community by offering community service projects, and many are focused on our veterans. She is a member of Junior Leadership, a program for high school juniors teaching them how to better provide leadership abilities in working for large charity events. She has written articles for her school newspaper, and she is the sports editor.

I also would like to introduce the second-place PIAA champion, Lindsey Oremus. She is the daughter of Chris and Maureen Oremus. She has been a member of the cross country team at Dallas High School throughout her 4 years of high school. She has qualified to run in the State meet every year, with her biggest accomplishments coming during her junior and senior years. As a junior, Lindsey finished 14th individually to help her team become the PIAA State Cross Country Champions. This past year she finished fifth, and Lindsey brought home the silver medal individually. In addition to her love of cross country, she competes on the track team, where she runs the mile. She finds time to be involved in school projects, she is student council president, and is a member of the Dallas High School Mini-THON club. Lindsey also volunteers for her local ambulance association, the Franklin-Northmoreland Township Volunteer Ambulance Association, and is a junior firefighter with the Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Department. Lindsey, as a senior, has been out visiting colleges, and she hopes to obtain a career in college while both running and pursuing her degree in nursing.

I ask you to please join me in welcoming our two exceptional student athletes, Ally Rome and Lindsey Oremus, who are here representing Dallas High School in Luzerne County.

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

GUESTS OF SENATOR CHARLES McILHINNEY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator McILHINNEY. Mr. President, I would like to extend my thanks to my constituent, Pastor Paul Auckland from the First Baptist Church in Sellersville, for serving as guest Chaplain today and offering the opening prayer. Accompanying him is his wife, Leslie Auckland, and Leslie works at Primary Care in Souderton, Pennsylvania. Please join me in giving them a warm Senate welcome.

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

(Applause.)

RECESS

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

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

The PRESIDENT. For the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 293 and **SB 316** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 397 (Pr. No. 305) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in bonds and recognizances, amending provisions relating to professional bondsmen and providing for authorization to conduct business within each county, for forfeited undertaking and for private cause of action.

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

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-48

Alloway	Dinniman	McGarrigle	Teplitz
Argall	Eichelberger	McIlhinney	Tomlinson
Aument	Farnese	Mensch	Vance
Baker	Folmer	Pileggi	Vogel
Bartolotta	Fontana	Rafferty	Vulakovich
Blake	Gordner	Scarnati	Wagner
Boscola	Greenleaf	Scavello	Ward
Brewster	Haywood	Schwank	White
Brooks	Hughes	Smith	Wiley
Browne	Hutchinson	Smucker	Williams
Corman	Kitchen	Stefano	Wozniak
Costa	Leach	Tartaglione	Yaw

NAY-0

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

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

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL REREFERRED

SB 9 (Pr. No. 241) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act requiring identification of lawful presence in the United States as a prerequisite to the receipt of public benefits.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 42, SB 43, SB 61, SB 82, HB 89, HB 90, SB 130 and SB 161 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 166 (Pr. No. 102) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in criminal history record information, further providing for expungement of criminal history record.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 178, SB 179 and HB 179 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 290 (Pr. No. 178) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in licensing of drivers, further providing for chemical testing to determine amount of alcohol or controlled substance and for occupational limited license and providing for ignition interlock limited license; and, in driving after imbibing alcohol or utilizing drugs, further providing for ignition interlock and for the offense of illegally operating a motor vehicle not equipped with ignition interlock.

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

BILL REREFERRED

SB 385 (Pr. No. 298) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 8, 2004 (P.L. 1801, No. 238), known as the Transit Revitalization Investment District Act, in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in TRID creation and location, further providing for criteria for proposed TRID, for TRID designation, for implementing authority, for TRID planning study factors, for roles and responsibilities of public transportation agencies and municipalities and for amendments to TRID planning study; in land development powers of public transportation agencies, further providing for development or redevelopment of property; in value capture approaches, further providing for creation of value capture area and for dedication of tax revenues; providing for capture of TRID tax revenue; and, in community involvement, further providing for public meeting to explain TRID and alternative implementation approaches.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 405 and SB 427 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNOR
REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES
AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS**

Senator ALLOWAY, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported the following nomination made by His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

**MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

January 14, 2015

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Jay H. Shah, 330 Gypsy Lane, Wynnewood 19096, Montgomery County, Seventeenth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Temple University of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education, to serve until October 14, 2017, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Ronald Donatucci, Philadelphia, whose term expired.

TOM CORBETT
Governor

NOMINATION LAID ON THE TABLE

Senator ALLOWAY. Mr. President, I request that the nomination just read by the Clerk be laid on the table.

The PRESIDENT. The nomination will be laid on the table.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

Senator VULAKOVICH, from the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, reported the following bill:

HB 152 (Pr. No. 566) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of June 24, 1976 (P.L. 424, No. 101), referred to as the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act, providing for the payment of death benefits.

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 Margaret K. Youmans and to Kiwanis Club of Gettysburg-Adams by Senator Alloway.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jess H. Wetzel by Senator Argall.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Miller, Anthony J. Buda, Dylan Eugene Fritz, Ralph H. Ransom, Jefferson J. Zoller and to Arnold Krafft by Senator Aument.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to David J. Stude and to Jordan Lee Misihowsky by Senator Blake.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Marta Boulos Gabriel, Willard Howard, Michelle Williams-Lopez, Jamie Eggleston and to Brian E. Kutz by Senator Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Gregg Potter by Senators Boscola and Browne.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Ann M. Williams by Senator Boscola and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Patrick Tyler Ruffing by Senator Brewster.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Allen S. Zimmerman, Stanley Taylor Holmes, Alfred Elmer Miller and to Clifford W. DeFrain by Senator Browne.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Terrence Glunt, Tyler Stephen Smith, Samuel G. Plafcan and to Bryson Wagner by Senator Corman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Justin Gene Newman by Senator Costa.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kim Ringler, Matthew D. Tucker, Michele Berardi, Stephanie A. Max and to Jonathan E. Hohnstine by Senator Dinniman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Leon E. Jaskuta by Senators Dinniman and Mensch.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Master Sergeant Louis J. Lusk by Senator Eichelberger.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dorothy Null Frey and to Trinity United Methodist Church of Lebanon by Senator Folmer.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jacob Arnold by Senator Greenleaf.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Michael Andrew Arrington III by Senator Haywood.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Miller and to Kayce Bobnar by Senator Hutchinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Eugene Schiff and to Matthew Bahner by Senator McIlhinney.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Tyler Robert DeLong by Senator Mensch.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Noah Robert Yoder, Andrew J. Powell and to Thomas Masters Russell by Senator Pileggi.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Avenel Kolivoski, Doug Gould and to Dillion Kephart by Senator Scarnati.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Eric Raymond Ly by Senator Scavello.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Carmine V. Molinaro, Jr., Donna J. Evans, Arthur McGann, Bryan Kiesel, Connellsville Recreation Board and to Somerset Trust Company by Senator Stefano.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Stan Wanner and to Fannie Harden by Senator Teplitz.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jennie Affleck, Christian Brodbeck, Samuel Joseph Simon, Sr., and to Susan Brookes by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. J. William Hamm and to Irene C. Ralls by Senator Vance.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jack Zilka, William Vakulick, Kay Don Yute, Ray Burkhart, Dennis Misera,

Ted Bajack, Dave Siarkowski, Carl Strate, Mark Donahue, Dave Donahue, John Yount, Frank Glomb, Emil Zilka, Bernie Grunden, John Robbins, Dave Wislie, Kevin Heilman and to Judy Burkhart by Senator Vulakovich.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Eric S. Reisch and to Theodore A. Somes III by Senator Ward.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Charles Umbenhauer and to Conner Hagins by Senator Wozniak.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. David Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Buehler and to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence L. Knaus by Senator Yaw.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Francis Loughnane, Mr. and Mrs. John Stopay, William Genetti, Kathleen Crampsie and to Isabel Haydock by Senator Yudichak.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jason A. Coleman by Senators Yudichak and Boscola.

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 Mary Curley by Senator Baker.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Jennie Pecsek by Senator Boscola.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Lawrence M. Farnese, Sr., by Senator Kitchen and others.

POSTHUMOUS CITATION

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

A posthumous citation honoring the late Sergeant Charles Marquette was extended to the family by Senator Folmer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015

Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 9, 286, 287 and 385)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
Off the Floor	STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bills No. 266, 500 and 501)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015

9:30 A.M.	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (to consider Senate Bills No. 214, 289 and 307)	Room 8E-B East Wing
10:00 A.M.	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (to consider Senate Bills No. 201 and 352)	Room 461 Main Capitol
10:30 A.M.	JUDICIARY (public hearing to discuss the many collateral consequences of being convicted of a crime) CANCELLED	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015

9:00 A.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (public hearing on Senate Bill No. 3)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:30 P.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (public hearing on veterans' issues)	Room 8E-A East Wing

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2015

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Governor's Office/Governor's Budget Office/Executive Offices)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Independent Fiscal Office - Economic Outlook & Revenue Overview)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of General Services)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Attorney General)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Treasury Dept.)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Auditor General)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Judiciary)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - State Police/Homeland Security)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of Drug & Alcohol Programs)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Gaming Control Board)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:30 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - PA State System of Higher Education)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Community Colleges)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Public Utility Commission)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - SERS/PSERS)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of Health)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2015

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of Insurance)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
11:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - State Related Universities)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of Aging)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of Environmental Protection)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of Corrections/Office of Probation and Parole)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - PA Liquor Control Board)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of Human Services)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of Community & Economic Development)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of State)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of Education)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of Labor & Industry)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of Banking & Securities)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of Revenue/Lottery)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
11:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Historical & Museum Commission)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of Transportation)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of Agriculture)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015

9:30 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - PA Emergency Management Agency)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
11:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Dept. of Military and Veteran Affairs)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now proceed to consideration of the 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 487, SB 489, SB 494, HB 152 and HB 159.

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

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Berks, Senator Schwank.

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, I want to thank you first for the opportunity to have the ability to speak to my colleagues, as well as to those of our public, our constituents who follow what happens in the State Senate. What I want to begin today, Mr. President, is a conversation on the pension issue, something that has been much discussed over the past few years and I believe is one of the most pressing problems facing us here in Pennsylvania. It is a huge issue, one that impacts every citizen in the Commonwealth, whether they are retired, current or future employee of the State or our school systems, a municipal worker or municipal government leader, and everyone else who, as a result of this crushing debt load that we face and the unfunded liability, is paying more and getting less in terms of an education or government services.

Why are we not discussing this? I guess that is why I am standing here today, Mr. President. I cannot understand why we have not had a full conversation about the issue of our pension problem, how we got here, and what we are going to do in the future. I know plenty of plans and legislative initiatives have been released, and I know there are more to come. I personally would say that all of them have missed the mark. While most of them purport to resolve the pension funding problem going forward by switching new employees and school personnel to new pension plans, they do nothing to resolve the \$50 billion unfunded liability that we face right now. Furthermore, all of the legislative initiatives to date only address State and school employees. It is widely recognized, and even our State Auditor General recently released a report on the fiscal problems facing municipal pension plans in communities large and small throughout the Commonwealth. What is truly missing from the conversation to date has been a focus on policy. The solutions brought forth have been political, rather than thoughtful approaches to the pension issue.

I think, Mr. President, that it is time to reframe the conversation. We need to look beyond the numbers. This is not just about a choice between a defined contribution plan or a defined benefit plan, or some other variation thereof. But also, it is about workforce development. What do we want our future workforce to look like in the Commonwealth? This matters to our future, certainly, and our economy. We should be talking about retirement security for employees and a sustainable funding formula for future benefits. We can get to that, Mr. President, but we have to commit to a data-driven, transparent, and open process that brings the stakeholders of pension plans to the table, as well as expertise to give us the best menu of options for the way going forward. That is what I really believe has been missing from this conversation.

Next week, I will introduce legislation that calls for that process through the establishment of a public pension review commission to initiate a process similar to what we did when we looked at transportation funding--and it worked. It was a way to get to the best ideas, and then the legislature has something to vote on that is substantial, and people have a transparent and open process and something to understand exactly what this government is doing. I hope to encourage the public, as well as my fellow legislators, to consider this, learn more about it, and I hope that we can begin that conversation. I know for sure, Mr. President, I will continue to talk about this because I think there is a way to get to some of the best solutions, and I hope to be part of it. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks the Senator for her leadership on this issue, and also now recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Farnese.

Senator FARNESE. Mr. President, I want to rise today and just say a heartfelt thanks and gratitude to so many of the Members in this Chamber who, over the last several days and week since my father's passing, have extended condolences and sympathies. I cannot tell you how much that has meant to both myself, of course, and my mom during this very difficult time. I apologize, I lost my voice today, Mr. President, actually probably over the last couple of days. Every time I thought about it, and I have said it many times here, we argue about issues in this Chamber and debate, sometimes very heated, but at the end of the day there are good, genuine people in this room who come here with the best of intentions. At times like this, when you really need support, they are there, and it does not matter what side of the aisle you are on. I really appreciate that, and I know that my mother appreciates that as well.

As you know, on a personal note, Mr. President, my dad was a big fan of yours. He really enjoyed watching your campaign and was really delighted with the opportunity to vote for you. I remember him talking to me about it many times. So I want to thank you again, and thank everyone for their support. It really is amazing. I was giving my dad's eulogy yesterday and thinking about it, my mom and dad were married 49 years, Mr. President. They would have been married 50 years in May. Two folks who met when they were 13 and 14 years old. So truly a love story that is really one for the books and it was really very, very touching to hear my mom talk about the two of them and how they met.

So, thank you again, Mr. President, for allowing me to take some time today to thank everyone for reaching out and being there for me. I sincerely appreciate it. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair also recognizes that your dad was a great guy whom we will all miss, and our prayers and sympathy are with you and your great mom, Madeline. Your dad is in heaven and knows that he has a great son, and he was very proud of you for all of your accomplishments. So the Chair once again thanks the Senator.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, just a comment. First, I add my voice to the chorus of the people who support the Senator from Philadelphia and what he is going through right now. It is always a tough moment for all of us. We certainly support him and his family during these days.

Briefly, Mr. President, I took note of the Senator from Berks County and her comments dealing with pensions. I applaud her for stepping up and saying or identifying that this is a problem. There are some in this building who do not think that it is a problem. I suggest that it is, and it is a significant problem. Certainly, we have had commissions in the past that have been very successful, and maybe her idea may work as well, but this is a this-year issue. There is no waiting past this budget for this issue to be resolved one way or another. I know my friends on the other side of the aisle put a plan together last year, and the last couple of years, to try to deal with this issue. We put some ideas forward as well. This year we have to come together and solve it. The taxpayers are going to demand it. They are going to need it. If we are going to make the proper investments of basic education in the classroom, if we are going to make the proper investments in economic development, if we are going to make the proper investments in areas around State government that we would like to do, we have to harness the growth of our contributions to the public pension system, and we need to do it this year, Mr. President.

So we look forward to the debate, we look forward to the comment. I am sure, like any good compromise, it will not be all of our ideas or all of your ideas, but at the same time we need to get to common ground with the other side, with the Governor, and with the House, because the property owners back home are going to demand it as their property taxes are going up, their services at the local level are being cut because they have to pay their obligation. Our lack of investment money into basic ed and everything else is because of the money we are putting into the pension fund. So we look forward to the discussion, we look forward to the debate, but make no mistake, it is a this-year issue. We cannot wait any longer.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I want to thank the gentleman from Berks County for her comments, and the Majority Leader's comments regarding this issue. We agree that this needs to be a discussion that needs to take place. I think what we have to recognize, however, is that as we go forward, we have to make certain that what we talk about through this process is relief in a variety of ways, school district relief, for example. It is the short-term relief that we are looking for, whether it be for our school districts or whether it be for our Commonwealth as whole, and that plays itself into the discussion as it relates to our budget.

With respect to long-term relief, I know there are issues and concepts out there that have been advanced that I think present potential problems for us, as we talked about before. I think that is something we have to be cognizant of. We do not want to make worse or exacerbate the unfunded liability issue that is out there, for example. So we need to be cognizant of that, but at the same time, we know that we have to make long-term changes as we go forward. But, most importantly, we are looking, in this particular budget, to begin a process that provides short-term relief to our school districts and to our Commonwealth to allow us to be able to manage and use those resources that we will be able to save from doing that to offset the significant structural budget deficit that the Wolf administration was left with so that we can manage through this process and make investments in Pennsylvania as we go forward.

So we look forward to that conversation, Mr. President. Thank you very much.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, February 23, 2015, at 1 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 11:47 a.m., Eastern Standard Time.