

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015

SESSION OF 2015 199TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 26

SENATE

TUESDAY, May 5, 2015

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

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend GREGORY J. EDWARDS, Senior Pastor of Resurrected Life Community Church, Allentown, offered the following prayer:

It is, indeed, a privilege and pleasure to stand before you this afternoon on this 5th day of the 5th month of the year 2015 to open our Commonwealth's Senate Session at a time of prayer. Before beginning, I ask those gathered in this place at this time to join me in a moment of silence and silent prayer for our State Senator, the Honorable Pat Browne, as he recovers from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident this weekend. We pray his recovery will be swift, his wounds minimal, and his return inevitable.

O God, Creator of the universe, and magnifier of justice, we lift up those gathered in this place on this day to You. We thank You for graciously allowing us to live to see yet another day and thank You for Your continued grace on all assembled here. In this place, on this day and days to come, remind us that it truly matters not to You our respective political affiliation - Democrat, Republican, or Independent - but that You search for a person and a people who earnestly desire to do Your will and follow Your ways of love, peace, and justice regardless of party, race, color, culture, county, or ZIP Code. So we ask, O God, with all humility that by the power and presence of Your Holy Spirit You would anoint this sacred hall once again and those gathered to unite to fervently pursue Your will and intentionally build bridges across differences of opinion, party affiliation, and faith in order to forge and form a more perfect and peaceful Pennsylvania, from our urban corridors of Philadelphia, Allentown, Harrisburg, and Pittsburgh, to our rural outposts of Erie, Shenandoah, and Centre County.

Remind those assembled that their work in these halls is the thread by which the very fabric of economic dignity, fair and just education funding, and social and racial justice can begin to weave itself into the very fiber of our State government, that a State that has been good for some would, in fact, by your hand

be great for all. Remind those who have been elected to this august body that they have been elected by the people of this State to be their eyes, their ears, and their mouths in addressing issues that affect us all. Bring to their collective attention the fact that a major obstacle in doing this work occasionally is that once we are anointed and appointed through our electoral process, we have a tendency to forget that what we do within these hallowed halls impacts countless mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters of all colors, cultures, and creeds far beyond these walls. Remind those here assembled and their respective staff members who walk the corridors of these halls that those very real, everyday, ordinary people are their true assignment and that like all called by You, they are here to ameliorate suffering, to make lives better through the legislation they enact.

God, Your prophet Micah declared a word to us in a book that bears his name in the sixth chapter and the eighth verse, "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." So I pray for these brothers and sisters assembled here to work together to give us good and just government, government that breaks the yoke of oppression and makes way for Your blessing, benefit, prosperity, and promise for all Pennsylvanians; that today You would bind Your anointing that is Your ability to work through them despite their assignment as a Senator; that those assembled here never forget the many people who drove, walked, waited, and worked in order to cast a ballot for them in hopes of a different tomorrow despite the despair of their today, and even those who did not vote for them but yet are counting on them.

Remind them, O God, that together, Republican, Democrat, and Independent, lives are counting on them to remember their everyday struggle with every decision that is made, every piece of legislation drafted, and every meeting and caucus attended. O God, teach them to remember the people counting on the work they do here to resurrect hope. Teach them, O God, to legislate with their heads and their hearts as they make decisions impacting and influencing the lives of Pennsylvanians across the entire State with every piece of legislation drafted and every step on their legislative journey. Then when their work here in these halls today and beyond is done, grant them the satisfaction of Your smile, that lives, in fact, will be changed, promises fulfilled, and Your work completed all for Your greater good and glory. So God, we pray this prayer and lift these words up in the name of One who was in time what You are in eternity. In the name of Jesus the Christ, our great liberator, our great lifter, and our great emancipator, we pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Edwards, who is the guest today of Senator Browne.

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:

May 5, 2015

Senators KITCHEN, TEPLITZ, RAFFERTY, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, VANCE, VULAKOVICH, COSTA, DINNIMAN, TARTAGLIONE, WILLIAMS and HUGHES presented to the Chair **SB 773**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in minors, further providing for definitions.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, May 5, 2015.

HOUSE MESSAGE**HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE BILL**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 79**, with the information the House has passed the same without amendments.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS**STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION
PROPERTY REQUEST No. 1 OF 2015**

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

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Office of the Chancellor
2986 N. Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-1201

April 30, 2015

The Honorable Megan L. Totino Consedine
Secretary of the Senate
Pennsylvania State Senate
462 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Ms. Totino Consedine:

Please accept this letter as a request for a resolution to authorize the sale of property known as the Ross House located at 18 North Main Street and an adjacent parking lot at 19 East Wellsboro Street (known on official documents as 13 East Wellsboro Street), both in the Borough of Mansfield, Tioga County. On April 9, 2015, the Board of Governors of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education approved a request from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania to dispose of the properties, subject to notification of and favorable resolution from the General Assembly.

The University acquired the properties in 2010 with the intention of developing a movie theater in downtown Mansfield for the benefit of its students and the community. After extensive effort, the plan to develop a theater has been deemed financially unfeasible. Other options have also been thoroughly explored and proven unfeasible. As a result, the University has no viable use for the properties, which are neither contiguous to the University nor considered strategic.

The two properties total approximately three-quarters of an acre. The building at 18 North Main Street is a 5,000-square-foot, wood-frame, two-story house that is currently rented to a local realty company for office space. The properties are recorded in Tioga County Deed Instrument Number 201007989 of June 30, 2010, and Instrument Number 201012597 of October 18, 2010, and titled to Mansfield University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education. Appraisals of the properties total approximately \$424,000. Photographs and a location map for the properties are enclosed.

As required by Act 188 of 1982, this office requests that the required resolution to sell these properties be drafted and placed on the calendar for consideration by the General Assembly at the next opportunity. Questions concerning this request should be addressed to Ms. Jennifer Hoover-Vogel, Director of External Relations, at 717-720-4021.

Sincerely,

FRANK T. BROGAN
Chancellor

The PRESIDENT. This will appear on the Calendar as State System of Higher Education Property Request No. 1 of 2015.

**INDEPENDENT FISCAL OFFICE'S
FISCAL YEAR 2015-16; REVENUE ESTIMATES**

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

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Independent Fiscal Office
Second Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

May 4, 2015

The Honorable Joseph B. Scarnati, III
President Pro Tempore
Senate of Pennsylvania
291 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Mike Turzai
Speaker
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
139 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Independent Fiscal Office's initial revenue estimate for FY 2015-16, produced in accordance with 71 Pa.C.S. § 4105.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW J. KNITTEL
Director

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

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator GREENLEAF, from the Committee on Judiciary, reported the following bills:

SB 95 (Pr. No. 654)

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in particular rights and immunities, providing for immunity for protected communications.

SB 294 (Pr. No. 851) (Amended)

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

SB 373 (Pr. No. 288)

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

SB 663 (Pr. No. 852) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in support matters generally, further providing for liability for support; and, in child custody, further providing for consideration of criminal conviction.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Alloway.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Williams.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests a legislative leave for Senator Alloway.

Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Williams.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of March 2, 2015, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of March 2, 2015.

Senator CORMAN. 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 CORMAN and were as follows, viz:

YEA-48

Alloway	Eichelberger	McIlhinney	Tomlinson
Argall	Farnese	Mensch	Vance
Aument	Folmer	Pileggi	Vogel

Baker	Fontana	Rafferty	Vulakovich
Bartolotta	Gordner	Scarnati	Wagner
Blake	Greenleaf	Scavello	Ward
Boscola	Haywood	Schwank	White
Brewster	Hughes	Smith	Wiley
Brooks	Hutchinson	Smucker	Williams
Corman	Kitchen	Stefano	Wozniak
Costa	Leach	Tartaglione	Yaw
Dinniman	McGarrigle	Teplitz	Yudichak

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
2015 PENNSYLVANIA BITUMINOUS COAL
QUEEN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. I call the Members' attention to the fact that we have very important people here on the floor. It is a rarity that guests get to actually appear here on the floor.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Fayette, Senator Stefano.

Senator STEFANO. Mr. President, today is a special day here in the Senate. In just a few minutes, we are going to be addressed by the Bituminous Coal Queen, Alyssa Gallagher. Alyssa lives in South Union Township and is a senior at Laurel Highlands High School. Alyssa is very involved in her school, and you are going to hear a little bit more about that directly from her.

The King Coal Festival has been happening since 1954 in Carmichaels in Greene County. The Bituminous Coal Queen represents and promotes coal and the coal industry at events throughout the Commonwealth. I can personally attest to the busy schedule that the queen keeps. If my colleagues remember from last year, my daughter, Marina, was Alyssa's predecessor and she addressed the Senate last year. The queen is selected through a pageant of young ladies from high schools from Fayette, Washington, and Greene Counties. I ask that we extend a very warm Senate welcome to one of the only two queens who will address the Senate, the Bituminous Coal Queen, Alyssa Gallagher.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Stefano, our queen for today and for the year, please come and address the Senate and receive a customary warm welcome before you do.

(Applause.)

Ms. GALLAGHER. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Alyssa Gallagher, and I am your 2014-15 Pennsylvania Bituminous Coal Queen. It is such a great honor to be here on behalf of the State legislature to be able to speak in front of you all this afternoon. As a senior from Laurel Highland Senior High School, I strive to keep up my good grades, as I will be graduating in June. Being able to represent my school in the pageant last August was such a great experience. I was so proud to be the first winner from my school district in 28 years. Being captain of the varsity cheer squad, a member of math club, SADD Club, and yearbook staff has helped me get more involved with the school in so many wonderful ways. Since the age of 3, dancing has helped me keep my focus, and one of my accomplishments was becoming a company member at Koza and Company Dance Studio in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. My future

plans after school are to attend Point Park University in Pittsburgh, going on to major in dance and minor in business. After attending college, I plan to follow my dreams and move to New York to become a Radio City Rockette.

After capturing the title of Bituminous Coal Queen, my week kicked off with so many fun events: judging the cat and dog parades, getting to help with the funnel cake stand at our festival, and most importantly, my favorite, riding in the parade. All of these events were great, but I had an amazing time touring Consol's Enlow Fork Mine. I was very nervous at first because I was expecting big drills and pick axes, but I was completely wrong. The technology used underground is incredible, and it was nothing I ever imagined.

Special thanks to Representative Pam Snyder for hosting this trip, Senator Stefano, Senator Bartolotta, and my favorites, Miss Lisa, Paddy, Jean, and my Aunt Toni. I could not have asked for a better group of women to spend this trip with. As your Pennsylvania Bituminous Coal Queen, I plan to keep enjoying my year and still continue helping out in my community. For the last time, I am your 2014-15 Pennsylvania Bituminous Coal Queen, Alyssa Gallagher. Thank you.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Alyssa. We will all come and see you when you achieve your dream of becoming a Rockette.

GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN EICHELBERGER AND SENATOR JOHN N. WOZNIAK PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator EICHELBERGER. Mr. President, it is an honor today to recognize a true public servant, Mike Gasbarre, who is here with his wife, Bonnie, his daughter, Kristen, and his son, Ben. All of us in the Chamber know that Mike is the retiring executive director of the Local Government Commission. Mike has been there for 37 years. He started on May 4, 1978, as a research analyst, then he became assistant director in 1987, and executive director in 2004.

Mike is a human encyclopedia of local government laws. He can tell you chapter and verse of everything that has happened with the Municipal Authorities Act, any county or city code issue, or anything that comes up with local taxes or anything else. It is kind of scary sometimes when you engage him in conversation about when something started, how it developed, and who raised it; he remembers all of that. He will be deeply missed by everybody who works with him. His staff loves him, the Local Government Commission members, speaking on their behalf today, have the utmost respect for Mike, and we will move on with Phil Klotz, who will be the new executive director, and he will do an excellent job, but Mike is one of those rare individuals who will never be completely replaced in his position.

Joining us today, also out of respect for Mike, is Senator Bob Robbins and his lovely wife, who are here seated with Mike on the floor, and we enjoy seeing them again, as always, when they make a visit back to the Capitol. I ask for a warm welcome and sendoff for Mike and his family as we wish him much enjoyment and happiness in his retired years, and all the best health and the good memories that go with him from all of the good work that he has done here for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Eichelberger please rise so that we may give you a warm welcome.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. And welcome back to our good friend and colleague, Senator Robbins.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cambria, Senator Wozniak.

Senator WOZNIAK. Mr. President, I have served on the Local Government Commission for many years now. First under Virgil, and now under Michael, and I want to congratulate him on his retirement and his dedication. I will tell you what, a lot of people do not realize the role that the Local Government Commission plays here in Pennsylvania, particularly in the legislative body, but we are sort of a Star Chamber, and the good seal of approval for issues facing local governments goes through that commission. So you could pretty much be guaranteed, as Mike shepherded legislation through and it gets a good seal of approval by the Members of the House and Senate in a very bipartisan fashion, that sticker pretty much guarantees a Governor's signature. It is because of the hard work of Michael and his staff. He will be greatly missed. No man stands forever, and I know he will be replaced by somebody, but he has done one excellent job for local governments here in Pennsylvania, and I want to recognize him for that. Thank you very much.

GUESTS OF SENATOR ROBERT F. TEPLITZ PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator TEPLITZ. Mr. President, today I am pleased to welcome the Hershey High School Girls' Swimming and Diving Team, which took first place in the Class AAA team rankings during the 2014-15 PIAA State Swimming and Diving Championship. With us today are head coach Greg Fastrich, and our champions, Orianna Barone, Kaley Buchanan, Olivia Duck, Maggie Lee, Nadia Mulder, Emily Nolan, Allie Raab, Caylene Rippon, Bailey Robertson, Sally Tafuto, and Vivian Tafuto.

The team earned the prestigious title this year with a total of 262 points. In addition to the State championship title, they also earned some additional awards. Vivian Tafuto won the Class AAA Girls' 200-yard Individual Medley and 100-yard Breaststroke events. She was also named the PIAA Class AAA Female Athlete of the Meet. Allie Raab won the Class AAA Girls' 200-yard Freestyle, and finally, Vivian Tafuto, Kaley Buchanan, Maggie Lee, and Allie Raab won first place in the 400-yard Freestyle Relay event.

So, Mr. President, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating our State champions, the Hershey High School Girls' Swimming and Diving Team, and welcome them to the Senate today.

The PRESIDENT. I see our champions are in the gallery. I ask the Senate to give them our usual warm Senate welcome and congratulations.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR ANDREW E. DINNIMAN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, it is my pleasure today to introduce two guests who are at Conestoga High School, one of the finest high schools in this Commonwealth. They have a period of 3 weeks where students work with various people, and two of those students are working with me in my Senate office.

One is Yuyan Pu, who is our Page here today. She is a graduating senior and will be going to Johns Hopkins University next year, a fine institution, to study economics and environmental studies. She also was president of the Young Democrats Club at Conestoga and of the Future Business Leaders of America. Who says Democrats and business cannot mix well together? Pu is a fine example. Also, very interesting, I read about your essay. She won a national contest in the United States to be called the most philosophical student in America by writing this essay arguing that beauty impacts society more than truth. You will explain all that to me when we have further conversations. Johns Hopkins is a fine place to go and we appreciate you being here.

We have a second student--and these students are chosen by their social studies teacher, Mrs. Ciamacca--Tracy Meyers, who is graduating in June and who will be going to Virginia Tech. Tracy has been involved in both athletics, field hockey, as well as National History Day. She is an AP scholar with honors and is chairperson of the Key Club, which does various good projects for people within the community.

So, it is my pleasure, Mr. President, to introduce them, and allow me to say one word about Conestoga High School. It is a high school that has no dropouts, a high school that has a 99 percent-plus rate of people going on for post-secondary education, a high school with 64 National Merit scholars or letters of commendation, and it shows you what the best schools can do in Pennsylvania, and we want to make sure, Mr. President, every school is the best school. So, if you would give them a warm welcome, I would appreciate it.

The PRESIDENT. Would our great students, the guests of Senator Dinniman, please rise to receive our customary warm Senate welcome.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR JUDY SCHWANK PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, today I have the pleasure of introducing two guests from my district, Bill and Jody Widing. Bill and Jody have been married for 35 years, living 24 of them in Berks County. After raising two children, Jody returned to work outside the home as a community relations coordinator for Bridge of Hope Berks County, a nonprofit which helps homeless single mothers and their children achieve financial and personal stability. Bill is an attorney, having been a member of the Pennsylvania Bar since 1979. He concentrates his practice in trusts and estates, and is currently of counsel to the Wyomissing firm of Kozloff Stoudt. Bill is a former board chair of the American Red Cross Berks County Chapter, and is currently board chair of the Berks County Community Foundation. As you can see, Mr. President, these are two very involved people in Berks County in charitable work in our county and many other activities, and I ask you and my colleagues to join me in welcoming them to the Senate.

The PRESIDENT. How could I not follow that lead? Would the guests of Senator Schwank please stand so we can welcome you.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN C. RAFFERTY AND SENATOR ROBERT B. MENSCH PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, I, along with Senator Mensch, would like to welcome special guests here today. Mr. Clemens spoke this morning at the 2015 Commonwealth Prayer breakfast. Mr. Phil Clemens is chairman of the Clemens Family Corporation, and has spent his entire career with Hatfield Quality Meats. He worked his way through every facet of that operation up to the position of CEO, which he has held through 2014, as they begin to transition now to the next generation of Clemens, a family that has been in business for 120 years in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. President, the corporation has annual sales of \$800 million and employs about 2,200 people and markets products all over the United States. He and his wife, Linda, have three children. Throughout his dedicated career with Hatfield Quality Meats, Mr. Clemens is guided by his leadership skills and strong faith. Today, he gave a very inspirational speech on why God answers our prayers and how it has impacted his life journey and his business ventures. Both Senator Mensch and I ask that our colleagues in the Senate give a very warm traditional welcome to Mr. Phil Clemens.

The PRESIDENT. Will Mr. Phil Clemens, the guest of Senator Rafferty and Senator Mensch, please rise so we can give you our customary warm welcome.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN C. RAFFERTY AND SENATOR JUDY SCHWANK PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, Mr. Clemens is a remarkable man and the family is well-rooted in the Montgomery County community.

I have some truly remarkable students here today from Daniel Boone High School that both Senator Schwank and I would like to introduce to the Senate of Pennsylvania. They are here to better understand the operations of State government, and they had a chance to tour the Capitol today with the Daniel Boone Optimist Club. This is an annual trek by the Daniel Boone Optimist Club to the Capitol of Pennsylvania, and it has always been the pleasure of the Berks County Senators and Representatives to welcome them.

We have with us today Rhylee Callan, Kelsey Delozier, Lana Harris, Emma Kauffman, Lindsey MacGregor, and Kaitlyn Kerr, all students at Daniel Boone High School, and they have all enjoyed their day at the Capitol, having the opportunity to see the House and the Senate in operation. Both Senator Schwank and I ask the Senate to please give our traditional warm welcome to our guests from the Daniel Boone Optimist Club.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Would the Daniel Boone students, the guests of Senator Rafferty and Senator Schwank, please rise so that we may welcome you to the Pennsylvania Senate.

(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 Republican caucus to be held immediately in the Majority Caucus Room.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, Senate Democrats will meet in the rear of the Chamber for caucus as well.

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

AFTER RECESS

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Columbia, Senator Gordner.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Corman.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Gordner requests a legislative leave for Senator Corman. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 264 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 330 (Pr. No. 775) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crime and Offenses) and 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in other offenses, repealing the offense of municipal housing code avoidance; and, in neighborhood blight reclamation and revitalization, providing for failure to comply with a code requirement.

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. I believe she is the maker of this piece of legislation, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, my friend, Senator Ward.

Senator WARD. Mr. President, thank you. I am so happy that you once again referred to me as your friend, instead of just the maker of the bill. I appreciate that.

The PRESIDENT. I tell the truth.

Senator WARD. Mr. President, I rise to ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote on final passage of Senate Bill No. 330. We all have, in our districts, dilapidated properties, ones that we cannot seem to find the owner of or that they refuse to clean up. This bill started because I have a huge hospital right on the main corridor in the district that I serve, which people abandoned and just left there abandoned. We are now in the process of hopefully getting that cleaned up, although, because of the way the laws were, it was very, very hard for the town to get onto the property to see or to cite these owners at an earlier time and maybe we could have found the owners. But now we can, and this bill will lower the threshold of violations so that municipalities can get onto properties and start the process sooner and hopefully save the taxpayers in that area big eyesores and also very dangerous structures. So, I hope that all of you will join me in voting "yes" on the bill.

Thank you very much, my friend.

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-48

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

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 489 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 622 (Pr. No. 644) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for elimination of certain reporting duties of the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee.

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-48

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

NAY-0

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 643 and **SB 699** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 3 (Pr. No. 840) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for the medical use of cannabis in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 7, SB 70, HB 89, HB 90 and **SB 104** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILLS LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 157 (Pr. No. 307) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in professional and occupational licenses, further providing for definitions and for retention and certification.

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

HB 192 (Pr. No. 1189) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of August 5, 1941 (P.L.752, No.286), known as the Civil Service Act, further providing for powers and duties of director.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 221, SB 284 and **SB 285** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL REREFERRED

SB 329 (Pr. No. 220) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, establishing the Ready to Succeed Scholarship Program; and conferring powers and imposing duties on the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency and the Department of Education.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 341 and **SB 398** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 442 (Pr. No. 391) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act requiring notification in advertising.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 501 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL REREFERRED

SB 524 (Pr. No. 786) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Non-narcotic Medication Assisted Substance Abuse Treatment Grant Program; and, imposing powers and duties on the Department of Corrections.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 594 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 644 (Pr. No. 841) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Independent Fiscal Office, further providing for duties of office and for access to information.

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

SB 645 (Pr. No. 842) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for notice and disclosure of proposed collective bargaining agreements and related documents and for open records.

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

SB 678 (Pr. No. 785) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in the State System of Higher Education, further providing for definitions.

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

BILL REREFERRED

SB 683 (Pr. No. 672) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 44 (Law and Justice) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in DNA data and testing, further providing for policy, for definitions, for powers and duties of State Police, for State DNA Data Base, for State DNA Data Bank, for State Police recommendation of additional offenses, for procedural compatibility with FBI and for DNA sample required upon conviction, delinquency adjudication and certain ARD cases; providing for collection from persons accepted from other jurisdictions; further providing for procedures for withdrawal, collection and transmission of DNA samples, for procedures for conduct, disposition and use of DNA analysis; providing for request for modified DNA search; and further providing for DNA data base exchange, for expungement and for mandatory cost.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 687, SB 688 and SB 695 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 490 (Pr. No. 853) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, further providing for organization of agency.

SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senators RAFFERTY, MENSCH, HAYWOOD, FONTANA, BREWSTER, WOZNIAK, SCHWANK, PILEGGI, GREENLEAF, BAKER, WHITE, TEPLITZ, ARGALL, SMITH, McGARRIGLE, DINNIMAN, VULAKOVICH, COSTA, YUDICHAK, WARD, AUMENT, HUTCHINSON and ALLOWAY, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 107**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing May 8, 2015, as the 70th anniversary of "Victory in Europe Day" or "V-E Day."

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, I know you and all of my colleagues will join together to remember the 70th anniversary of "Victory in Europe Day," May 8, 1945. Mr. President, on May 7 at 2:41 a.m., General Jodl signed the unconditional surrender of the German forces on all fronts effective the next day, May 8. After 6 years and millions of lives lost, the Nazi scourge was crushed. The Nazi military forces were vanquished by the Allied forces. This unconditional surrender ended the war in Europe. It was finally over. The Allied powers - the United States, Britain, Canada on the western front, and the free French, and on the eastern front, the Russians - defeated the Nazi military machine. Civilians and military alike joined in giving thanks.

Victory in Europe Day was declared by President Harry Truman on his 61st birthday. President Truman declared the victory in the memory of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who had died that April and was Commander in Chief during most of World War II of the American Armed Forces.

Mr. President, we cannot forget, and we may never forget, the sacrifices made by the men and women, particularly the men, in the Armed Forces in World War II, and the men, women, and children civilians who were slaughtered in that conflict. Mr. President, we have never seen a horrific scourge as the world saw in World War II, and we are hopeful that we never see it again.

So, may we keep alive in our hearts and in our minds the memory of those men and women, especially the American soldiers, Navy, airmen, Marines, Coast Guard, who fought for our freedoms and allowed us, as the Senate of Pennsylvania, to stand here today to debate issues important to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. President, I ask for a unanimous vote on this resolution marking the 70th anniversary of V-E Day.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Senator Rafferty once again for a very important resolution and for recognizing the bravery of all of our fighting men and women and the great history we have in America and Pennsylvania of duty to God and country.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators WARD, WILEY, WOZNIAK, HAYWOOD, TEPLITZ, BREWSTER, GREENLEAF, DINNIMAN, PILEGGI, COSTA, SMITH, BAKER, YAW, RAFFERTY, AUMENT, BARTOLOTTA, VULAKOVICH, FARNESE, ALLOWAY, HUTCHINSON, BROOKS, YUDICHAK and HUGHES, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 108**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the week of May 2 through 10, 2015, as "National Travel and Tourism Week" and May 5, 2015, as "Tourism Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator WARD. Mr. President, Senator Wiley and I offer this resolution that recognizes the week of May 2 through May 10, 2015, as "National Travel and Tourism Week," and observes May 5, 2015, as "Tourism Day" in our great Commonwealth. The purpose of the resolution is to draw attention to and recognize the economic, social, and cultural impacts of travel and tourism in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as the United States. Travel and tourism is a vital industry and generates billions of dollars in spending, local and State taxes, and jobs that support the economy of our Commonwealth. Folks, we are talking about tourism, and remember, "You've Got a Friend in Pennsylvania."

The travel and tourism industry provides Pennsylvania with an opportunity to showcase its spectacular natural scenery and culture. We have the best trails, we have waterways, we have great museums, and we have wonderful parks. You name it, for tourism, we have it here in Pennsylvania. All of these entities bring us a significant economic impact. So, please join me and Senator Wiley in acknowledging and celebrating the important role travel and tourism plays in all of our lives. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Erie, Senator Wiley.

Senator WILEY. Mr. President, today I echo Senator Ward in asking for unanimous support for the resolution designating the week of May 2, 2015, as National Travel and Tourism Week,

and May 5, 2015, as Tourism Day in the Commonwealth. I am going to speak a little bit about the top left corner of the Commonwealth that I know so well. As we all know, I represent the 49th Senatorial District in northwest Pennsylvania. My district is home to not only the most visited State Park in the Commonwealth, with 13 miles of beaches on the shores of beautiful Lake Erie, but also Presque Isle Downs Casino, one of the world's best steelhead trout fishing in all of the world, world renowned wine trails, the only indoor water park in the tri-State area, one of the country's top-rated wooden roller coasters, the largest outdoor wave pool in the tri-State area, and, of course, the U.S. Brig Niagara, a floating piece of Pennsylvania and American history. I mention these, Mr. President, as the economic impact of tourism in Erie County is staggering, including visitor spending of over \$1 billion each year. Hospitality and leisure employment in peak season is responsible for over 16,000 jobs. Total tourism economy labor income is \$375 million, and tourism economy taxes, including State, local, and Federal, has generated \$179 million in Erie County alone. In addition, Mr. President, the growth of tourism visitation to Erie in the last 10 years has allowed for an increase in 1,500 hotel rooms with an average occupancy rate of over 90 percent, a state-of-the-art convention center, and a growth in wineries from 4 to 11. It is easy to see the true impact that tourism has not only in the 49th Senatorial District but also the Commonwealth as a whole.

During my tenure as director of administration for Erie County, the administration was instrumental in levying a hotel/motel tax to fund and coordinate our tourism efforts through the lead tourism organization named VisitErie. I am incredibly impressed with the commitment of VisitErie to driving tourism to the greater Erie community and their involvement in bringing new ideas to life. Their Hello Erie campaign is second to none.

Mr. President, I feel it is my duty to introduce my colleagues to northwest Pennsylvania. We are much more than just snow. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT. I will visit Erie this summer, as I have before, and also to mention a great and beautiful resource of Erie, its people. Thank you, Senator Wiley, and thank you once again, Senator Ward.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators PILEGGI, AUMENT, BAKER, BREWSTER, COSTA, DINNIMAN, FARNESE, GREENLEAF, HAYWOOD, RAFFERTY, SMITH, TEPLITZ, VULAKOVICH and HUGHES, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 109**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of May 11 through 15, 2015, as "Juror Appreciation Week" in Pennsylvania.

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

Senators TEPLITZ, HAYWOOD, VOGEL, GREENLEAF, EICHELBERGER, MENSCH, FONTANA, HUTCHINSON, SCHWANK, BREWSTER, BAKER, YUDICHAK, PILEGGI, AUMENT, WARD, SMITH, VULAKOVICH, TARTAGLIONE, HUGHES, ALLOWAY, COSTA, RAFFER-

TY, SCAVELLO, BOSCOLA, SCARNATI, BLAKE and KITCHEN, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 110**, entitled:

A Resolution designating May 8, 2015, as "Military Spouse Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator TEPLITZ. Mr. President, my resolution designates May 8, 2015, as "Military Spouse Day" in Pennsylvania. Military Spouse Day was created by President Ronald Reagan in 1984 as a day to recognize the contributions made by military spouses to the well-being of our servicemen and women and our military communities. Today's military spouses, both men and women, often endure long separations from their loved ones. Many times these wives and husbands are left to single-handedly take care of their children, their homes, as well as their own careers. So, I ask that my colleagues join me to honor the commitment that military spouses have made to their loved ones by supporting this resolution designating May 8, 2015, as Military Spouse Day in Pennsylvania.

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

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

Senator WOZNIAK, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 111**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of May 2015 as "Sleep Apnea Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cambria, Senator Wozniak.

Senator WOZNIAK. Well, Mr. President, I do this every year. It is May and this is "Sleep Apnea Awareness Month." It is an insidious disease that causes you disruptive sleep at night. It can be done by many different ways, but fortunately technology has moved forward through operations, through devices, through mechanics, and it can be controlled and even cured. The difficulty in sleep apnea, and I can speak from experience, as I had it myself, is that most people are male, but it can happen to male and female. People think of it as something that only affects heavy, obese individuals, but the problem that really occurs is that people tend to be stubborn, particularly the men. Oh, I just work too hard, I did not do this right, I am not getting the right kind of sleep. Everything but something is wrong. I urge all those stubborn men out there, and your significant others, your spouses, if you are snoring or not sleeping right, to go see a physician. This disease causes strokes, high blood pressure, and a myriad of other diseases. The other thing that occurs is that you find yourself falling asleep when you should not be, behind the wheel. It is dangerous, but it can be controlled or cured.

So, I urge everybody to take the opportunity, if they think they have a sleeping disorder, to go see a physician. Get diagnosed. There is help. And I can guarantee you, once you do it and you get a full night of sleep, you will wake up and say, I should have done it 20 years ago. So, we are trying to bring that awareness out. May is Sleep Apnea Awareness Month. I would appreciate it if you take your time, or you can go on the Internet and take a look at some of the issues that are out there. So thank you very much, 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 SCAVELLO, BOSCOLA, ARGALL, TEPLITZ, GREENLEAF, HAYWOOD, YAW, HUTCHINSON, FONTANA, BREWSTER, TARTAGLIONE, PILEGGI, YUDICHAK, SMITH, BAKER, ALLOWAY, AUMENT, RAF-FERTY, DINNIMAN, BROOKS, VULAKOVICH and HUGHES, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 112**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing May 9, 2015, as "National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive Day" in Pennsylvania and commending the National Association of Letter Carriers for its humanitarian efforts to eliminate hunger.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Monroe, Senator Scavello.

Senator SCAVELLO. Mr. President, thank you for allowing me to speak and introduce this resolution along with Senator Boscola, and on behalf of those joining in on the fight to end hunger here in Pennsylvania and across the nation. According to Feeding America, one in seven people struggles with hunger. Hunger exists in every community in the nation, from urban cities, throughout suburbs, and across rural America. This resolution recognizes May 9, 2015, as "National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive Day" in Pennsylvania and commends the National Association of Letter Carriers for its humanitarian efforts to eliminate hunger. On Saturday, May 9, 2015, the National Association of Letter Carriers will conduct the 23rd annual Stamp Out Hunger food drive to combat hunger, and this is the largest one-day food drive in the nation.

The summer months are a particularly critical time as donations and supplies are low, and school lunch programs are suspended until fall, leaving millions of children and families to search for alternate sources of nutrition. Letter carriers see their families every day, and postal patrons are encouraged to participate by leaving donations by their mailboxes on May 9. On May 9, letter carriers, as well as volunteers, will collect nonperishable donations as they deliver mail along their postal routes, and donations will be delivered to food banks, pantries, and shelters to serve the area where the donations are collected. Since the inception of the food drive in 1993, local letter carriers have delivered more than 2.1 million pounds of food to Second Harvest and its network of member agencies. The National Association of Letter Carriers and its cosponsors should be commended for their hu-

manitarian efforts to stamp out hunger, and I would like to encourage the residents of the Commonwealth to continue to join in the effort by generously contributing to this year's food drive to feed the hungry.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator. It is so important in America that we still battle hunger on a wide-scale basis.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTIONS

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

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to South Central Community Action Programs, Inc., by Senator Alloway.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Rose Barletta by Senator Argall.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dean B. Seiler by Senator Aument.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Excelsior Hose Company No. 1 by Senator Blake.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Rabbi Eric M. Rosin by Senators Dinniman and Pileggi.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Cathie O'Donnell, Matrie Johnson, Gail Graham and to Elizabeth Pifer by Senator Dinniman and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Bailey Beecher by Senator Eichelberger.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mathew Pepper by Senator Leach.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Matthew Fest, Adrienne M. Loev, Laura T. Letendre, Bennett R. Povlow and to Wesley Scarlett by Senator McIlhinney.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Delaney Saugling by Senators McIlhinney and Mensch.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Anne C. Coe, Eileen R. Silver, Amanda Hilzer, Elizabeth Colussi, Erin A. Lukoss, Kristie King, Janet L. Mintzer, Barbara Simmons, Ioana Douglas and to Jamie A. Fazzalore by Senator McIlhinney and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Morgan Keely and to Christopher Howe by Senator Mensch.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. James T. Harris III, Dorothy M. Thomas and to Rose C. Liott by Senator Pileggi.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Gary Akers, Janice Vicini and to Jones Township Senior Center by Senator Scarnati.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Connor W. Fitzgerald, Robert Stephen Fitzgerald III and to Pocono Mountain East High School Chess Team by Senator Scavello.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Garden of Learning Child Development Center by Senator Teplitz.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Jesse E. Hill, Jr., by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to JEM Group, LLC, by Senators Vance and Teplitz.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Curtis A. Hempfing and to Adam M. Cohick by Senator Wagner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Deanna N. Richter by Senators Ward and White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Cora M. Harris by Senator White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Northern Bedford County School District by Senator Wozniak.

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 James Patrick Callahan by Senator Dinniman.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Robert M. Miller by Senator McIlhinney.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator BLAKE. 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 95, SB 294, SB 373, SB 490 and SB 663.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015

9:30 A.M.	PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE (public hearing and committee meeting to consider the nomination of Garold Tennis as Secretary of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and Senate Bills No. 396 and 472)	Senate Maj. Caucus Rm.
10:00 A.M.	FINANCE (to consider the nomination of Eileen McNulty as Secretary of Revenue) P O S T P O N E D	Room 8E-A East Wing
10:00 A.M.	FINANCE (to consider Senate Bills No. 73, 556 and 691)	Room 8E-A East Wing

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2015

1:00 P.M.	FINANCE (public hearing on tax credits for waterfront development and data center investment)	Pt. Park Univ. Pitt., PA
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MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015

12:00 P.M. FINANCE (to consider Senate Bill No. 356) Room 8E-B East Wing

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015

10:00 A.M. JUDICIARY (public hearing to discuss collateral consequences of criminal convictions) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

11:15 A.M. AGING AND YOUTH (to consider the nomination of Acting Secretary of Aging Teresa Osborne; and House Bill No. 753) Room 461 Main Capitol

11:30 A.M. GAME AND FISHERIES (public hearing to receive the 2014 Annual Report from the PA Fish and Boat Commission) Room 8E-B East Wing

11:30 A.M. STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider the executive nomination of Pedro Cortes for appointment as Secretary of the Department of State) Senate Maj. Caucus Rm.

12:00 P.M. AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (to consider the nomination of Russell Redding as Secretary of the Dept. of Agriculture) Room 8E-A East Wing

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015

9:00 A.M. EDUCATION (public hearing on The Educational Opportunity and Accountability Act) Room 8E-B East Wing

9:30 A.M. AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (joint informational meeting with the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee on Industrial Hemp - Senate Bill No. 50 and House Bill No. 967) Senate Maj. Caucus Rm.

9:30 A.M. BANKING AND INSURANCE (to consider the nomination of Robin Wiessmann for the Secretary of Banking and Securities; and a public hearing on the competitiveness of the banking industry in Pennsylvania) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

1:30 P.M. VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (public hearing on E-911) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator SMITH. Mr. President, I rise to reiterate my support in recognition of the resolution sponsored by my colleague from Dauphin County recognizing May 8, 2015, as "Military Spouse Day" in Pennsylvania, and to express the importance of professional license portability for military spouses. While their partners are deployed, often for long stretches at a time, and potentially in harm's way, military spouses often take on the role of single parent. They juggle their household, parental, and workplace duties, all while enduring periodic relocations. This recognition is the least we can do to recognize the sacrifices of families and military spouses who give so much day in and day out.

We have several Senators in this Chamber who are working to ease the burden on military spouses. My legislation, Senate

Bill No. 796, which would be known as the Military Spouse License Portability Act, if passed, would allow military spouses to move more rapidly and efficiently into the workplace by providing a streamlined process to obtain the transfer of their professional licenses into Pennsylvania. When relocations typically last 3 years, and spouses can spend one-third of that time trying to transfer their professional license, many simply abandon their careers. This means that valuable skills and a willing workforce are underutilized, and frankly, our Commonwealth suffers when these dentists, educators, pharmacists, real estate agents, social workers, and engineers cannot contribute to our economy and cannot support their family. I hope we can take Senator Teplitz's resolution as an opportunity to recognize the contributions of military spouses and work collaboratively to find practical ways to reduce the burdens on military families and to honor the service of active military members.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator Smith, on a very important issue.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator FARNESE.

Senator FARNESE. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a bill which we were able to move out of the Committee on Judiciary this morning. Again, I want to thank the chairman and the committee Members. We moved earlier today Senate Bill No. 95, which is my SLAPP bill, my anti-SLAPP legislation. Senate Bill No. 95 creates immunity, Mr. President, from civil actions for individuals or organizations that engage in protected communications. Two years ago the Old City Civic Association, a civic association within my legislative district, was well respected in Philadelphia for over 40 years, and this civic association was forced to disband because of a frivolous lawsuit filed against them. The Old City Civic Association and other victims of SLAPPs, which basically stands for strategic lawsuits against public participation, are faced with lawsuits that solely intend to have a chilling effect on debate of public issues.

Now, the cost of defending these SLAPP suits is often burdensome for individuals and the organizations involved. During the hearing of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, which we conducted in Philadelphia last April at the Bar Association, I heard from individuals and organizations across the Commonwealth. So, and I have stressed this before, it is not just a Philadelphia issue. We had folks coming from all over Pennsylvania, and quite frankly, Mr. President, we had people coming from all over the country, who were either lawyers or people from academia who were familiar with these issues or had tried these type of cases or, unfortunately, had been sued and had lost, literally, their lives. They spoke about, when they came in and testified about these insurmountable, emotional, mental, and financial hardships that they faced as a result of these frivolous lawsuits, these SLAPP lawsuits.

My legislation, Senate Bill No. 95, allows victims to immediately file a motion to dismiss a frivolous lawsuit based upon a protected communication. The court will set a hearing date within 30 days to determine if the lawsuit arises from such protected speech, and if the court finds that the suit falls under the SLAPP, or is a SLAPP, then the court will dismiss the case. As a result of that, there is an award of attorney fees and costs, et cetera. Again, what this does is it gives those defendants who have been wrongfully sued the opportunity to get a quick and

cost-effective resolution to their litigation instead of sitting for months, or, in some cases, Mr. President, years, in court, and many times what we have found is that the defense of these cases is not covered under a policy of insurance. Or, as in the case of the Old City Civic Association, the insurance company will drop you, leaving these folks without any ability to defend themselves other than their own pockets. As we saw during the committee meeting, many of these folks literally lost their homes, they went bankrupt, and their families were literally torn apart.

So my bill contains an anti-SLAPP provision to a SLAPP-back provision, as well, basically if the motion is filed to dismiss the case, and if the court finds that that motion to dismiss was inappropriately filed or itself frivolous, there is an opportunity for the other party on the back end, which would be the plaintiff, to get its attorney fees and costs. So we made sure the bill, Mr. President, goes both ways. It allows for the imposition of attorney fees for the prevailing party on both sides, and so I think that is very important, and it was noted during the committee meeting today.

So, Senate Bill No. 95 strikes an important balance between protecting speech, related to issues of public interest, and providing relief for victims of legitimate torts. It is my hope, Mr. President, that as the debate on these issues moves forward, the public concern can flourish around the Commonwealth and folks can understand that we are working to diminish and to do away with frivolous litigation, which literally is costing taxpayers money out of their pockets, and they are paying money because their premiums have risen as well.

So, I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and, of course, as we all understand that lawyers are necessary in society, Mr. President, as I know you are one as well, with a fine and regal past, it is really important that we have access, but we want to make sure that access to the courts is not done at the expense and the detriment of the citizens of Pennsylvania. So, I look forward to moving forward with this and I want to again thank the chairman of the Committee on Judiciary and the Members for their support today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks the gentleman for once again standing up for the people.

BILLS SIGNED

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack) in the presence of the Senate signed the following bills:

SB 79 and **HB 159**.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Columbia, Senator Gordner.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, May 6, 2015, at 11 a.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 4:30 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.