

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Legislative Journal

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015

SESSION OF 2015 199TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 37

SENATE

MONDAY, June 15, 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 BOB LUBIC, of Immaculate Conception Church, Connellsville, offered the following prayer:

Almighty everliving and everloving Father, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the One who is, who was, and who is to come, who will live, move, and have our being, the source and sum of our very existence, the origin of the entire cosmos of all creation, as these imperfect men and women, these representatives chosen by the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, gather to deliberate on the common good, we beseech You. May the spirit foretold by the prophet Isaiah rest upon them, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and of strength, the spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord. May they take as their model and vocation as lawmaker the lawgiver chosen by You, Moses, who at Sinai gave to the people of Israel Your divine law, the only law upon which a harmonious and just society can be built.

May they, in the words of the Psalmist, hear the cries of the poor and be especially attentive to the needs of the anawim, the powerless, the marginalized, those who count for nothing in the eyes of the world but who are, nonetheless, precious in Your sight and most dear to Your heart. May they not be blinded by the power they wield nor be tempted to be unduly solicitous to those individuals and groups who possess the financial resources to effectively make sure that their voice is heard loud and clear. Let everyone recall that a sacred trust exists between them and the people of Pennsylvania who sent them to this august Assembly to serve and not to be served.

As we call forth Your blessing upon them as individuals and as a body, we give thanksgiving for the good they have accomplished and ask forgiveness for the mistakes they have made. May You guide their deliberations this day and make fruitful their work. All this we ask of You, heavenly Father, who lives and reigns in eternal splendor forever and ever unto ages unending. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Father Lubic, who is the guest today of Senator Stefano.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

June 11, 2015

Senators BLAKE, GREENLEAF, TEPLITZ, FARNESE, SCAVELLO, KITCHEN, YUDICHAK, SMITH, BREWSTER, TARTAGLIONE, WILLIAMS, BROWNE, HUGHES, ALLOWAY, RAFFERTY, COSTA, BOSCOLA and McGARRIGLE presented to the Chair **SB 227**, entitled:

An Act establishing the Veterans' Housing Assistance Program; and making appropriations.

Which was committed to the Committee on URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING, June 11, 2015.

Senators BLAKE, WOZNIAK, FONTANA, TEPLITZ, RAFFERTY, COSTA, SMITH, TARTAGLIONE, WILLIAMS and HUGHES presented to the Chair **SB 882**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in assault, providing for the offense of bullying.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, June 11, 2015.

Senators STEFANO, ALLOWAY, MENSCH, WHITE, HUTCHINSON, AUMENT, BARTOLOTTA and BREWSTER presented to the Chair **SB 883**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in hunting and furtaking, providing for special provisions for certain deer hunters.

Which was committed to the Committee on GAME AND FISHERIES, June 11, 2015.

June 12, 2015

Senators DINNIMAN, TEPLITZ, FONTANA, BREWSTER, COSTA, SCHWANK, YUDICHAK, BOSCOLA and FARNESE presented to the Chair **SB 120**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in charter schools, further providing for school staff and for funding for charter schools; providing for refund of excess revenue to school districts; further providing for

applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations; in reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts, providing for basic education funding for 2014-2015 school year and for basic education accountability for 2014-2015 school year; and, in reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for payments to intermediate units and for special education payments to school districts and providing for further limitation on new applications for Department of Education approval of public school building projects and for safe schools advocate.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, June 12, 2015.

Senators SCAVELLO and SCARNATI presented to the Chair **SB 878**, entitled:

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

Which was committed to the Committee on FINANCE, June 12, 2015.

Senators BLAKE, FONTANA, SCAVELLO, BARTOLOTTA, STEFANO and YUDICHAK presented to the Chair **SB 881**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for definitions.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, June 12, 2015.

Senators SMUCKER, PILEGGI, YUDICHAK, WOZNIAK, RAFFERTY and MENSCH presented to the Chair **SB 884**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of October 6, 1998 (P.L.705, No.92), known as the Keystone Opportunity Zone, Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone and Keystone Opportunity Improvement Zone Act, in keystone opportunity zones, providing for continuation for new job creation or new capital investment.

Which was committed to the Committee on FINANCE, June 12, 2015.

Senators COSTA, BARTOLOTTA, TEPLITZ, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, WARD, SCHWANK, DINNIMAN, WILEY, STEFANO, SMITH, YUDICHAK, TOMLINSON, RAFFERTY, AUMENT, VULAKOVICH, HUGHES, MENSCH and BROOKS presented to the Chair **SB 887**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in rules of the road in general, further providing for duty of driver in construction and maintenance areas or on highway safety corridors and for duty of driver in emergency response areas.

Which was committed to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION, June 12, 2015.

Senator BLAKE presented to the Chair **SB 890**, entitled:

An Act designating the bridge carrying State Route 6011 (Harrison Avenue) over Roaring Brook in the City of Scranton, Lackawanna County, as the Colonel Frank Duffy Memorial Bridge.

Which was committed to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION, June 12, 2015.

Senators SCAVELLO, RAFFERTY, HUTCHINSON, BARTOLOTTA, YUDICHAK, SCHWANK, AUMENT, DINNIMAN, VULAKOVICH and BOSCOLA presented to the Chair **SB 894**, entitled:

An Act designating the bridge on that portion of State Route 940 over Tobyhanna Creek (Pocono Lake) in Tobyhanna Township, Monroe County, as the Sullivan Bridge.

Which was committed to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION, June 12, 2015.

June 15, 2015

Senators WARD, SCHWANK, TEPLITZ, SCAVELLO, SMITH, STEFANO, WHITE, TOMLINSON, FOLMER, HUTCHINSON, GREENLEAF, RAFFERTY, McILHINNEY, AUMENT, VULAKOVICH, BREWSTER, HUGHES, BARTOLOTTA, YUDICHAK, MENSCH and SCARNATI presented to the Chair **SB 891**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 21, 1937 (P.L.774, No.211), referred to as the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission Act, further providing for emergency vehicles.

Which was committed to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION, June 15, 2015.

RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

June 12, 2015

Senators SCAVELLO, VULAKOVICH, BREWSTER, RAFFERTY, FONTANA, MENSCH, COSTA, WHITE and AUMENT presented to the Chair **SR 148**, entitled:

A Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 563, which directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine during World War II.

Which was committed to the Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, June 12, 2015.

June 15, 2015

Senators WOZNIAK, BLAKE, VULAKOVICH, COSTA, WILLIAMS, HAYWOOD, AUMENT, BAKER, HUTCHINSON, TARTAGLIONE, VOGEL, FARNESE, BROOKS, SCAVELLO and YAW presented to the Chair **SR 149**, entitled:

A Concurrent Resolution urging the Congress to take all necessary action to prohibit any force structure changes, to prohibit any transfer of AH-64 Apache helicopters from the National Guard, and maintain the Army National Guard at 350,200 soldiers until the National Commission on the Future of the Army has reported its findings; and urging the United States Army to reverse its decision to deactivate the 55th Armored Brigade Combat Team, and to reverse its decision to transfer any National Guard AH-64 Apache helicopters to active duty.

Which was committed to the Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, June 15, 2015.

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

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

June 12, 2015

HB 31, 64, 325 and 854 -- Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

HB 337 and 662 -- Committee on Public Health and Welfare.

HB 339 and 347 -- Committee on Banking and Insurance.

HB 398 and 1099 -- Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy.

HB 582 and 898 -- Committee on Transportation.

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

AUDITOR GENERAL'S CERTIFICATE

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

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of the Auditor General
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0018

June 16, 2015

The Honorable Joseph Scarnati
President Pro Tempore
Pennsylvania Senate
292 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Senator Scarnati:

In accordance with the provisions of Article VIII, Section 7(a)(4) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Section 304 of the Capital Facilities Debt Enabling Act (Act 1 of 1999, as amended), I am providing you with the accompanying certification in connection with the general obligation bond sale of May 27, 2015.

A duplicate original of the Auditor General's Certificate is enclosed.

Sincerely,

EUGENE A. DePASQUALE
Auditor General

AUDITOR GENERAL'S CERTIFICATE

Pursuant to

ARTICLE VIII, Section 7(a)(4)

of the

CONSTITUTION OF PENNSYLVANIA

and

Section 304 of the Capital Facilities Debt Enabling Act

To the Governor and the General Assembly:

I, Eugene A. DePasquale, Auditor General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, pursuant to Article VIII, Section 7(a)(4) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Section 304 of the Capital Facilities Debt Enabling Act (Act 1 of 1999, as amended), certify as follows:

The amount of outstanding net debt
as of June 16, 2015. \$10,475,885,000

The difference between the limitation
upon all net debt outstanding as provided
in Article VIII, Section 7(a)(4) of the
Constitution of the Commonwealth
of Pennsylvania and the amount of
outstanding net debt as of
June 16, 2015. \$50,858,679,976

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Auditor General, this 16th day of June 2015.

EUGENE A. DePASQUALE
Auditor General

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Folmer and Senator Ward, and a legislative leave for Senator Tomlinson.

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

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

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Folmer and Senator Ward, and a legislative leave for Senator Tomlinson.

Senator Fontana requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Teplitz, and legislative leaves for Senator Costa, Senator Dinniman, Senator Smith, and Senator Williams.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WEEKLY RECESS

Senator CORMAN offered the following resolution, which was read as follows:

In the Senate, June 15, 2015

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), Pursuant to Article II, Section 14, of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the Senate recesses this week, it reconvene on Monday, June 22, 2015, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14, of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the House of Representatives recesses this week, it reconvene on Monday, June 22, 2015, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

YEA-49

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

NAY-0

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

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

GUESTS OF SENATOR PATRICIA H. VANCE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the Senator of champions, the gentlewoman from Cumberland, Senator Vance.

Senator VANCE. Mr. President, today I have the distinct pleasure of introducing the Cumberland Valley High School Boys' Rugby Team, which captured the 2015 Pennsylvania State Single-School Rugby Championship on May 17 of this year. They beat Conestoga High School by a score of 32-5. They compiled a record of 13 wins and no losses this season. The team was only established 11 years ago, and this is its second consecutive high school State championship. They are coached by Jay Abom, Graham Arnall, Seb Chambers, and Dan Morris. The team captains this year were Alex Spenceley and Brendan Arnall. The team, their family, and coaches are in the gallery. Please give them a very warm welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Vance please rise so that the Senate may welcome and congratulate you.
(Applause.)

GUEST OF SENATOR PATRICK J. STEFANO PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Fayette, Senator Stefano.

Senator STEFANO. Mr. President, I am honored and delighted to introduce and also extend my thanks to my constituent and pastor, Father Bob Lubic, who served as our guest Chaplain today and offered the opening prayer for Session. Father Bob is a pastor and administrator of the Catholic Parishes of Connellsville, which includes my parish St. Rita's, Immaculate Conception, and St. John the Evangelist. Father Bob also serves as the chairman of the Board of Trust for the Conn-Area Catholic

Schools and Geible Catholic High School. I ask the Senate to please extend a warm welcome to my pastor.

The PRESIDENT. Will Senator Stefano's pastor, Father Bob, please rise so that we may welcome you here to the Senate and thank you for your prayer.

(Applause.)

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Ward has returned, and her temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

RECESS

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for purposes of off-the-floor meetings of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations and the Committee on Appropriations to be held in the Rules room, followed by a Republican caucus to be held in the Majority Caucus Room.

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

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, Senate Democrats will meet for a caucus after the two committee meetings.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of meetings of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations and the Committee on Appropriations, to be followed by Republican and Democratic caucuses, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

LEAVES CHANGED

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Northampton, Senator Boscola.

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, I request that Senator Leach's leave be changed from a personal leave to a legislative leave, and Senator Smith's leave be changed from a legislative leave to a personal leave.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Boscola requests that Senator Leach's leave be changed from a personal leave to a legislative leave, and that Senator Smith's leave be changed from a legislative leave to a personal leave. Without objection, the leaves will be changed.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CHANGED

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Northampton, Senator Boscola.

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, I request that Senator Dinniman's legislative leave be changed to a temporary Capitol leave.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Boscola requests that Senator Dinniman's leave be changed from a legislative leave to a temporary Capitol leave. Without objection, the leave will be changed.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Williams has returned, and his legislative leave is cancelled.

CALENDAR**THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR****BILL 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 CORMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 352 and **SB 590** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 643 (Pr. No. 652) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 65 (Public Officers) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in open meetings, further providing for executive sessions.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 687, **SB 688** and **SB 861** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

**BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

HB 863 (Pr. No. 1047) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 3006 over Spring Creek, Bellefonte Borough, Centre County, as the Bellefonte Veterans Bridge.

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-49

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

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 return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same without amendments.

SB 880 (Pr. No. 1024) -- 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 preliminary provisions, further providing for Keystone Exams.

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-49

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

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

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Smucker.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Northampton, Senator Boscola.

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Sabatina.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Smucker.

Senator Boscola requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Sabatina.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL AMENDED

HB 911 (Pr. No. 1769) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for emergency telephone service; and establishing the 911 Fund.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

VULAKOVICH AMENDMENT A2109

Senator VULAKOVICH offered the following amendment No. A2109:

Amend Bill, page 51, line 7, by striking out "PRIOR"

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

It was agreed to.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration, as amended?

McGARRIGLE AMENDMENT A2137 OFFERED

Senator McGARRIGLE offered the following amendment No. A2137:

Amend Bill, page 51, line 7, by striking out "INCREASED TO"

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

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

Senator McGARRIGLE. Mr. President, my amendment will merely strike two words, "increased to." First, it is not clear to what these words actually refer, if they refer to an increase in PRI surcharges from 12 to 23 over the prior version of House Bill No. 911. The words, I submit, are confusing and unnecessary because Amendment A2053 specifically deleted any lan-

guage in House Bill No. 911 referring to 12 surcharges. Under my amendment, the revised, and I submit improved, language is simply subscriber's assessments shall be 23 surcharges per digital transmission link.

I respectfully ask for the support of my colleagues for my proposed amendment.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator VULAKOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to respectfully ask for a "no" vote on the amendment. The current language in the bill has already been agreed to by multiple key stakeholders, including the County Commissioners Association and the telecommunication providers. This amendment would disrupt that agreement. PRI lines are currently collected at one fee for every 23 channels, one of which is administrative. The language in this bill reflects that change in a way PRI lines are charged, effective as of July 1, 2015. Now, we have CCAP, the County Commissioners Association, in support of this, and so are the telecommunication providers.

I would like to remark that this bill, nor the section, in any way is meant to weigh into any lawsuits in this Commonwealth regarding the past collection on 911 fees by telecommunication providers. Rather, this bill is meant to establish, moving forward, how the 911 fee is to be collected. I ask for a "no" vote on this amendment. Thank you.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, McGarrigle, for the second time.

Senator McGARRIGLE. Mr. President, I, once again, ask my colleagues for their support on this. We were not sent here by the telecoms, so the support of the telecoms means nothing to me at all. We are here to look out for the taxpayers of this Commonwealth. I ask you for your support on this amendment. Thank you.

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

Senator MENSCH. Mr. President, I, too, rise in opposition to this amendment. Let me talk about it a little bit from the industry perspective, in which I lived for 35 years. We are caught up in a definition that does not apply to every vendor that provides access for 911 services. A PRI is unique to someone who implements T1 service, which is 1.544 megabits of data. PRI is unique to one vendor in their terminology for their implementation of the service. If you are a broadband carrier and you implement your access for 911 across broadband, you do not use the terminology PRI. Therefore, it is not applicable to that vendor. So this is vendor-specific, to one vendor, it singles out that one vendor, and it increases the costs for 911 behind that arrangement significantly.

Let me give you an example, Mr. President. If I am a company that subscribes to broadband access for my business, and I

have 1,000 stations behind that, I will have 23 fees, as proposed in this amendment. If I am a business and I subscribe to Verizon, who implements it differently, and I have 1,000 stations, I am going to have 1,000 fees. On one hand, I have 23 fees, and on another, I have 1,000. This is not an equitable situation that we are creating. We are disadvantaging one vendor for the purposes of a lawsuit. That is not the purpose of legislation. That is not my understanding of what a government should be doing. We need a level playing field. We use that term so often it becomes trite here, but in this case we need a level playing field so that every vendor is going to be asked to provide the same fees for 911 service.

So, Mr. President, with that description, I really do ask Members for a negative vote on this amendment. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Vulakovich, for the second time.

Senator VULAKOVICH. Mr. President, I just wanted to make sure that everyone understands that I am asking for a "no" vote on this amendment.

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

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

YEA-3

Corman	McGarrigle	Pileggi
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NAY-46

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

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

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

MENSCH AMENDMENT A2162

Senator MENSCH offered the following amendment No. A2162:

Amend Bill, page 36, by inserting between lines 28 and 29:
(j) Implementation.--A user fee under this section may not be

imposed until 30 days after the initial distribution formula is implemented under section 5306.1(e) (relating to fund).

Amend Bill, page 36, line 29, by striking out "(j)" and inserting:
(k)

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

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

Senator MENSCH. Mr. President, we are addressing, after the formula is established in the original bill, the formula for funding, that the amendment I previously offered last week will have an effective date of 30 days after the establishment of that funding formula.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the amendment?
It was agreed to.

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

COSTA AMENDMENT A2154

Senator BOSCOLA, on behalf of Senator COSTA, offered the following amendment No. A2154:

Amend Bill, page 42, line 11, by inserting after "Fund,"
Money in the fund and the interest the money accrues is appropriated to the agency to be disbursed by the agency.

Amend Bill, page 42, lines 12 and 13, by striking out "fund shall consist of the" in line 12 and all of line 13 and inserting:
following money shall be deposited in the fund:

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the amendment?
It was agreed to.

Without objection, the bill, as amended, was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL REREFERRED

SB 6 (Pr. No. 1026) -- 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, providing for the establishment of the Achievement School District and for its powers and duties.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 57, HB 89 and HB 90 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 95 (Pr. No. 654) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 131 and **HB 140** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Dinniman and Senator Smucker have returned, and their temporary Capitol leaves are cancelled.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

HB 182 (Pr. No. 1071) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of September 27, 1961 (P.L.1700, No.699), known as the Pharmacy Act, further providing for the authority to administer injectable medications, biologicals and immunizations.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 356, HB 363, SB 388, SB 398, HB 400, HB 475 and **SB 640** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL REREFERRED

SB 652 (Pr. No. 691) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 31, 1965 (P.L.1257, No.511), known as The Local Tax Enabling Act, in consolidated collection of local income taxes, further providing for definitions.

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 663, SB 683 and **SB 694** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL REREFERRED

SB 747 (Pr. No. 992) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 20, 2002 (P.L.154, No.13), known as the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Act, further providing for punitive damages; providing for punitive damages study; and imposing duties on the Insurance Commissioner.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 751 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL REREFERRED

HB 753 (Pr. No. 1052) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act establishing the Pennsylvania Long-term Care Council; providing for its powers and duties; and repealing related provisions of the Public Welfare Code.

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 756, HB 762, SB 772, SB 775, SB 792 and **SB 793** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL REREFERRED

SB 798 (Pr. No. 863) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, providing for a computer data center equipment incentive program.

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 871, SB 872 and **SB 873** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator BROWNE, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the following bills:

SB 129 (Pr. No. 511) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of August 31, 1971 (P.L.398, No.96), known as the County Pension Law, further providing for definitions and for supplemental benefits.

SB 202 (Pr. No. 169) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of November 29, 2004 (P.L.1383, No.180), known as the Uniform Crime Reporting Act, in higher education security information, further providing for crime statistics and security policies and procedures; and providing for Pennsylvania safe campuses.

SB 299 (Pr. No. 1045) (Amended) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for incentives for municipal volunteers of fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical services agencies.

SB 307 (Pr. No. 197) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in organization of departmental administrative boards and commissions and of advisory boards and commissions, further providing for the Environmental Quality Board.

SB 370 (Pr. No. 1046) (Amended) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in grants to fire companies and volunteer services, further providing for award of grants to eligible fire companies and volunteer ambulance services.

SB 862 (Pr. No. 1046) (Amended) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in preliminary provisions, further providing for criminal history of employees and prospective employees and conviction of certain offenses.

SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senators KITCHEN, GREENLEAF, TEPLITZ, WOZNIAK, SCAVELLO, SCHWANK, DINNIMAN, RAFFERTY, FONTANA, COSTA, PILEGGI, WILLIAMS, TARTAGLIONE, HAYWOOD, HUTCHINSON, FARNESE, YUDICHAK, BREWSTER and BOSCOLA, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 151**, entitled:

A Resolution observing June 19, 2015, as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator KITCHEN. Mr. President, we have heard the saying "time is precious." Time is precious is a slogan that is as true today as it was in 1865. So, imagine how precious it was 150 years ago when news finally reached Galveston, Texas, that Congress had, 2 1/2 years earlier, signed the Emancipation Proclamation to formally and historically end slavery. The Emancipation Proclamation was signed into law on January 1, 1863, but that important piece of news did not reach African Americans who were fighting for freedom until June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and declared that all slaves were free.

June 19, 1865, is Independence Day for a lot of African Americans. We call it "Juneteenth National Freedom Day," but Juneteenth National Freedom Day is for everyone. The final end of slavery is for everyone to celebrate, observe, and remember it so it never happens again. More than 11 million Africans came to America against their will. They endured horrid travel conditions and lived with the fear of whips and chains for whatever their owners decided was bad behavior. But we must all strive for universal freedom and liberty, Mr. President. Juneteenth celebrates freedom and marks a very important time in American history. Everyone can join in the celebration of Juneteenth. In fact, there are many communities across the city of Philadelphia who celebrate this important day in many ways. One organization, in particular, is using this holiday of independence, human rights, and African American culture to reenergize and reunify a community that has been plagued with crime and hopelessness. Juneteenth represents hope, survival, and freedom for everyone.

Time is precious, that is true, Mr. President, and I ask the Senate to waste no time adopting my resolution making June 19, 2015, Juneteenth National Freedom Day.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Senator Kitchen for standing up for hope and justice in America.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Dinniman.

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, I join Senator Kitchen in asking that this resolution be adopted. When we understand what slavery was all about, when we understand the joy that people experienced when they were free, we liberate all of ourselves. Black and white people in this nation have been tied into a knot of misunderstanding, and the way you untie the knot, the way you create racial relations that are worthy, that are good, that are sincere, that are real, is to understand the history. To untie the knot that has tied us together in misunderstanding, and Juneteenth and the celebration of this holiday, of this festive occasion, allows us to do just that. So, it is my privilege to join Senator Kitchen.

Also, as Senator Kitchen said, there are still problems today that we have to recognize. The problem, for example, of human slavery continues across the world, in terms of the millions--we estimate it to be about 15 million to 16 million--human beings who are enslaved either in terms of sexual exploitation or in terms of labor. It occurs in our country. That is why this legislature passed Senator Greenleaf's bill to end human trafficking. We will soon have another version of that bill to take care of a vote that we did not take care of the last time. It is time for us to have a true celebration of Juneteenth by ending slavery, including human trafficking in all places in the world, including the United States of America, because human trafficking, which is slavery,

continues today, and then we can stand on the floor and then we can say that Juneteenth is real and takes care of everyone, not just in the United States, but in the world as a whole.

So it is a privilege to join Senator Kitchen in passing this resolution with the hope that someday we can all join hands together and say that slavery in this world is no more.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators VOGEL, TEPLITZ, BROOKS, BAKER, GREENLEAF, WARD, DINNIMAN, SCAVELLO, WHITE, YAW, ARGALL, COSTA, AUMENT, GORDNER, SCHWANK, PILEGGI, RAFFERTY, FOLMER, HUTCHINSON, BOSCOLA and ALLOWAY, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 152**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of June 2015 as "Dairy Farmers Appreciation Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator VOGEL. Mr. President, my resolution designates June 2015 as "Dairy Farmers Appreciation Month," or better known as Dairy Month in Pennsylvania. Dairy farming is a prime economic driver behind the number one industry of agriculture in Pennsylvania. A proud family tradition where 98 percent of dairy farms are owned by families and depend on family labor, dairy farming is a demanding way of life that requires a strong work ethic in order to produce high quality milk and other dairy products enjoyed by Pennsylvania families. Please join me in paying tribute and recognition to the outstanding contributions of Pennsylvania's dairy farmers to the historical, cultural, environmental, and economic success of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Also, June 23 is Milkshake Day at the Capitol and will be located in the back by the fountain. So, everybody come out and enjoy a milkshake by the fountain.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Senator Vogel, and you can count on the Chair attending on June 23 for a milkshake. Pennsylvania's milk is the best in the world. Thanks for the dairy farmers and thank you, Senator Vogel.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Berks, Senator Schwank.

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, I join my colleague and friend, Senator Vogel, who is the true dairy farmer here in the Pennsylvania State Senate, and join with him in celebrating Dairy Month here in Pennsylvania. Some interesting facts about Pennsylvania's dairy industry. Mr. President, we are the fifth-largest milk producer in the United States. We have the second-largest number of dairy farms in the United States. We are home to over 7,400 dairy farms and more than a half-million cows, Mr. President, here in Pennsylvania. Dairy is the largest segment of Pennsylvania's agriculture economy, which means it

is quite important to us. It represents 40 percent of the ag revenue in Pennsylvania. It provides nearly \$5 billion in economic revenue and supports nearly 60,000 jobs across the Commonwealth. More than anything, Mr. President, thanks to dairy farmers, the dairy industry, and everyone who is involved in it, from our farmers, like Senator Vogel, to the workers in our milk-processing plants, they provide us with a wonderful array of dairy products that we enjoy every day and somewhat take for granted. We are, indeed, very, very fortunate to have such a strong industry here in Pennsylvania. I, too, will be looking forward to June 23 to have one of those wonderful milkshakes sponsored by the Pennsylvania dairy industry.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator Schwank, and thank you for all you do on this particular issue and agriculture as a whole.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators VULAKOVICH, COSTA, BAKER, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, KITCHEN, SABATINA, SCAVELLO, TARTAGLIONE, TEPLITZ, WILEY, WOZNAK, BLAKE, EICHELBERGER, WHITE, RAFFERTY, YUDICHAK, AUMENT, MENSCH, YAW and HUGHES, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 153**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of June 14 through 20, 2015, as "State Veterans' Homes Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator VULAKOVICH. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator Costa, my good friend from the other side, I ask my colleagues to support this resolution designating June 14 through 20, 2015, as "State Veterans' Homes Week" in Pennsylvania. When it comes to the men and women who served and fought for our nation, we cannot say thank you enough. In Pennsylvania, we have a number of great programs that are run through the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs that assist our veterans community. The backbone of our support are our six veterans homes - the Delaware Valley Veterans Home, the Gino J. Merli Veterans Center, the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home, the Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, the Southeastern Veterans Center, and the Southwestern Veterans Center. These veterans homes provide the utmost in care and support for our veterans. I have the privilege of serving on the board of the Southwestern Veterans Center, and I am thankful for the work of the staff at the homes. It is not easy, but they do it in a professional and caring manner each and every day. They do it for our nearly 1,500 veterans and their spouses.

So, thank you, Mr. President. I ask you to please join me in support of State Veterans' Homes Week in Pennsylvania.

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

Senator BLAKE. Mr. President, I am delighted to join my friend and colleague, Senator Vulakovich, and others here on behalf of Senator Costa, as well as on behalf of Senator Baker, to acknowledge our veterans homes and to join in my support of this resolution. As a young professional coming out of college, I worked for the Lackawanna County Redevelopment Authority and there was a gentleman who was chairman of that board with me for about 10 years, and his name was Gino Merli. He was a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. Mr. Merli was one of the most humble and most remarkable men I have ever met. He was extraordinarily influential on me regarding my care for our veterans community and their families.

So, I am proud to be with my colleagues today to acknowledge our veterans homes, including the Gino Merli Center in Scranton. I also want to thank my friend and colleague, Senator Vulakovich, for calling attention to the important work that the people do inside these veterans homes for our servicemen and women and for their families. It is absolutely important that we keep in mind our veterans and their families at all times, not only today on this resolution but really every day. Thank you very much. I commend my colleagues for this acknowledgment.

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

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, I join my friend and colleague from Allegheny County, Senator Vulakovich, and much to his happiness, his baseball team is doing far better than our baseball team, but this is a very serious occasion with celebrating and saluting our veterans homes.

Since my first year in the Senate of Pennsylvania, I have been a member of the Southeastern Veterans' Center Advisory Council, a position I take very seriously. I attend as many of the meetings as I can, and I do attend most unless we are in Session. It is a great opportunity for me to give back to those who gave for me in the service of this country. I served for a number of years on the Southeastern Veterans' Center with a former colleague, Senator Dick Tilghman, who represented the United States Marine Corps while I represented the Senate of Pennsylvania. We worked very closely together, along with a gentleman named Dick Tyler, who has gone home to God, on a number of issues and reforms and passed them along to our colleagues in the other veterans centers as well. The importance that we place on the veterans centers—we have a Brigadier General, General Beck, overseeing them, so you realize the importance that our Department of Military and Veterans Affairs places on making sure that the homes are run effectively, efficiently, but most importantly, with compassion for those who have given so much for all of us.

So I join with my colleague, Senator Vulakovich, and echo the comments of my colleague, Senator Blake, on the importance of this resolution and I join with them and ask for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair also joins in saluting our great veterans and our great veterans homes in Pennsylvania. We thank Senator Vulakovich for his recognition.

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 Charles Kern by Senator Argall.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Patrick Solano by Senator Baker and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Gary Smith by Senator Dinniman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Sherrin H. Baky by Senators Dinniman and Leach.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ronald T. Bailey by Senator Dinniman and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis P. Gaydon by Senator Gordner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. James Hickey by Senator Hutchinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Margaret B. Happy, Dorothy McCleary, Dorothy B. Ayers and to Clara Zukowski by Senator Pileggi.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Pennsylvania School Bus Association by Senator Rafferty.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to crews of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission crews and to the crews of the Department of Transportation by Senators Rafferty and Wozniak.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Pocono Lions Club by Senator Scavello.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to McMurray Rotary Club by Senator Smith.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Sylvia Lieberman by Senator Tartaglione.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Everett Zufall, Colonel Robert A. Harney, Jr., and to Kimberly E. Schaeffer by Senator Vance.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Neshannock High School Baseball Team by Senator Vogel.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Brigadier General Gerald E. Otterbein by Senator Wagner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to JoAnn Penrod, Suzanne R. Quinn and to Patricia Dunlap by Senator White.

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION

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

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Jonathan A. Smith by Senator Wagner.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2015

9:30 A.M.

TRANSPORTATION (public hearing to collect testimony from the PA Turnpike

Hrg. Rm. 1
North Off.

	Commission on their budget and program priorities; and committee meeting to consider Senate Bills No. 474, 748, 868, 890 and 894 and House Bills No. 501, 629 and 866)	
11:00 A.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to consider Senate Resolutions No. 148 and 149; and House Bill No. 175)	Room 8E-B East Wing
11:30 A.M.	JUDICIARY (to consider House Bills No. 73, 164 and 229; and a public hearing to examine the disposition of digital assets - Senate Bill No. 518)	Room 8E-B East Wing
12:00 P.M.	LAW AND JUSTICE (to consider House Bill No. 189)	Room 461 Main Capitol
12:30 P.M.	GAME AND FISHERIES (to consider Senate Bills No. 77 and 737; and House Bills No. 263 and 455)	Room 8E-A East Wing
<u>WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2015</u>		
9:00 A.M.	COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (public hearing to consider PA Gaming and Control Board and Dept. of Drug & Alcohol Programs: gaming, internet gaming and related issues and Title 4 (Amusements) legislation (i.e., Senate Bills No. 700 and 900, etc.))	Room 8E-B East Wing
9:00 A.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Resolution No. 138; House Bills No. 14 and 664; and a public hearing on the Wolf Administration's GO-TIME initiative pertaining to procurement)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
9:30 A.M.	EDUCATION (to consider House Bills No. 224 and 530)	Room 461 Main Capitol
<u>THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015</u>		
9:30 A.M.	FINANCE (public hearing on municipal pension legislation)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
<u>WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2015</u>		
10:00 A.M.	FINANCE (public hearing on the nomination of Timothy Reese for Treasurer; and to consider House Bills No. 239 and 683)	Room 461 Main Capitol

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, I am proud to take part in the 10 days for \$10.10 program, and would like to thank my colleague, Senator Tartaglione, for her leadership on this important issue. Mr. President, the time has come to make Pennsylvania's minimum wage a living wage. It is about human decency. It is about giving low-income workers a fighting chance. It is about injecting spending dollars into our economy. Most importantly, it is about doing the right thing for our citizens.

Mr. President, I can stand here and list statistics about how the wage gap has widened and how the American middle class is disappearing before our eyes, or I can explain how other States and cities that increased their minimum wage have seen eco-

nomie growth, especially compared to States and cities that have not. I can tell you how price comparisons reveal that minimum wage increases do not significantly lead to increased consumer costs. In my view, all of these supporting points do not really touch on the overriding issue, and that is one of fairness. Mr. President, it is nearly impossible to survive on \$7.25 an hour. For anyone who may argue otherwise, I challenge them to try it. In my America and our Pennsylvania, working people should not be living in poverty, it is as simple as that. Mr. President, do you know that a full-time minimum wage worker typically falls below the poverty line?

Contrary to stereotype, a typical minimum wage worker is not some suburban teenager earning pocket change. Based on Census Bureau data, 88 percent of minimum wage earners are adults, and more than half are women. In my previous life, Mr. President, as a realtor, I know firsthand that for these workers, decent housing is out of reach. In fact, they would need to work nearly three full-time minimum wage jobs just to simply rent a two-bedroom apartment at a rate of less than 30 percent of their income. Where do these struggling workers go to make ends meet, Mr. President? Government services. It is, too often, the only option they have. In this system, is this the best we can do? Are we really going to continue ignoring the plight of these struggling families? Are we really going to stand by watching the rich get richer while our hardworking men and women fall behind? Pennsylvania's minimum wage is outdated, senseless, and harsh. It stifles our economy and drains crucial safety net and welfare programs. Embarrassingly, inaction on this issue symbolizes this legislature's indifference toward hardworking people and emotional intolerance for poverty.

Mr. President, more than 75 percent of Americans favor a minimum wage hike. Mr. President, it is time to act. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Senator Fontana for standing up for an important issue of economic justice.

RECESS

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Tuesday, June 16, 2015, at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 4:23 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.