

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

SESSION OF 2015 199TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 54

SENATE

TUESDAY, September 29, 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 GLEN BAYLY, of Christian and Missionary Alliance, Mifflinburg, offered the following prayer:

Will you join me in prayer.

Our gracious heavenly Father, we come before You today as the Creator of all that exists. We come before You to honor You and to seek Your presence in this place and that Your wisdom from above that might bless us today. We thank You for Your many material blessings that we have in this nation and in this State. We thank You for the political freedom that we have and we ask that You would continue to provide that for our people and spread it around the world.

Lord, we thank You for this Chamber, and we ask You for each of the Members that they might be blessed today in the knowledge that You are alive and that You care for them and that You desire their best. So, we pray for them and their families today that each one might look to You for their needs, that You would meet physical needs, and any that are ill we commit them to You and ask for Your healing touch. We pray for those who have lost loved ones and for others who have difficulties, whether personal or financial, or other concerns on their hearts today. May You give them peace of mind that passes understanding.

We pray that each one might know Your forgiveness and the gift of eternal life that You alone can provide. As we gather here in peace this day, we remember those who are in nations that are at war and we ask for Your protection over the innocent lives of people who are being persecuted and killed for their faith in You this very day. We pray for the nations of Syria and Iraq and ask that peace might come to those areas. We also pray for the Ukraine today that it might remain a peaceful situation and resolved with justice.

Lord, we ask for the people of Pennsylvania today that each one might sense Your presence and Your love for them, that the efforts of this body would be to benefit the people of this State, and that they would also be pleasing in Your sight. We ask for the wisdom of Solomon in these days of divided politics, and we ask for You to raise up leaders who would have that kind of wisdom to resolve these difficult issues.

So, we thank You for hearing and answering our prayer, and we pray all of this in Your precious and holy name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Bayly, who is the guest today of Senator Yaw.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

SENATE BILL RETURNED WITHOUT APPROVAL

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following veto communication in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, advising that the following Senate Bill had been returned without approval:

SB 1000, entitled:

An Act to provide from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive and Judicial Departments, the State Government Support Agencies and the General Assembly of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016, for certain institutions and organizations, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015; to provide appropriations from the State Lottery Fund, the Tobacco Settlement Fund, the Aviation Restricted Account, the Hazardous Material Response Fund, The State Stores Fund, the Milk Marketing Fund, the Home Investment Trust Fund, the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund, the Tuition Account Guaranteed Savings Program Fund, the Banking Fund, the Firearm Records Check Fund, the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority Fund, the Oil and Gas Lease Fund, the Home Improvement Account, the Cigarette Fire Safety and Firefighter Protection Act Enforcement Fund, the Insurance Regulation and Oversight Fund, the Pennsylvania Racehorse Development Restricted Receipt Account, the Justice Reinvestment Fund and the Multimodal Transportation Fund to the Executive Department; to provide appropriations from the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account to the Judicial Department for the fiscal year July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016; to provide appropriations from the Motor License Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016, for the proper operation of several departments of the Commonwealth and the Pennsylvania State Police authorized to spend Motor License Fund money; and to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive Department of the Commonwealth and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

The Clerk read the veto message as follows:

September 29, 2015

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 1000 Printer's Number 1232.

The citizens of Pennsylvania want more than half measures, and they deserve better than the status quo. They sent us here to do serious work, to address the problems facing this Commonwealth, and to create a blueprint for the future of Pennsylvania.

This temporary General Appropriation bill fails to provide the long-term investment in Pennsylvania's future that this Commonwealth needs. It is an avoidance maneuver that fails to adequately fund education and locks in the same damaging cuts to human service programs included in House Bill 1192. For these reasons, I cannot give this bill my approval.

The people of Pennsylvania deserve a structurally balanced budget. They deserve investment in education and for oil and gas companies to pay their fair share. And they deserve relief from rising property taxes. In short, they deserve better.

I have come to the table offering real compromise, including a lease of our wine and spirits system, more than \$20 billion in pension reform savings, and significant cuts to proposed spending levels.

I urge the Legislature to come back to the bargaining table and to work with me to pass a comprehensive, structurally balanced budget with adequate education funding, a commonsense severance tax, property tax relief for Pennsylvania families and seniors, and a sound plan to create jobs across this Commonwealth.

For these reasons, I cannot support this bill and withhold my signature from Senate Bill 1000 Printer's Number 1232.

Sincerely,

TOM WOLF
Governor

The PRESIDENT. The bill and veto message will be laid on the table.

SENATE BILL RETURNED WITHOUT APPROVAL

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following veto communication in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, advising that the following Senate Bill had been returned without approval:

SB 1001, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in special funds, further providing for funding, for State Workers' Insurance Board and for expiration; in the Tobacco Settlement Fund, further providing for use; in the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund, further providing for distribution; in general budget implementation, further providing for the Department of Community and Economic Development and for the Pennsylvania State Police; providing for 2015-2016 budget implementation and for 2015-2016 restrictions on appropriations for funds and accounts; and making related repeals.

The Clerk read the veto message as follows:

September 29, 2015

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 1001 Printer's Number 1233.

This bill implements the temporary General Appropriations bill by amending the Fiscal Code for the 2015-16 fiscal year. As I will veto the General Appropriations bill, I will also veto its implementation.

A partial budget fails to provide the long-term investment in Pennsylvania's future that this Commonwealth needs. As a result of the irresponsible budgets of the last administration, our schools and human services providers have been left without adequate funding, and Pennsylvania is facing a multi-billion dollar deficit and further credit downgrades.

The people of Pennsylvania deserve more than an incomplete and inadequate budget. They sent us here to do serious work, and we need a budget that both invests in our future and fixes our deficit.

For these reasons, I cannot support this bill and withhold my signature from Senate Bill 1001 Printer's Number 1233.

Sincerely,

TOM WOLF
Governor

The PRESIDENT. The bill and veto message will be laid on the table.

NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communications in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which were read as follows and referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations:

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

September 29, 2015

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Dr. Robert Capretto D.M.D., 927 Hulton Road, Oakmont 15139, Allegheny County, Forty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania State University, to serve until July 1, 2018, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Todd Rucci, Lititz, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

September 29, 2015

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Mr. Elliott Weinstein, 915 Cortleigh Drive, York 17402, York County, Forty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania State University, to serve until July 1, 2018, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Kathleen Casey, Washington D.C., resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

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:

September 29, 2015

Senators GORDNER, WHITE, BAKER, SCARNATI, HUTCHINSON, BARTOLOTTA, YUDICHAK, STEFANO, WOZNIAK, RAFFERTY, FOLMER, PILEGGI and TEPLITZ presented to the Chair **SB 1012**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 6, 1980 (P.L.197, No.57), known as the Optometric Practice and Licensure Act, further providing for definitions and for approval of drugs; providing for imaging test; and further providing for exemptions and exceptions.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, September 29, 2015.

Senators BROWNE and ALLOWAY presented to the Chair **SB 1018**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 26, 1947 (P.L.318, No.140), known as the CPA Law, further providing for definitions, for requirements for issuance of certificate, for certificates issued by domestic reciprocity, for licenses to practice and for licensing of firms; and providing for expungement of disciplinary records.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, September 29, 2015.

Senators TEPLITZ, SABATINA, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, YUDICHAK, COSTA, WARD, AUMENT, FARNESE, BROWNE, HUGHES, HAYWOOD and VOGEL presented to the Chair **SB 1019**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the delivery of services and programs to veterans with cognitive mental disability and emotional trauma; and establishing the Office of Veterans' Mental Health Awareness.

Which was committed to the Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, September 29, 2015.

Senators McILHINNEY, FONTANA, VANCE, ALLOWAY, TARTAGLIONE, VULAKOVICH, RAFFERTY, DINNIMAN, BROOKS and MENSCH presented to the Chair **SB 1020**, entitled:

An Act providing for health insurance computerized records security; and imposing a penalty.

Which was committed to the Committee on BANKING AND INSURANCE, September 29, 2015.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator RAFFERTY, from the Committee on Transportation, reported the following bills:

SB 840 (Pr. No. 1280) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in rules of the road in general, further providing for speed timing devices and providing for pilot program for automated speed enforcement systems.

SB 927 (Pr. No. 1281) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of June 25, 1931 (P.L.1352, No.332), referred to as the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Compact, further providing for the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Compact; providing for majority approval; and prohibiting the entrance into a compact until passage of a similar act.

SB 955 (Pr. No. 1178)

An Act designating a certain interchange in New Stanton Borough, Westmoreland County, as the Edwin "Lance" Wentzel Memorial Interchange.

SB 956 (Pr. No. 1179)

An Act designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 711 over the Loyalhanna Creek in Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County, as the Lieutenant Eric Eslary Memorial Bridge.

SB 983 (Pr. No. 1219)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, further providing for person with disability plate and placard.

SB 988 (Pr. No. 1223)

An Act designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 403 over the Two Lick Creek, Borough of Clymer, Indiana County as the Sergeant James Robert Pantall Memorial Bridge.

SB 989 (Pr. No. 1224)

An Act designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 580 over the Susquehanna River, Cherry Tree Borough, Indiana County, as the Airman Second Class Gerald Emmett Johnson Memorial Bridge.

SB 1014 (Pr. No. 1272)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, further providing for period of registration.

HB 696 (Pr. No. 2217) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of June 26, 2014 (P.L.790, No.77), entitled "An act designating the 700 to 800 block of U.S. Route 13, also known as the Chester Pike, in Prospect Park Borough, Delaware County, as the Officers Luke Arlington Conner and John Horace Callaghan Memorial Highway," further providing for the Officers Luke Arlington Conner and John Horace Callaghan Memorial Highway.

HB 1154 (Pr. No. 1966)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, further providing for display of registration plate.

HB 1279 (Pr. No. 2218) (Amended)

An Act designating a section of Christopher Columbus Boulevard between Oregon Avenue and Washington Avenue in the City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, as the William J. Guarnere and Edward "Babe" Heffron Memorial Boulevard; and designating a portion of US Route 222 in Lancaster County as the Senator Noah W. Wenger Highway.

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 Greenleaf.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Tartaglione, and a legislative leave for Senator Williams.

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

Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Tartaglione, and a legislative leave for Senator Williams.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Senator CORMAN asked and obtained leaves of absence for Senator FOLMER and Senator YAW, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of June 24, 2015; June 25, 2015; and June 26, 2015, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of June 24, 2015; June 25, 2015; and June 26, 2015.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that further reading of the Journals be dispensed with and that the Journals 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-47

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

**GUEST OF SENATOR DOMINIC F. PILEGGI
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator PILEGGI. Mr. President, it is my pleasure this afternoon to recognize Ralph Reitenbach, an employee of the Senate,

on his retirement after more than 32 years of dedicated public service. Mr. Reitenbach, a resident of Halifax in Dauphin County and a constituent of Senator Teplitz, is here with us today in the Senate gallery. Ralph started his service in the Senate on April 1, April Fools' Day, in 1983, while Richard Thornburgh was Governor, as an employee in the Page room. He went on to serve for former Senators John Stauffer, F. Joseph Loeper, David Brightbill, and was employed in my office for 8 years. His responsibilities included copying, printing, and hand-delivering time-sensitive items. Ralph was always willing to do whatever was needed no matter how early, how late, or how far away, on weekends and evenings. He was always very dedicated to his job. Ralph is known by many in this Capitol building as the resident expert on all things Disney and pirates - not the baseball team. He is an accomplished photographer and plans to relocate to Orlando, Florida, to be with his family.

The Senate depends in great measure on the efficiency and dedication of employees like Ralph Reitenbach, who over the years has earned the respect and admiration of his many friends and colleagues. Mr. President, today I ask that we recognize Ralph Reitenbach on his 32 years of dedicated service to this institution and that we offer our very best wishes to him on his richly deserved retirement.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Pileggi, Ralph Reitenbach, please stand. We appreciate all that you have done.

(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 a very good friend of mine, Alan Shuman, who is joined by his daughter, Kayla, and Kayla's friend, Eliana. Kayla has been a guest before and she and her friend, Eliana, are astute observers of what happens here in the Capitol. Today, remarking upon the press conference for individuals with disabilities who are interested in working, we had a very serious conversation where both students offered their advice on what the legislature could do to help make sure that everybody has a fair chance in the world.

Alan has been the president of Shuman Development Group since 1994. During that time, his business has redeveloped over 2 million square feet of mostly inner-city properties in downtown Reading, including historically significant projects like the former Reading Outlet Center, as well as the 18-story Abraham Lincoln Hotel, which is a centerpiece in downtown Reading. Alan really is an essential figure to the landscape of the city of Reading. Prior to the success of his company, he previously attended Bucknell University and graduated from Penn State. Alan has also served time in the U.S. Army Reserves as an executive officer in a combat armor company during the first Gulf War. Please join me in welcoming Alan, Kayla, and Eliana to the Senate.

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

(Applause.)

**GUESTS OF SENATOR CHARLES McILHINNEY
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator McILHINNEY. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to introduce Kathleen Baker and Susanne Cressman to the Senate of Pennsylvania. Kathleen and her sister, Suzanne, live in Pottstown, and they are actually constituents of my friend, Senator Rafferty; however, they won a day at the Capitol at one of my recent community events, so I am pleased to have the honor of introducing them today. Please join me in giving Kathleen and Suzanne, who are seated in the gallery, a warm Senate welcome.

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

(Applause.)

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Tartaglione 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 a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to be held in the Rules room, followed by a meeting of the Committee on Finance 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 Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, at the conclusion of the committee meetings, Senate Democrats will meet in the rear of the Chamber for a caucus.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of meetings of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations and the Committee on Finance, 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.

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 Brooks, and a legislative leave for Senator Scavello.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Brooks, and a legislative leave for Senator Scavello. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 447, SB 606, SB 648, SB 685, SB 686 and SB 751 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

**BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

SB 785 (Pr. No. 1107) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in consolidated county assessment, further providing for definitions and for subjects of local taxation.

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

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-46

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

NAY-1

Hutchinson

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.

HB 823 (Pr. No. 2181) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 25, 1945 (P.L.1050, No.394), known as the Local Tax Collection Law, further providing for bonds of tax collectors, for permanent basic and continuing education programs for tax collectors, for criminal history record information and for deputy tax collectors.

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

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-45

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

NAY-2

Hutchinson Vance

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 with amendments in which concurrence of the House is requested.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 868, HB 874, SB 898 and HB 907 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 57 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILLS REREFERRED

SB 126 (Pr. No. 75) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sentencing, providing for lottery winnings intercept.

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

SB 127 (Pr. No. 76) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sentencing, providing for State income tax intercept.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 263 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 296 (Pr. No. 1276) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in falsification and intimidation, further providing for false alarms to agencies of public safety; and, in sentencing, providing for sentencing for offenses involving false alarms to agencies of public safety.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 388 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 400 (Pr. No. 1957) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for the Work Experience for High School Students with Disabilities Act; and imposing duties on the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

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

HB 400 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 400, Printer's No. 1957, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.
The PRESIDENT. The bill will be placed on the Calendar.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 411 and HB 455 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 501 (Pr. No. 497) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for protection of paychecks of certain workers, for the collection of membership dues and political contributions; and repealing certain provisions of The Administrative Code of 1929 and the Public Employee Fair Share Fee Law.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 604 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL REREFERRED

SB 731 (Pr. No. 735) -- 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; and, in State Board of Education, further providing for powers and duties of the board.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 735 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 772 (Pr. No. 825) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 23, 1972 (P.L.136, No.52), known as the Professional Psychologists Practice Act, further providing for definitions and for temporary license; allowing applicants to take test sooner; defining board's powers; making editorial changes; and making a repeal.

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

HB 792 (Pr. No. 1678) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 3, 1959 (P.L.1688, No.621), known as the Housing Finance Agency Law, further providing for the Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund.

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 874 and **HB 898** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 899 (Pr. No. 1065) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in consolidated county assessment, further providing for limitation on tax increase after countywide reassessment.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 931, **SB 942** and **HB 1340** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator CORMAN, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported the following bills:

SB 513 (Pr. No. 1139) (Rereported) (*Concurrence*)

An Act amending the act of July 7, 1980 (P.L.380, No.97), known as the Solid Waste Management Act, in residual waste, further providing for transportation of residual waste; and abrogating a regulation.

SB 875 (Pr. No. 1187) (Rereported) (*Concurrence*)

An Act providing for the use of treated mine water for oil and gas development.

RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator CORMAN, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported the following resolution:

SR 149 (Pr. No. 1128) (Rereported) (*Concurrence*)

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 Com-

mission 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.

The PRESIDENT. The resolution will be placed on the Calendar.

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

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 513 (Pr. No. 1139) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 7, 1980 (P.L.380, No.97), known as the Solid Waste Management Act, in residual waste, further providing for transportation of residual waste; and abrogating a regulation.

On the question,
Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 513?

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 513.

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-47

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

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 inform the House of Representatives accordingly.

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 875 (Pr. No. 1187) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for the use of treated mine water for oil and gas development.

On the question,
Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 875?

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 875.

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

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington, Senator Bartolotta.

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, quickly, a refresher on Senate Bill No. 875, it passed in the Senate before it went to the House and came back with a tiny, little technical amendment, which was actually suggested by the Department of Environmental Protection. That amendment was made by Representative Maher. The bill now has 100-percent support from Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection, and I request an affirmative vote. Thank you.

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

Senator WOZNIAK. Mr. President, I know most of the Members who come from urban centers do not have the Marcellus Shale industry in their area, but I ask for an affirmative vote. It makes sense. I come from an area of Pennsylvania where the creeks are yellow. There is a reason they are yellow. It was because of the heyday of steel and coal and we have a lot of wastewater, and it absolutely makes a whole lot of sense to use wastewater for a productive use. It gets cleaned up and we are using something that kills fish anyhow, so to use it for productive means certainly makes sense. The water is free, it is there, it is being treated, and it is an opportunity to have a re-use for something that has been a bane of western Pennsylvania for decades. Thank you.

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

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

YEA-29

Alloway	Brooks	Scavello	Wagner
Argall	Browne	Smucker	Ward
Aument	Corman	Stefano	White
Baker	Eichelberger	Tartaglione	Wozniak
Bartolotta	Gordner	Teplitz	Yudichak
Blake	Hutchinson	Vance	
Boscola	Mensch	Vogel	
Brewster	Scarnati	Vulakovich	

NAY-18

Costa	Haywood	McIlhinney	Tomlinson
Dinniman	Hughes	Pileggi	Wiley
Farnese	Kitchen	Rafferty	Williams
Fontana	Leach	Sabatina	
Greenleaf	McGarrigle	Schwank	

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate inform the House of Representatives accordingly.

**RESOLUTION ON CONCURRENCE
IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS**

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

Senator CORMAN, without objection, called up from page 1 of Supplemental Calendar No. 1, **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 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.

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Resolution No. 149?

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Resolution No. 149.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

Senator WOZNIAK. Mr. President, very quickly, we passed this unanimously out of the Senate a few months ago. A technical change was made in the House, which made it a better resolution, to get it directly to where we need to get to, but what it does is makes a request to the United States military to not jump the gun. In February 2016, they will be making a BRAC decision as to what to do with the future of the military, but they are jumping the gun and they are intentionally trying to close down a number of facilities throughout this nation, two of them in Pennsylvania, one in Johnstown, and a second one, a brigade, in Scranton. This affects 350 full- and part-time jobs in rural Pennsylvania, an economic impact of \$45 million.

The National Guard Apache unit has proven to be just as effective in war and in peace as the regular standing Army. It costs significantly less money to use our National Guard in this service. Johnstown, Pennsylvania, by helicopter, is very close to 50 percent of the population of the United States. They can be sent for maneuvering and they can be dispatched at a moment's notice. It is a strong anchor in my community, and I think it is premature for the United States military to unilaterally make decisions before the BRAC report is even issued in February. So this resolution makes the request of the United States Congressmen, the United States Senators, and the President of the United States to get involved and prevent that from happening.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

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

Senator BLAKE. Mr. President, I am glad to join my colleague, Senator Wozniak, and I obviously want to express my thanks to all of the Members of the Senate who have been unanimously supporting this action on Senate Resolution No. 149. As Senator Wozniak said, it conveys a message and urges Congress to take necessary steps to prohibit any forced structure changes, prohibit the transfer of the Apache helicopters from the National Guard to active duty, and maintains the Pennsylvania Army National Guard at the 350,000-plus soldiers and servicewomen that my colleague, Senator Wozniak, mentioned.

Mr. President, the fact of the matter is that they have established a National Commission on the Future of the Army, NCFA, as it is reported, and it was set up to provide recommendations to the Army on what to do with respect to their service, and they are actually making a unilateral decision here that impacts these units prior to even having the intelligence offered by their own study. The continued operation of the 55th Brigade is critically important not only to our State and national security, but to the economic strength of northeastern Pennsylvania. There are more than 5,000 Pennsylvanians who capably and selflessly serve in this brigade. These are fine men and women, and they deserve our unwavering support. The geographic presence is important not only in response to the Army's request for mobilization, but it is vital in order to remain agile in response to some State and Federal emergencies. We are on the verge of heavy rainfall right now, Mr. President, which could pose flooding threats to our communities, and it is often that the National Guard is called out in those crises.

I want to let the Members know that this is an important resolution. I appreciate their support. In my first term in the Senate, I had a chance to go to a ceremonial mess with the 55th Brigade and Colonel Konzman, and I have never encountered more remarkable young men and women in service to our country. Several regiments within the ABCT trace their origin to the Revolutionary War and are among the oldest in Pennsylvania. The 109th Infantry, the 109th Field Artillery, the 103rd Armor, and the 104th Cavalry have been decorated for meritorious service in every theater of engagement since. So, I think they deserve our support, Mr. President. Thank you very much.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

YEA-47

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

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 inform the House of Representatives accordingly.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 909 (Pr. No. 1095)

An Act amending the act of June 27, 2006 (1st Sp.Sess., P.L.1873, No.1), known as the Taxpayer Relief Act, in taxation by school districts, further providing for definitions, for adoption of preliminary budget proposals, for information to school districts, for property tax limits on reassessment and for public referendum requirements for increasing certain taxes.

HB 561 (Pr. No. 634)

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.

HB 1256 (Pr. No. 1648)

An Act amending the act of December 31, 1965 (P.L.1257, No.511), known as The Local Tax Enabling Act, in optional occupational tax elimination, further providing for income tax rate limits.

HB 1319 (Pr. No. 2219) (Amended)

An Act providing for the taxation or the exemption from taxation of amounts and events relating to the Pennsylvania ABLE Savings Program.

SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senators SABATINA, TARTAGLIONE, GREENLEAF, BREWSTER, ARGALL, FONTANA, VULAKOVICH, SCAVELLO, BLAKE, DINNIMAN, RAFFERTY, PILEGGI, BARTOLOTTA, ALLOWAY, YUDICHAK, COSTA, SCHWANK, WHITE, BOSCOLA, AUMENT, HUTCHINSON, HUGHES and VOGEL, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 197**, entitled:

A Resolution Designating the month of October 2015 as "Polish American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator SABATINA. Mr. President, I ask for unanimous approval of my resolution making October "Polish American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania. More than 400 years ago the first Polish settlers arrived in the United States. Since then they have made significant contributions in all aspects of life, from artists to accountants, from lawyers to legislators, from entrepreneurs, entertainers, and inventors.

One such Polish American historic figure is General Casimir Pulaski. He was a hero in America's fight for independence and

transformed our cavalry. Other notable Polish Americans include Archbishop Cardinal Krol; former La Salle University and Philadelphia Warrior, the great Tom Gola; and Stan "The Man" Musial from Donora. More recently, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission approved a historical marker on the Drexel University campus to honor Dr. Walter Golaski, who worked his way through Drexel University night school as a needle technician in a knitting factory. After getting his mechanical engineering degree at Drexel, he became a world-famous bioengineer and inventor who was a pioneer and created the Dense Knit Dacron artificial blood vessel. He was also a philanthropist who was devoted to establishing closer ties between the United States and Poland through cultural and scholarly exchange. Mr. Golaski died near Philadelphia in 1996 at the age of 83.

In his spirit and all of the Polish Americans who have contributed to this country, I ask that Members support this resolution to make October Polish American Heritage Month throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Thank you.

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

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

Senators SABATINA, WOZNIAK, DINNIMAN, TEPLITZ, ARGALL, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, GREENLEAF, SCHWANK, COSTA, HUTCHINSON, YUDICHAK, RAFFERTY, BARTOLOTTA, AUMENT and HUGHES, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 198**, entitled:

A Resolution designating October 6, 2015, as "Pulaski Memorial Day" in Pennsylvania commemorating the 236th anniversary of General Casimir Pulaski's death in 1779.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator SABATINA. Mr. President, I rise in support of this resolution marking October 6 as "Pulaski Memorial Day" in Pennsylvania. Casimir Pulaski is best known as the father of the American cavalry, having transformed our mounted forces during the Revolution, while becoming a key weapon for General George Washington's Continental Army. Less known is that General Pulaski was a freedom fighter against Russian occupation in his native Poland before coming to America, and he was willing to risk his life on another continent in the name of freedom.

General Pulaski was a commander in critical cavalry battles at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, and is credited with thwarting a British attempt on General Washington's life. General Pulaski died in battle near Savannah, Georgia, and his dedication to American liberty was almost immediately recognized by the Continental Congress. This year marks the 236th anniversary of the death of General Pulaski. As we recognize Pulaski Day, I encourage all Polish Americans to continue to proudly celebrate their nation's contributions to this diverse Commonwealth.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator Sabatina. I know your district contains many folks of proud Polish American heritage, and I am sure they appreciate you standing up for these monumentally important Polish Americans.

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

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

Senators DINNIMAN, TEPLITZ, PILEGGI, COSTA, GREENLEAF, SCHWANK, TARTAGLIONE, FARNESE, SABATINA, BROWNE, FONTANA, HUGHES, KITCHEN, RAFFERTY, HAYWOOD, MENSCH, YUDICHAK and VULAKOVICH, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 199**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of October 4 through October 10, 2015, as "Juvenile Justice Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Dinniman, who appears to want to represent the 5th Senatorial District.

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, it is always good to know that all Senate districts are great and that all of us are the friends of the President of the Senate. By the way, Mr. President, it is good to see that the tradition that you established in the 5th Senatorial District of having many resolutions of significance and recognizing many people is being continued by Senator Sabatina as a continuation of your good work in the Senate that he is carrying on now for the residents of that Senate district.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator.

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, we thank Senator Sabatina and you for doing the good work that both of you are doing.

Mr. President, I almost forgot why I was here. I was so busy praising you and Senator Sabatina.

The PRESIDENT. Well, that is a very good reason to forget where you are, Senator. I appreciate that.

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, I figured you would say that.

"Juvenile Justice Week" will be from October 4 to October 10. We have to continue and even improve our efforts at juvenile justice. When a young person commits a crime, we have a moment in which we can either discourage and redeem that youngster and send that person in the right way, or we will lose that opportunity. Juvenile Justice Week goes by the theme that has been adopted by the Governor's commission on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention that says, Juvenile Justice: Community Protection; Victim Restoration; Youth Redemption.

A great deal of our work in juvenile justice is done through the concept of restorative justice, that if a young person commits a crime, they need to be responsible enough to understand that they have to give back to the community. They have to restore, through some act of their own--it might even be picking up leaves in the park or sweeping the streets--that when you take from the community you have an absolute responsibility to give

back to the community, or some way to give back to the victim. Through that attempt at restorative justice, many people then will learn to understand that they are one person in a larger community. They will learn to understand their responsibility to that community.

So as we put this resolution forward, what we are really asking people to do is to understand that every child can be redeemed, that we can send every child in the right direction, and we do not want to lose anyone. In order to do this, we have to be smart enough and wise enough, like Solomon, to understand that if someone commits a crime, they have to restore something back to the community for that crime and for that victim, and, ultimately, the aim is to make sure that child goes the straight way, that that child goes the way of continuing and becoming a full and productive member of the community. Once again, Mr. President, remember, every time a child commits a crime, especially the first time, we have a moment in time--and even a second or third time--to help that youngster go the right way, and that is the purpose of our celebration, or recognition, that is the better word, of Juvenile Justice Week here in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. That is a very important area of the justice system that we all need to focus on.

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

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

Senators BOSCOLA, COSTA, HUGHES, FONTANA, MENSCH, DINNIMAN, KITCHEN, SABATINA, SCHWANK, TARTAGLIONE, WOZNIAC, GREENLEAF, AUMENT, BARLOTTA, PILEGGI, RAFFERTY, SCAVELLO and VULAKOVICH, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 200**, entitled:

A Resolution commending the Chiropractic Fellowship of Pennsylvania for its educational efforts, and recognizing the month of September 2015 as "Vertebral Subluxation Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a resolution designating September 2015 as "Vertebral Subluxation Awareness Month." Now, as you know, chiropractors are healthcare professionals who have been very involved and proactive in efforts to educate people about the importance of diagnostic tests for back, neck, and pain problems. They are the only licensed professionals who undergo years of training to learn how to properly correct shifts in the bones of the spinal column, which are known as vertebral subluxations. I commend them, especially the Chiropractic Fellowship of Pennsylvania, on their efforts to reduce pain and other problems for the individual whom they are treating. They continue their education and training in a very responsible manner, and they help spread awareness to the public about different types of chiropractic care that is available. So therefore, again, I ask my colleagues to join me in

declaring September 2015 as Vertebral Subluxation Awareness Month in Pennsylvania. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator, and well pronounced.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators FONTANA, ARGALL, DINNIMAN, GREENLEAF, TEPLITZ, TARTAGLIONE, EICHELBERGER, COSTA, SCARNATI, WILEY, BARTOLOTTA, PILEGGI, SCAVELLO, SCHWANK, AUMENT, FARNESE, BROWNE, HUGHES, MENSCH, KITCHEN, RAFFERTY, VOGEL, YUDICHAK, HAYWOOD and VULAKOVICH, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 201**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of October 2015 as "Italian-American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of our history's most notable explorers and to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing October 2015 as "Italian-American Heritage Month." Mr. President, Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer and navigator who embarked on what would end up being four trips across the Atlantic Ocean in an effort to find a trade route to Asia. Instead, Mr. Columbus accidentally stumbled upon the Americas during his voyage, which resulted in centuries of exploration on the American continent.

While Italians have always been a part of American history, Mr. President, it was not until the 1820s that these immigrants began moving to the United States in sizable numbers. These relatively unskilled individuals can be credited with helping fuel a booming industry and economy by providing labor for American factories and mines, and assisted with building our roads, dams, tunnels, and other major infrastructure over the years. However, as Italian Americans began settling in this country's major cities, they often faced religious and ethnic discrimination, which occasionally led to brutal violence. In an attempt to be accepted by mainstream America, these citizens of Italian descent started to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Christopher Columbus. As early as the 18th century, Italian Americans unofficially celebrated Columbus Day in a number of cities and States, being declared a Federal holiday in 1937 during Franklin Roosevelt's administration. Mr. President, today we credit Christopher Columbus with Italian immigration to the new world and Pennsylvania.

Currently, there are more than 26 million Americans of Italian heritage in the United States, with more than 1.5 million residing in Pennsylvania. I am especially proud to say that western Pennsylvania has a significant Italian American population that is rich in culture. Bloomfield, belonging to my good friend and colleague, Senator Costa, is a neighborhood that is located 3 miles from downtown Pittsburgh and is considered Pittsburgh's Little Italy because of its historical Italian American population. In

fact, Senator Costa and I will be marching in the Columbus Day parade on October 10. It is the 30th annual parade in Pittsburgh.

I would also like to point out that Americans of Italian descent have become one of the Commonwealth's most influential ethnic groups and play an influential role in the arts, law, science, government, commerce, manufacturing, and finance. A couple well-known examples of businesses are, Mr. President, the Planters Peanut Company was created by Italian immigrants in 1887 in Pennsylvania. Additionally, Italian American Jim Delligatti, owner of several McDonald's franchises in the Pittsburgh region, invented one of the world's most popular sandwiches in the late 1960s, the Big Mac.

Lastly, I am excited to announce that the authentic replicas of two of the three ships in Christopher Columbus's fleet, the Nina and Pinta, will be docked at Station Square in Pittsburgh from October 1 through October 12. This is the third time these sailing museums will visit Pittsburgh and are expected to draw large crowds once again.

Mr. President, as an Italian American myself, it is with great pride that I urge the adoption of this resolution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Once again, we salute the great contributions that Italian Americans have made to Pennsylvania and, of course, America.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator HUGHES, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 202**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the week of September 20 through 26, 2015, as "Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Hughes. Senator Hughes appears to have something in mind for his special resolution.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, in fact, I do have something special in mind. This resolution honors and recognizes last week, September 20 through September 26, 2015, as "Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Week" throughout the State and throughout the nation. Before I go any further, Mr. President, the young lady who prepared the research for me is one of our proud students at East Stroudsburg University with a 3.7 grade point average. She is standing behind me to my right and her name is Chantal Fulgencio. She wants to be a lawyer. She wants to be a doctor. She wants to go to graduate school, law school, and everything, and we want to encourage her with that. She is interning in my office and did the research. The unfortunate thing is, she still happens to remain a Giants, Mets, and Yankees fan, and we have to work on that, Mr. President, because she is from Manhattan.

Chantal prepared the research for this resolution, which recognizes the historic contributions of over 105 HBCUs throughout

the nation. Pennsylvania happens to be home of the two oldest historically black colleges and universities, Cheyney University and Lincoln University. We have that recognition here in Pennsylvania as being the home of the two oldest in the nation - not in the State but in the nation. What we need to understand is why it is important to recognize the contributions of our HBCUs, simply because not too long ago, Mr. President, it was, in fact, illegal to educate African American children. It was illegal, and if you were a teacher and taught African American children, you were put in jail. It was against the law. In the context of that reality, in the context of that unfortunate history in this nation, HBCUs were founded to overcome the issue of a lack of access to education, and in this case, a lack of access to higher education.

So, we want to take this moment and recognize HBCUs, historically black colleges and universities, with a week, September 20 through September 26, 2015, to be recognized nationally. We especially want to recognize the contributions of Cheyney University and Lincoln University, the two oldest HBCUs in the nation. We want to recognize all of their graduates, all of their faculty, both previous and current faculty, all of their employees, the presidents, and most importantly, recognize those students yet to attend those two institutions. We should always make a commitment to support those institutions, support the concept of HBCUs, and support the mission of making sure that every child, no matter what their history, no matter what their circumstances, gets access to a high quality education.

Again, I want to thank Chantal, who prepared the research--but still remains a Giants fan, Mr. President; I know that causes you great chagrin, as it does me--for her work. And in spite of the fact that she once recently confused me for Steve Harvey, which I really do not understand how that occurred, we think she is making a great contribution to our office. I have been confused for a lot of people, but no one has ever mixed me up with Steve Harvey, whom I consider a great guy.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator Hughes, for recognizing the extremely important topic of Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week and part of the reason why Pennsylvania is a special State, which shares in that great tradition.

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. 203**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of October 2015 as "Dysautonomia 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. Mr. President, this is a resolution recognizing October as "Dysautonomia Awareness Month." Dysautonomia is a group of medical conditions that result in a

malfunction of the autonomic nervous system, which is responsible for automatic bodily functions such as respiration, heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, temperature control, and many others. It manifests itself in many different ways that hide, in a sense, other diseases: Panic attacks, depression, vascular problems, and out-of-body feelings. What you need to do is to go to your family physician. He sends you to a specialist, and a specialist finds nothing wrong with you. Another manifestation comes and you go to a family physician, and you go to another specialist, and that doctor finds nothing wrong with you. It becomes very frustrating because your spouse begins to believe that perhaps it is in your head, in your mind, maybe you are crazy, until one day out of the box of Pandora while you look through the Internet, you find that there are other people suffering the same conditions, conditions that prevent you from having a full-time job because you do not know what tomorrow might bring. The fact that the medications do not work is because it is not physiological, it has to do with the nervous system. This individual who found hope in that box of Pandora, the Internet, is a person by the name of Dr. Carrick, out of Georgia. You might recognize that name because he is a doctor who has taken care of some of our most famous sports people, including Sidney Crosby, and has a lot of knowledge about concussions, the brain, and the autonomic nervous system.

It is a very frustrating disease that brings the persons afflicted with it to tears, and all they want to do is just feel normal. I want people to be aware of this affliction and make October Dysautonomia Awareness Month because I know somebody very well who has suffered with this condition for over 15 years, and that is my wife, Vanessa. So, I just want to tell people out there who have this condition that, one, you are not nuts, it is not in your head, and that you are not alone. You can go on the Web site and find those necessary resources, and find the doctors who have treatments that can attest to it. At this point in time, there is no real cure. It is challenging, but like any other disease, awareness and making people understand that it is out there is a beginning.

I thank you very much for this time, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Thank you, Senator Wozniak, once again, for standing up for a very important public health issue.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators TEPLITZ, KITCHEN, SABATINA, MENSCH, RAFFERTY, FONTANA, DINNIMAN, COSTA, GREENLEAF, TARTAGLIONE, SCHWANK, PILEGGI, BARTOLOTTA, VULAKOVICH, AUMENT, FARNESE, BROWNE and HUGHES, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 204**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of October 2015 as "Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Awareness Month" 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 the month of October 2015 as "Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. ADHD is a neuro-behavioral disorder that is one of the most common childhood disorders and can continue through adolescence and adulthood. More than 6 million children in the United States are affected by ADHD. The average age of onset is 7 years old, and boys are four times more at risk than girls. Inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity are the key behaviors of ADHD. These symptoms can make it difficult for a child with ADHD to succeed in school, get along with other children or adults, or finish tasks at home. However, most people with ADHD can be successful in school and lead productive lives with treatment including medication, various types of psychotherapy, education and training, or a combination of treatments. There is currently no cure for the disorder. That is why it is important that we raise awareness about ADHD so that the public truly understands how it impacts a person's quality of life. So, Mr. President, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the month of October as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Awareness Month in Pennsylvania.

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.

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 Centa Quinn and to Randolph Gregory by Senator Baker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Sharon McCrone by Senator Blake.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Frederick T. Shafer by Senator Corman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Iron Hill Twilight Criterium Board of Directors and to Market Street Print and Copy of West Chester by Senator Dinniman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Colonel Maciej Siudak, Colonel Cristian Teglas, Lieutenant Colonel Victor Antonio Orellana Pineda, Colonel Khaled Khalaf A. Albadi, Lieutenant Colonel Petr Svoboda, Colonel Lingililani Joseph, Lieutenant Colonel Stoyan Georgiev Shopov, Colonel Valerio Luiz Lange, Brigadier General Subari Bin Tomo, Colonel Achmad Riad, Colonel Ignatius Yogo Triyono, Colonel Guy Hasson, Colonel Juan Carlos Correa Consuegra, Colonel Mijo Validzic, Colonel Ahmed Elsayed Abdelsadek Elersawy, Lieutenant Colonel Sashko Lafchiski, Colonel Yuichi Mukunoki, Colonel Mungai Nyaga, Colonel Jintae Kim, Colonel Matar Ali D. Alshalawi, Brigadier General Syed Tareq Hussain, Lieutenant Colonel Alгимantas Misiunas, Lieutenant Colonel Vahur Karus, Lieutenant Colonel Jean Ouedraogo, Colonel Zaza Chkhaidze, Brigadier General Sami Obeid Dokan Al-Hamad, Lieutenant Colonel Emiliano Vigorita, Lieutenant Colonel Fulgence Luhembwe Chuy Radja, Colonel Nigussie Abraha Bota, Colonel Sven Lange, Colonel Michail Ploumis, Brigadier Jagdish Baliram Chaudhari, Lieutenant Colonel Maurice Ntossui Allogo, Colonel Tomas Amador Ramirez, Lieutenant Colonel Zsolt

Vantal, Colonel Mario Eduardo La Torre Galvez, Colonel Philip Sanchez Lapinid, Lieutenant Colonel Mohamad A. El Affi, Lieutenant Colonel Sadyrbek Momunaliyev, Lieutenant Colonel Khaled Asam Alkheeri, Colonel Amos Zimba, Colonel Jean-Pascal Levasseur, Colonel Gakji Goshwe Shipi, Colonel Oyvind Johan Kvalvik, Lieutenant Colonel Djibril Doumbia, Lieutenant Colonel Reda Chaib, Colonel Patrick Mwesigye, Colonel Martin Michalko, Lieutenant Colonel Cheikh Tidiane Bouso, Lieutenant Colonel Moctar Amadou Mounkaila, Lieutenant Colonel Miodrag Vuksanovic, Lieutenant Colonel Galbadrakh Togoo, Lieutenant Colonel Hung Ngoc Nguyen, Brigadier Syed Najeeb Ahmad, Brigadier Kanwar A. Khan, Lieutenant Colonel Hasan Yilmaz, Lieutenant Colonel Mounir Namouchi, Colonel Peter Nieuwenhuis, Colonel Charles Dalo Nengite and to Lieutenant Colonel Uros Paternus by Senator Eichelberger.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Carrie Lavinia Ruffin and to Germantown Community Presbyterian Church by Senator Haywood.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Jay S. Feldstein by Senator Hughes.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Interfaith Alliance of Pennsylvania by Senator Teplitz.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hanner and to Erik H. Cerrelli by Senator Vance.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Trooper Adam S. Kirk and to Alberto E. Diaz, Sr., by Senator Yaw.

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION

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

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late George J. Hanzimanolis by Senator Scavello.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator HUTCHINSON. 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 840, SB 909, SB 927, SB 955, SB 956, SB 983, SB 988, SB 989, SB 1014, HB 561, HB 696, HB 1154, HB 1256, HB 1279 and HB 1319.

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, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

9:00 A.M.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE
(public hearing on the mental health
involuntary commitment process)

Room 8E-B
East Wing

9:00 A.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to consider Senate Resolution No. 171; and House Bills No. 62 and 138)	Room 461 Main Capitol
10:00 A.M.	BANKING AND INSURANCE (to consider House Bills No. 347 and 837)	Room 461 Main Capitol
10:00 A.M.	CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE (to consider the nomination of Andrew Place for Public Utility Commissioner; Senate Bill No. 857; and House Bills No. 579 and 1275)	Room 8E-A East Wing
10:30 A.M.	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bills No. 526 and 791; and House Bills No. 904, 906, 909 and 910)	Room 461 Main Capitol
Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider certain Executive Nominations)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
<u>TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015</u>		
10:00 A.M.	LABOR AND INDUSTRY (public hearing to examine the effects changes to the unemployment compensation system have had on seasonal workers)	Phila. City Hall
<u>WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015</u>		
10:00 A.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (joint informational session with the House State Government Committee on the new online voter registration system)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman Centre, Senator Corman, who attended two great universities, Temple and Penn State.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, this morning, I guess it was, the Auditor General of the Commonwealth held a press conference to talk about the situation that some of our school districts are in, which ones were already going out to get loans to keep their schools open because of the lack of a State budget, and gave a list of schools that will be going out in the next month or so looking for loans to keep their schools open. Obviously, I think what we all would like is to have a budget done. We have all probably heard from our social service organizations, as well, many of whom are going out for loans because of lack of State funding. We all take responsibility for that, whether we be Republicans or Democrats, Senators or House Members, or executive branch, we all have a hand in the fact that we do not have a State budget done. It is something that we have to continue to work through to ultimately get a budget done. That would be all of our first preference, that a State budget would be completed by now and the money would be flowing to the school districts and the social services. Unfortunately, that is not the situation. Both sides have deeply held principles that they are debating at this point in time, and so we have not been able to come to a resolution. That is unfortunate.

Today, the Governor of the Commonwealth had the opportunity to at least begin to let the money flow for at least a quarter of the year, for 4 months dating back to July 1 to October 31, to at least allow the school districts relief. It would not be the final

budget for the year, it would not be the final amount that they would get, we still would have to negotiate that, but at this time, at least, it would take off the pressure. The schools would not have to go out in the private market to secure loans at whatever interest rates they could get, which ultimately have to be paid back, as well. That is money that could be going into the classroom, but ultimately is not going into the classroom. It is going to go into paying off loans that we would pay at the State level or they would pay at the local level. Either way, it has to be paid. That is unfortunate.

As I said, the Governor had the opportunity to sign the emergency funding bill that was passed by the Senate and then concurred in the House and put on his desk. He neglected to do that. He decided he was going to veto it. That is his decision, obviously, as he vetoed the budget in June, but this was not about the budget, this was about getting money out. This was emergency funding to get out while we still talk about the budget, while we still negotiate the budget, and while we still work through our deeply held principles, both of the Governor and our colleagues in the Democratic Caucus, as well as ours. That opportunity passed us today to give our school districts some relief and to give our social services some relief. That emergency funding could have gone a long way to solving some problems back home. Unfortunately, it will not go there today because the Governor chose to veto it.

Maybe more troubling than trying to get a deal here was the Governor's comments at his press conference. I was not there, I did not see him personally, but from what I have been able to read, he started out with, I am here, I want to fight. I am here for a fight, I think were his words. That is good to want your principles and all of that, and we do as well, but the rhetoric that was going up today is not particularly helpful. I respect what the Governor is looking for. I hope he respects some of our issues, but to say you are here to stand for a fight is not helpful as far as getting together and coming to common ground.

Let us look a little deeper. What is the Governor fighting for? Well, let us start out with the Governor is fighting for a 14-percent personal income tax increase. The latest proposal that he gave me back in August, he wants to raise the personal income tax by 14 percent. Now, when our school districts back home raised the millage by 3 percent or 4 percent or 5 percent, there were a lot of eyebrows being raised. Wow, that is a pretty steep increase. Well, that is nothing compared to a 14-percent personal income tax increase. That is across the board. That is dollar one for constituents and citizens of this Commonwealth who are out there, hardworking, and trying to make ends meet. He needs to come up with 14 percent more of that income to be paid in taxes to the State.

So, that is what he is fighting for. That is the biggest issue that is separating us right now. The biggest issue that is separating us from finishing this budgetary process is the Governor's request for a personal income tax increase. A 14-percent personal income tax increase, we have stated time after time after time that we do not have the votes for that. There are not the votes in this Chamber for a 14-percent personal income tax increase. Maybe at some point we need to have that vote to see if they are here, if the Governor does not believe us, but that is what is really separating us. If you get past everything else, all of the other side issues, the main issue that is separating us is the Governor's request for a 14-percent personal income tax increase.

I was here in 2009. I was the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations at the time, and I know my colleague from Allegheny County was here as well, on the Democratic side, and we had the same sort of battle. At the time, Governor Rendell was looking for a large personal income tax increase, and actually to the gentleman's credit, now the Leader of the Democratic Caucus, as well as the former Leader of the Senate Democratic Caucus, the Senator from Lackawanna County, it was their initiative to come to us and say, we can work this out without that personal income tax increase, and we did. We worked it out. Unfortunately, we are still waiting for the Governor to come to that realization this time around. Once he does, I believe a budget can be worked out in a fairly quick fashion. There are still a lot of issues to discuss, but when you are talking about that far of a difference in revenue, close to a billion and a half dollars, it is hard to negotiate a spending plan underneath that.

If that was it in itself, that is difficult enough, but let us look at some of the other things that the Governor is fighting for. He is fighting for a 63-percent increase in the cigarette tax. Sixty-three percent. And I know we have done sin taxes here before and they are sort of commonplace, and we have sort of always gone after the sin issues like tobacco to tax. People think, well, big tobacco companies can afford it, and clearly they can. Unfortunately, they are not the ones who will be paying for it. It is the guys on the street, many of them probably on the lower-income level who choose to indulge in this habit who are going to have to pay a 63-percent increase in taxes. The President of the Senate, from Philadelphia, we just nailed them for a huge increase a couple of years ago, but a 63-percent increase of the cigarette tax. He also wants to expand that tax to other tobacco products. He wants to fight for that. He wants to fight for people who happen to chew chewing tobacco or snuff, as people refer to it. Again, many of those lower-income individuals will have to pay a tax on that now, as well as other tobacco products. So the Governor is fighting for that.

I know one of the favorite issues the Governor wants to fight for is a severance tax. I get that. A severance tax is an issue dealing with large natural gas industry corporations. They are sort of an easy target. The Governor campaigned on that. To his credit, we all remember the ads of him sitting in the classroom with a bunch of kids around him talking about how we could fund education if we just did a severance tax. Well, that is fine, but let us look at the reality of it. The Governor, when he first proposed it, talked about how it would raise a billion dollars. Well, right now that severance tax would not remotely attract a billion dollars. I think even the gentleman across the aisle here talked about how it would be less than \$100 million if we enacted it. Actually, if you look at it, we enacted an impact fee, which is essentially a tax. The previous Governor did not want to call it a tax, but I am sure the industry feels like it is a tax, because they are paying it, but it goes to local communities instead of the State. If we eliminated that impact fee, just eliminated it, and then implemented a 5-percent severance tax, as I believe the Governor suggested, the industry would be paying probably about the same, if not less than they are today with the impact fee. Let me repeat that. They probably would be paying less, maybe the same or less than they would on the impact fee. My point is not whether we should have it or should not, my point is it does not raise any money. We are not going to fund the Governor's huge request for spending increases with this particular revenue source. It is nice to

bring up at every press conference how we can fund education if we had that. Well, we could not fund education, not the education that he wants, with that particular revenue source.

The Governor is fighting for a bank shares tax, as well, on the banking industry. So he is fighting for a lot of taxes, \$1.9 billion for this year, depending, obviously, on when we would implement it, but fully annualized, next year it would approach \$4 billion, somewhere around \$3.785 billion, if I can read my math here correctly. So, a near \$4-billion increase on the people of Pennsylvania is what the Governor is fighting for. If I recall, I saw somewhere, and I could be inaccurate, so I apologize if I am, but if I recall, I saw a study somewhere or report somewhere that if you added up the other 49 States in the United States of America this year, the total tax increase was short of \$2 billion. So we would double the other 49 States in one year if we would go to where the Governor is fighting for.

Now, I am sure my learned colleague over there is going to say, well, here is what the Governor is really fighting for. He is fighting for education and funding of social services. Again, I respect that. I respect the Governor's principles in what he is talking about, but let us talk about education spending, because that is obviously important to all of us. I have three kids in public schools and I want to make sure that they have all of the resources that are absolutely possible and the best teachers absolutely possible to do well, but if you look at education spending, if you count State and local funding for Pennsylvania students, Pennsylvania ranks in the top 10. We rank seventh in the nation by the National Education Association. By the NEA's report, Pennsylvania, with State and local spending, ranked seventh in the nation. I think that it is hard to make the case that we do not spend an adequate amount in education when we rank seventh in the nation. Not in the bottom 10, not in the bottom 50, but the top 10. Everyone wants to be number one in everything, so maybe we could aspire to that, but it is hard to make the case that the taxpayers of Pennsylvania, through State and local governments, do not spend quite a bit of money on education.

Now, the fact that we spend more locally than we do at the State level is a fair argument. It is an absolute fair argument, and that is a property tax discussion that we have been wrestling around here for 40 years, and to the Governor's credit, he has put out a proposal there to deal with property taxes that would change that balance, that the State would pick up more of the share. We have Members on this side of the aisle who want to eliminate property taxes, so the State would pick up 100 percent of the cost of education. Or if we want to go somewhere between, that is fine, too. We can have that discussion, and hopefully we will have that robust debate in the near future. That would not change the dollar amount going into the schools, but we would still have an education investment by the Pennsylvania taxpayers in the top 10 in the nation, number 7. Top 10 investment by Pennsylvanians in education in the State. So, to sort of go out and make the rhetorical argument that we are underfunding our schools, when you are in the top 10, I think that is a hard argument to make.

The other part of that is a fairness issue, which is a very legitimate issue. The distribution, how that money is distributed to our schools, that some have more than others, obviously some have more ability at the local level than others do, and we just had a commission on that. The Governor, I believe, has embraced the results of that commission. Our chairman of the Committee on

Appropriations, the Senator from Lehigh County, led that to have a distribution change in the basic ed formula, and, I believe, in House Bill No. 1192, the first budget bill that we passed that the Governor vetoed, would have embraced that new formula to try to bring fairness into the distribution. If we can get a property tax discussion done, which does not have anything to do with the General Fund, that would change the balance of the State investment as opposed to the local investment, and if we embrace the new distribution level, then we have come a large way in solving some of the educational problems that our schools may be having without raising one tax.

We have shifted some, no question, but we have not raised one tax. We have continued the same investment, top 10 investment in the nation in public education, judging by the NEA report. So, that is really the crux of the issue, we all would like to have more money to spend. We have had this debate before at home, I would like to have more things I can invest in my home for my family. I invest what I have.

This budget debate is about one thing right now, Mr. President, one thing: Do we want to embrace a 14-percent personal income tax increase? I have not had one voter, one constituent call my office and say, Senator, I want you to vote for a 14-percent personal income tax increase. I have not had one of my colleagues, as Majority Leader, come to me and say, Senator--I know the Governor sort of has some innuendos out there that somehow the Leaders of the Caucuses are not representing their Membership and that the Membership wants to vote for this. Well, if I have any Members in the Senate Republican Caucus who want to vote for a 14-percent personal income tax increase, they have not told me that. I am still waiting.

So, I think to move this issue forward once and for all, I do not think we need any more rhetorical shots across the aisles at each other or from administration to the legislative branch. We need a recognition that there is not support for a higher personal income tax of 14 percent, that the people of Pennsylvania do pay quite a bit of taxes, that the people of Pennsylvania do invest, top 10 investment, in public education in this country. They do make a significant investment. We do have to work around ways to distribute it more fairly. We do have to work around ways to equalize the State, as opposed to the local share of that tax, and that is a fair discussion. But to say that the people of Pennsylvania need to pay more and that what they are paying today is not enough, particularly a 14-percent increase in the personal income tax, I do not think that is what the people of Pennsylvania want. I think the people of Pennsylvania want us to figure out what we have, which is significant, and distribute it in a way that is more effective. That is what we all do in our homes and that is what we do in our businesses, try to figure out what we have and how we can be more effective with it.

So, Mr. President, I am here today, we had several meetings yesterday. We will continue to deal with this. Again, I am regretful that the Governor decided to veto this emergency funding while we continue to have this debate. It is an important debate. I understand the Governor wants to go out and make his case for a 14-percent personal income tax increase. He has the opportunity to do that, but in the meantime, while we are having that debate, we should not be holding our social services and schools hostage. Again, all things being equal, we would rather have a budget done, by far, and the fact that we are here on September 29--which I think last week when I spoke it was my father's

birthday. Well, today is my sister and brother-in-law's wedding anniversary, so I will throw that out there. Believe it or not, it has been 36 years. She is much older than me, Mr. President, I have not been married anywhere near that long. But here we are on September 29, and it is time to get this done. I respect the Governor's principles and I respect what he wants to fight for. He wants to fight for a 14-percent personal income tax increase. I respect that, I just do not think there is support for that. I think, truly, if we move off of that, we can move quickly to a final budget resolution, which will fund our schools for the entire year and fund our social services for the entire year.

In the meantime, Mr. President, since we do not seem to be particularly close, as a matter of fact, I think the Governor said in his own statement that we were not particularly close, why have schools pay interest? Why have schools that could be putting that money into the classroom to help educate our students, why have social services put that money, instead of into interest to banks, they could be putting that money into services for people in need. Why we debate all of the finer points of this budget I do not understand, and I will never understand. That is what today is about. Today is about the Governor's veto of the emergency funding and his fighting for a 14-percent personal income tax increase that is not supported by the Senate of Pennsylvania. There are not 26 votes here. It is not supported by the House of Representatives. There are not 102 votes there. And more importantly, it is not supported by the people of Pennsylvania. I do not remember, again, I am a political junkie of sorts, and I mentioned earlier that the Governor talked about his desire for a severance tax and, again, had nice commercials about that, and so I understand why that is a big issue to him. I do not remember the Governor standing up in the middle of a classroom saying, I want a 14-percent personal income tax increase from everybody. Maybe I missed it, but I did not see that ad. So, you may believe the Governor has a mandate, okay, that is fine, but he does not have a mandate to raise the personal income tax by 14 percent. That is what he wants. That is what he is fighting for, and that is the crux of our problem.

So, if we can get the Governor to step away from that and we can sit down in a bipartisan fashion and look at some of his priorities and look at some of our priorities to get to some of the big issues. I did not even mention public pensions today, which is important. Obviously, that is what is driving up the cost of funding for our schools--not the actual funding for the basic ed formula, but just money that could be going elsewhere in our budget that has to go to pensions. We have been leaning on that for some time. The Governor recognizes, with his own pension proposals, that there is a need to do it. He has said there is a need to do privatization of our liquor stores. So, these are things that we can get to, but we cannot get to them while we are talking about a 14-percent personal income tax increase. That is something that is supported and something that is holding up this entire process that will have us here far past September 29 if the Governor cannot move off of that. So, hopefully, he will.

I would have preferred that he signed the emergency funding today. I am saddened that he did not. I am sure our school districts are saddened that he did not, but nevertheless, we will continue our fight to figure out what we have and how to make it go further and better for the people of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Joseph B. Scarnati III) in the Chair.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I want to rise for a moment to respond to some of the remarks from my good friend and colleague, Senator Corman. First of all, with respect to 2009, he was correct. The three of us who were speaking - myself, you, Mr. President, and the Majority Leader - I think working with our good friend Senator Bob Mellow at the time, helped craft a solution that was beneficial for Pennsylvania and we worked it through this General Assembly, and I appreciate the offer of continued conversation and dialogue about trying to build a consensus that is a bipartisan consensus. We will certainly look to your leadership to be able to do that.

Mr. President, I want to talk about--let us first start with the issue with regard to today's veto by the Governor of the stopgap budget. We have said on this floor a number of times, Senate Democrats and House Democrats, as well as the Governor, obviously, believe that the mechanism to arrive at this one-third budget for this fiscal year was built upon House Bill No. 1192, which we believe had many significant problems with respect to the composition of that budget. Not necessarily on the expenditure side, but we were concerned about the expenditure side because there were things that we thought should have been funded to a far greater degree, particularly education and particularly human services, but also, Mr. President, how we fund that and what we deem to be gimmicks or procedural maneuvers that were changed this particular year and moved those payments into next year. Those are significant and I think they total under House Bill No. 1192 at the time, if I am not mistaken, probably closer to almost \$300 million combined. That is troublesome for us, but there are other faulty assumptions we believe that exist in there that allowed us and remain certain for us that we were not going to support a budget plan for this Commonwealth that was going to, at the end of the day, leave our Commonwealth in a far worse position, expanding the deficit significantly with the passage of House Bill No. 1192.

Mr. President, in the course of the conversation since March, really, but more recently, probably in the June timeframe, and maybe even July, the four Caucuses wanted to get together, largely driven by your side of the aisle, Mr. President, get together and discuss what the true structural deficit is for this year and also next year. Mr. President, the four Caucuses' chairs of the Committee on Appropriations, as well as key staff personnel, concluded that we had a \$1.314 billion structural deficit for 2015-16 that needed to be addressed, that was not addressed. More importantly, going forward, that structural deficit was \$2.144 billion. Mr. President, those are major numbers, with respect to what we are trying to address. We have an obligation here in the Senate and the House, and the Governor, to present to the people of Pennsylvania a balanced budget, and we need to provide the appropriate level of revenues to fund that budget, and that is not what happened in this particular case with House Bill No. 1192. So, with respect to the Governor's position on vetoing that legislation, I believe it was the right thing to do because we cannot take one-third of something that is inappropriate, improper, and something that does not meet the needs of Pennsyl-

vania and then strip it into thirds and then try to foist it upon the people of Pennsylvania and say it is better.

What we stand for and what we will continue to stand for, and I appreciate the gentleman recognizing some of the arguments that we were going to make today, but let me go back and talk about what is important to us. There was a lot of talk about education and education investments. What I can tell you is that the sheets that I have before me, prepared by our folks, tell me that in 2008 and 2009 we provided \$5.836 billion in education in various line items, from basic education, Federal Jobs, accountability block grant, Ready to Learn, tutoring, dual enrollment, science, SIG, charter school reimbursement--which we did away with, unfortunately--that was \$5.8 billion. In 2008-09 was \$5.8 billion, they tell me, and now they tell me in 2014-15 that number is \$5.7 billion. Now, that tells me we are spending \$100 million less in education. There is the whole conversation between the stimulus and all of that money coming and going, and so forth. I am not even talking about that. I am just talking about the spending then and the spending today.

So, what happens in that timeframe? We all know costs and expenses go up. Who is bearing the burden of that? Who bears the burden of making up those lost revenues? It falls to the local school districts, where about 68 percent of school district funding comes from the local governments. Our goal was supposed to be 50/50 many years ago, but when I came here, back in the mid-1990s, I think it was about 35/65. We have gone well beyond that. We are now down to around 32 percent as it relates to the State share. So, as the State share diminishes, the increase is felt by the people back home.

So it is great to stand up here and say that we do not want to support a PIT increase that would be less than a half-percent, but we would rather foist that tax increase for our schools down to the local school district level, where well over 80 percent of our school districts have increased taxes. More importantly, they have not been performing to the degree that we should. When we made those investments in education together, together we made investments in education, and we fought here many days when Governor Rendell was not willing to sign a budget until we addressed education investments and increases, and that had positive results. The people of Pennsylvania saw that education policy, as it was implemented through the General Assembly by the Governor, was successful and provided for scores that demonstrated our kids were doing well. In every subject matter they went up, and in every grade level they were going up. In 2011, when the Republican administration started to disinvest, our scores were not as good, and our schools were not doing as well when we disinvested. So, the Governor's goal is to make the appropriate level of investments in education to make certain that we can shift that burden back away from the property taxes from the local level and move it back to the State where it is more fair and equitable.

Mr. President, I need to remind folks that the *Washington Post* reported back in April that PA schools are the nation's most inequitable. The new Governor wants to fix that. That is what this is about: fixing the inequities with respect to school funding, making sure that the State makes its appropriate level of investment into our schools so that we can educate our kids and they can continue to perform well. They can do well when the investments accompany the work that needs to be done. That is on the education piece.

Let us go to the job creation piece, because what we have seen over the course of the past 4 years is another decline in Pennsylvania, and that is job growth. When the previous Governor came in, February of 2011, we were seventh in the country in job growth. We were growing jobs and outpacing other States with respect to the jobs that we were growing here in Pennsylvania. The reverse is now true. We are lagging behind. We are nearly last in the country, next to last, it depends on what month it is. We are anywhere from 47th to 50th each month now because we are not growing jobs, because we disinvested in programs and disinvested in a Commonwealth to allow for job growth to take place. These, again, are some of the things that this administration wants to change, by using resources to be able to do that and make investments.

Human service programs, let us take a look at those. Those are programs that impact everyone across this Commonwealth, each of our families in some way, shape, or form and our constituents' families are touched by issues like drugs and alcohol, issues that need to be addressed, mental health issues that need to be resolved, homelessness, and the list goes on, human service programs for our seniors. Those programs continue to be underfunded by 10 percent, roughly. Cumulatively, about \$320 million to \$340 million where we could have been investing in human service programs. That impact is not felt here at the State level, it is felt at the local level. It is felt at our local emergency rooms, it is felt by our local social service agencies that no longer have the resources to stay open, the demand is greater and the problems are more significant. It is occurring in our correctional systems at the local level. Again, just like with property taxes and not investing in government, we are shifting the burden down to the school districts. In this instance, we are shifting the problem back to the local folks. That is not the way we should govern. This Governor wants to change that and go in a different direction.

Now, with respect to the issues with regard to the PIT that was discussed, what are we going to get for that? Well, as I mentioned earlier, we have a significant structural deficit that needs to be addressed. Now, we can say that we can do without it. It is very difficult to achieve that. All of you have done that for the past 4 years. You refused to work to provide the appropriate level of revenue and used various gimmicks and games and bootstrapping to get us through 4 years. What have the consequences of that been? I already told you about the educational consequences. We have already talked about the consequences to our business development and job growth. We have already talked about the disinvestment of human services that resulted in that because we did not want to make the appropriate investments. Those are all of the things that have taken place.

The last piece is our standing as a Commonwealth, with respect to our finances, our financial building. My colleague talked about stability, in terms of making payments and doing what you can. The fact of the matter is, you talked about the household budget. Well, if we implemented a household budget in the same manner that all of you have done with regard to how we manage Pennsylvania's budget, we would have a credit score that would be horrible. The State would not be able to do what we need to do with respect to credit as we go forward, and that is part of the problem. When you look at the five bond rating reductions, that is the bond rating community saying to Pennsylvania, all of you do not have your house in order. You need to get your financial

house in order in order to be deemed worthy of a better bond rating. What are the consequences of that? Again, five times--three times in 2014, if I am not mistaken--the consequences are, again, Pennsylvania taxpayers are paying more for us to borrow as a Commonwealth when we have to borrow, and we have to borrow every year. As long as I have been here, we have been borrowing, \$15 billion, \$17 billion, \$18 billion. The cost to borrow that money today is greater, higher, and has been foisted upon the people of Pennsylvania because of our inability to properly handle how we finance our Commonwealth. The bond rating agencies look to that and they look to the gimmicks that have been employed over the past several years. They look to those gimmicks.

And oh, yeah, you are right, they looked at pensions and they said we have a significant pension issue that needs to be resolved. To the Governor's credit, since that time in August when he made these particular proposals that my colleague referenced earlier, the Governor has put a very significant pension proposal on the table. Let me share with everybody what that proposal looks like, but I also want to remind folks that we want to build upon what we did in 2010. In 2010, we cut pension benefits for State workers by 25 percent, roughly. We made changes to the multiplier from 2.5 down to 2. We made changes to the vesting period from 5 years and increased it to 10 years. We made changes with respect to the age that someone can retire, from 60 to 65. We introduced something called shared risk, where the employee would put more money in. What does the Governor offer to build upon 2010's Act 120? He put on the table a variety of things, starting with Option 4 revenue neutrality proposal for the current employees. He also talks about antispiking provisions so that we do not have this major increase for a retiree to be able to manipulate the system and be able to double, in some instances, their retirement benefit. We have talked about expanding the shared risk beyond just the Act 120 employees to all employees. Finally, we talked about borrowing, which we believe makes a lot of sense.

The last piece was something that I think was significant to all of you in Senate Bill No. 1, and that related to defined contribution from dollar one. The Governor has put that on the table as an option for new employees going forward. If you are a new employee walking in that door to work for this State Senate, you would have the ability from dollar one to choose a defined contribution plan. That is what you guys had in Senate Bill No. 1. It was not an option, but it was there. The Governor has put that on the table. The Governor has also added a component related to the stacked hybrid at \$75,000. That basically says that if you are a new employee, you come to work for the Senate, and you make under \$75,000, you can go into the stacked hybrid plan. You would have a defined benefit plan or, if you choose, you can go into a DC plan. That is fair. That gives the employee options. That is what is on the table. Oh, by the way, what does it save the Commonwealth? Over \$20 billion. That is a conversation that we should be talking about, because that generates savings not only short-term to the school districts that we are worried about through the borrowing, but also to the Commonwealth immediately, as well as long-term benefits. Senate Bill No. 1, as proposed by all of you, does neither of those. I take that back. It does do a little bit on the back end, but only to the tune of about \$11 billion versus the \$20-plus billion that the Governor's plan talks about.

So, when we talk about what this Governor has done and what he wants to be able to do in terms of making investments in education, providing resources for human services, making sure that we have a fiscally stable government, and looking to Marcellus Shale to be a part of this solution. Even if it is \$100 million this year, that is worthy of what we should be able to do. This body, Members in this Chamber want to do a Marcellus tax. We all know it. There are more than enough votes to have that passed here. That needs to be a part of the solution as we go forward.

At the end of the day, what we propose and what we have been talking about--it is great to take the PIT or cigarette tax in isolation--but what we are trying to achieve is a product. We need to look at this in a more holistic way. We need to sit down and compromise and work out an arrangement, and I will tell you, folks, for people watching, and my colleagues in the room today, this Governor has made significant steps toward compromise. He has gone more than halfway. We started out on pensions with borrowing, and now we have borrowing and three other issues which have been adopted, as well, as a stacked hybrid plan and a defined contribution optional plan. That is significant movement well past the middle, well past where one would compromise and, again, provides immediate relief to the school districts, which they desperately need that everyone seems to be worried about, and we are. Our plan provides immediate relief, yours does not.

With respect to this holistic approach, it is about funding education at the appropriate levels so that we can invest so that Pennsylvania, again, is a leader among States. That was the mandate that the people of Pennsylvania gave this Governor. They said to him, we know we have resource issues. We know we have financial issues that have to be addressed, but our highest priority is education, and we want you to look to the Marcellus Shale community. If there was any message more clear in this past election, that was it. That is what this Governor is trying to achieve. No, he did not go ask the people, do you want a 14-percent tax increase? No, he did not ask that question, but what he did ask was, do you want me to fix the education system? Do you want me to look to the Marcellus Shale community? Do you want me to fix Pennsylvania's finances? The answer was a resounding yes. That is what he is trying to achieve. That is why we are standing with him to be able to do that. That is why we think it was appropriate to veto this particular budget, because the bill that you put forth, the stopgap budget, and House Bill No. 1192, which he vetoed 3 months ago, are not solutions for Pennsylvania. They do not get us to a place where we help our kids get the appropriate education, we resolve some of the inequities with respect to our school funding, we make investments in human service programs so that folks with drug and alcohol issues, folks with mental health issues, folks with mental illness, have the resources available to them, and we fix the Pennsylvania fiscal structure that desperately needs to be fixed that all of you harmed over the past 4 years.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I am not used to following my friend and colleague, Senator Costa, who was unusually demonstrative at this moment. I appreciate that. I want to lend a few comments to this conversation. The Governor, I think, did take the appropriate step today to deal with, unfortunately, an-

other issue that some people would term a gimmick that has been placed in front of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with respect to dealing with this budget situation. I urge everyone in the House and the Senate, and especially folks in the Majority in the House and the Senate, to understand a word that is most important, and not just understand the word, but to take into practice the issue of compromise, that they must compromise to get an agreement done, and we must not be short-sighted in terms of getting a full agreement done because we must move the Commonwealth forward. But it starts with compromise.

We have been at this for a number of months now, Mr. President, and it is clear we have a divided government. We have a Democratic Governor who was elected, many would say, in a landslide victory in November of last year, in the context of wanting to take Pennsylvania in a different direction. We have a legislature that is controlled, the House and the Senate are both controlled by the Republican Party. That says in and of itself that there must be compromise. There must be compromise on both parts in order to reach an agreement.

At the same time, given where Pennsylvania is positioned, there must be a decision, and the people require that there be a decision, to move Pennsylvania forward and to not allow us to stay in the same position, respect the reality of a divided government and compromise, but also move Pennsylvania forward, fix problems, and move Pennsylvania forward. History is important. Context is important. Most evidenced today, as was released, the test scores of every school in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and once again, they have dropped dramatically. This result is directly connected to the results that allowed for and called for the Governor to be elected last November in that we had an education crisis here in the Commonwealth. We had a State that over the previous 4 years, through education test scores, went down every grade level and in every subject matter, largely because there were no appropriate investments, and those inappropriate investments, quite frankly, were recognized, Mr. President, by the *Washington Post* earlier this year when they rated Pennsylvania as having the nation's most inequitable funding system, with respect to how we fund our public education system. Recognized in the *Washington Post*.

It was a national embarrassment, our academic situation. It was again repeated as today's test scores came out and, again, they have dropped dramatically. Higher standards are in place, more rigorous tests are in place, but not the appropriate funding to provide the resources for schools so that they can handle these much more rigorous tests so that our kids could be in a much better situation to compete academically.

So, here we are, Mr. President, and history tells us again, a poor education system, a poor economic system. What I mean by economic system, Mr. President, is that Pennsylvania, which once ranked seventh in the nation, dropped to last in new job creation. What I mean by bad economic or bad job situation, Mr. President, is that Pennsylvania is last among the seven-State region - Ohio, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia - Pennsylvania is last, at the bottom, of private sector job creation in that seven-State region. Pennsylvania is the only State in that seven-State region that has not raised its minimum wage. Consequently, Mr. President, we have a problem with our education system, and we have a problem with our job and employment system. No new jobs are being created at the level they need to be created. There is not enough income going

into Pennsylvania's households because the minimum wage has not been raised. So, we have an education problem, a jobs problem, and finally, the other nail in the coffin, if you will, Mr. President, is we have a budget deficit that is currently \$1.3 billion. If it is not fixed this year, that budget deficit will grow to \$3.2 billion.

So, we have a problem - an academic problem, a jobs problem, a budget problem, and a deficit problem in the State's economic situation. We cannot ignore it. It is right there in front of us. The Governor has offered up proposals, as he was elected to do, by a landslide, in last November's election. He put a set of proposals on the table. It did call for a tax increase. No doubt about it. It called for a tax increase. It also called for about a \$4 billion tax reduction for property tax homeowners. Working under the Senate Democratic proposal, the average property owner in Pennsylvania would have received about a \$1,500 check in the mail toward the property tax bill that they have. So, yes, a tax increase, but also a tax reduction. Yes, a tax increase, but also an increase in the State's minimum wage. Yes, a tax increase, but also the implementation, fully, for probably about 1 million Pennsylvania workers so that they can have health insurance, because they deserve it. They deserve to have it. So, yes, a tax increase but a tax reduction, a job creation environment where people go back to work, a minimum wage increase where people get the wages that they deserve to have instead of working in poverty, a health insurance program that fully provides health insurance for probably about a million Pennsylvania residents, a tax reduction to reduce property taxes, and a way to get us out of this multibillion dollar budget deficit that is the result of the 4 years of the previous administration, and, unfortunately I have to say it, the 4 years of the leadership of the Majority party that has continued into its fifth year.

So, Mr. President, we have big problems. The Governor has offered up a big solution, providing for a stopgap budget, which as I said earlier, is another one of maybe three or four little gimmicks that the Majority has offered, does not solve the problem. Yes, this is hard. We have to bite the bullet and make some hard decisions. We have to bite the bullet, but in biting the bullet, what we can do, Mr. President, is put our education system back on track. We have to bite the bullet and put our job creation system and our pay system for our employees in Pennsylvania back on track. We have to bite the bullet, Mr. President, but while we bite that bullet, we have to provide relief for our property tax homeowners in Pennsylvania and also provide relief for probably about another 800,000 renters in Pennsylvania and give them some additional help. We have to get this State out of its budget deficit reality and put Pennsylvania on a new course so we can get to where we need to get to, and not continue in a fifth year where the Commonwealth went into demise. We have to bite the bullet, Mr. President, and, in fact, in biting that bullet, provide significant tax reductions for our business owners here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We have to bite the bullet, Mr. President, and restore the funding for our human service programs and get them the funding necessary so they do not have to deal with the cuts that they had to deal with in the last 4 years and they can get to the point where they can start really funding the programs necessary for the people who need access to those programs.

We have to fix a budget deficit that this Governor did not create. He inherited it from the previous 4 years. He inherited an

education environment that is in crisis and still is in crisis, as evidenced with the test scores that came out today. He inherited an economic situation in Pennsylvania where we had dropped to last in the nation in new job creation. He inherited a crisis in Pennsylvania that we are last within our region, and our State is still lagging in terms of raising its minimum wage. He inherited a State that still has, Mr. President, the average person in Pennsylvania paying a higher personal income tax rate than our Marcellus Shale industry, which is paying, according to the Independent Fiscal Office, an effective tax rate of about 2.14 percent. Now, you and I and the average person in Pennsylvania pay our personal income taxes at about 3.07 percent, if my numbers serve me correctly. There is an imbalance there, and what the Governor is trying to do is fix these major problems, and is trying to fix them in the first year. We are all elected officials in this room, we have all run for office, we know what the circumstances are, and if we do not move aggressively to fix the problems now, we will have to face the music next year. Facing the music next year, Mr. President, in an election cycle, and we are all grown folks in this room, we are all elected officials in this room, I would suggest it would become a much more difficult situation having to wait. Quite frankly, Pennsylvania cannot wait any longer. It must fix its problems. It must get itself back on course. Our school children cannot wait any longer. They must have the appropriate investments. It is unconscionable that we would have 35, 40 kids in a classroom.

A story came out about a week ago in a Philadelphia newspaper where a teacher was teaching with 70 kids in a classroom. That is not a made-up figure, Mr. President. It is an unconscionable situation where we have classrooms with no teachers in them, because the new contract was put in place where there were not enough substitute teachers found to put into the classrooms in schools all across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We have to stop the bleeding that has occurred over the last 4 years and moving into its 5th year. We have to fix these problems, and we have to fix them now. We have to bite the bullet. We also have to understand, and the Majority must understand this, they must compromise. The Governor has compromised on their two biggest issues: liquor and pensions. The Governor has offered up a very significant compromise. They must compromise also so that we can get out of this morass and solve this problem. We do not like being in this situation, but we owe it to the people of Pennsylvania to redirect the ship of Pennsylvania, the ship of our schools, the ship of our job creation environment, the ship of our environmental situation, the ship of our human services situation, and get this ship of state on a different course, because the course that it led and sailed on over the last 4 years put us in a very bad situation. We have to go in a different direction. It is hard, it is difficult, it is not easy, but we have to bite the bullet. We have to solve these problems, and compromise must be provided from the Majority side of the House and the Senate so that we can achieve this. The Governor has compromised. He has moved off some of his tax positions, he moved off his original position on liquor, and he has moved off his original position on pensions. It is time for the Majority to do the same.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

BILLS SIGNED

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

SB 513, SB 875 and HB 33.

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 Wednesday, September 30, 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 6:11 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.