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# Legislative Journal

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SESSION OF 2015 199TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 72

## SENATE

MONDAY, December 7, 2015

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

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

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend DR. NEAL O. HIVELY, of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chambersburg, offered the following prayer:

Both mighty and eternal God, God of mercy and grace, You who are our hope and strength, you have saved us as we journey to this time and place today. We remember before You those who bear the effects of any suffering, tragedy, or terror, especially on this, the 74th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Bring divine comfort and hope to those who are in any need or care this day. You have called these Leaders to serve the public welfare, promote justice, and establish a culture of peace in this Commonwealth. Bless its citizens and all who dwell herein.

We raise for Your holy blessing today all who are elected to govern, employ, or serve in this great Commonwealth in any public or supportive activity. We pray for these Senators, the Senate staff, the Senate Pages, and all of their families. Establish Pennsylvania as an emblem and shiny beacon of worthy vision and purposeful goals for its citizens. Pattern this body with a spirit of collaboration. Grant to those whom we entrust with this level of legislative influence the spiritual gift of discernment and understanding. Guide them with Your counsel and holy insight. Empower them with an abundant measure of a spirit of holy knowledge. Grace them with Your holy and abiding presence, for it is in You, eternal and mighty God, that we place our own sacred trust. May all seek Your holy wisdom as we strive to guide this Commonwealth now and forever in Your most holy name, we pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Dr. Hively, who is the guest today of Senator Alloway.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

## RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

December 7, 2015

Senators GORDNER, WILEY, SCARNATI, BAKER, HAYWOOD, SCHWANK and YAW presented to the Chair **SR 256**, entitled:

A Resolution adopting rules of procedure governing the forthcoming due notice to Kathleen G. Kane, Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and a full hearing as required under Article VI, Section 7 of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, December 7, 2015.

## LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

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

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Yaw and Senator Stefano. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

## JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of October 19, 2015, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of October 19, 2015.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with and that the Journal be approved.

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

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

## YEA-50

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

## NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR PATRICIA H. VANCE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator VANCE. Mr. President, today I have the distinct pleasure of introducing the Cumberland Valley High School Men's Water Polo Team. The team captured the 2015 Pennsylvania Men's Water Polo Championship on November 7, 2015, at Wilson High School. They beat North Penn High School by a score of 10-4 for the title. This is the school's third men's water polo championship since 2008. They compiled a record of 30 wins and 3 losses for the season. They are coached by Corey Pelow and assisted by Sheri Bock, Jeremy Souder, and Callen Rowe. The team captains this year were Isaac Plasterer and Crawford Smith. The team, their parents, and coaches are in the gallery. Please give them a very warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Vance, the champions from Cumberland Valley High School, please rise so that the Senate may give you its usual warm welcome. Thank you, and congratulations to the Cumberland Valley High School Men's Water Polo Champions.

(Applause.)

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR ROBERT F. TEPLITZ PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator TEPLITZ. Mr. President, I rise to welcome my guests to the Capitol today. They are Cathy and Deke Gilbert from Elliptsburg in Perry County. Cathy and Deke won a visit to the Capitol through a raffle prize that I donated to the Landisburg Lions Club, where they are active members. Cathy and Deke are retired IT specialists who worked for the Federal government, and are the proud parents of two grown sons. They are actively involved in Landisburg Lutheran Church, and they are currently on a committee in Spring Township to convert a local farm which was bequeathed to the township into a community park.

So, Mr. President, I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in welcoming my guests, Cathy and Deke Gilbert, to the Capitol today.

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

(Applause.)

## **HOUSE MESSAGES**

### **HOUSE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE**

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

December 7, 2015

**HB 1735 and 1736** -- Committee on Finance.

### **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY**

The SECRETARY. Permission has been granted for the Committee on Finance to hold a meeting off the floor today, Monday, December 7, to consider House Bill No. 1735 and House Bill No. 1736.

Permission has also been granted for the Committee on Transportation to meet today off the floor to consider Senate Bill No. 1064, House Bill No. 950, and House Bill No. 1579, as well as the nomination of Barry Drew as a member of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

## **RECESS**

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a brief recess and ask the Members of the Republican Caucus to come to the Leader's desk.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Costa requests the same for Democratic Members.

For purposes of brief caucuses at their respective Leader's desk, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

## **AFTER RECESS**

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

## **CALENDAR**

### **BILLS VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR**

#### **BILLS OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE**

**SB 1000 (Pr. No. 1232)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act to provide from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive and Judicial Departments, 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 Li-

cense 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.

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

Pursuant to Senate Rule 9, the bill was laid on the table.

**SB 1001 (Pr. No. 1233)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, 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.

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

Pursuant to Senate Rule 9, the bill was laid on the table.

### THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

#### PREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

**SB 1073 (Pr. No. 1459)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act to provide from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive and Judicial Departments, 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 and the Justice Reinvestment 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; 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; and to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds from the General Fund and the State Lottery Fund for the Executive Department of the Commonwealth for the fiscal year July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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

On the question,

Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, this is, of course, the General Appropriation bill that has been negotiated for some months, as we stand here on the 74th anniversary of Pearl Harbor day in December. Our budget, the General Appropriation bill, was supposed to be passed by June 30. So, we have been operating without a budget since then, which has obviously caused a great deal of distress amongst our school districts who are out borrowing money to sustain the schools, as well as our social services. Obviously, not having a budget since June has been problematic. This General Appropriation bill is a bill that I believe will get the votes here in the Senate. It is a General Appropriation bill that, for the first time this year, will come out of the Senate and the Governor will sign, which, obviously, is how we get to an end point of this long saga of this budget impasse.

So, like any General Appropriation bill, I am sure there are things people like about it and things that people do not like about it, but I think it is a fair bill that, combined with the bill that we will take up next dealing with public pension reform, is a compromise on both parts, the administration, my colleagues across the aisle, and ourselves that will move Pennsylvania forward. This will make, obviously, significant investments in public education, higher education, basic education, early childhood education, and so this will also put us on a path with a bill that we will run later in the week which will sustain us for next year as well. Obviously, since the Rendell administration, we have been struggling with structural deficits in this budget, and if we are able to lift a Tax Code bill later in the week to match this General Appropriation bill, we will now be able to put a significant dent, if not all of the way, in that structural deficit, which is a responsible thing to do.

Some can say this bill spends more than they like, and I certainly respect that, but there are certain challenges in legislation. If you look in the Department of Human Services, there are about four lines dealing with Medicaid services, dealing with long-term care, and dealing with mental health lines in the budget. If you add them up, there are only about four or five lines, it comes to about \$400 million. Now, those are mandated spending lines, Mr. President. Those are Federal entitlement programs that we administer at the State level and that we share in the costs. Just on four of those lines alone, you see an increase of \$400 million that goes toward services to the most needy here in Pennsylvania, but, more importantly, they are entitlement spending. If people qualify for those programs, they are delivered by the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth needs to pay for them. We can massage how we deliver and try to be as efficient as possible, but what I am trying to illustrate here, Mr. President, is when you have that sort of mandated cost, and then you throw in the public pension reform costs, it is very difficult to try to keep spending at a very small percentage increase as many of us would advocate for. I

think this budget does the best that we can under those circumstances to have a reasonable growth in our spending, and at the same time understand that we still have challenges.

Our friends in Washington, D.C., do not help the States very much with these entitlement programs, which bankrupt their own budgets. Fortunately for them, and fortunately for the country, they do not have to balance their budget. We, the States, have to balance our budgets. We have to match up our revenues with our expenditures. So, when we have to deal with these entitlement programs that are thrust upon us, we have to pay for them; even though they go for a very, very good cause, helping the most needy, they are expensive. As I said, just four lines themselves, four or five lines, equal a \$400 million increase. You throw pensions on top, which is a little over \$400 million increase, and you can see how quickly expenditures can rise in the State budget.

So, in the last 4 years, we have done a good job of avoiding new revenues, we have done a good job of closing that structural deficit that was left behind from the prior administration to Governor Corbett's administration. This year, obviously, Governor Wolf had other priorities. He wanted to close the structural deficit completely, and he wanted to make new investments in education and other areas in State government.

So, for the last several months we have been negotiating a compromise, negotiating a spot where he could come on board with our priorities, such as public pension reform--and we will debate that next--and we can come on board with some of his priorities. And that is divided government. The wisdom of the people of Pennsylvania, they sent to Harrisburg large Republican majorities in the House and Senate, and they sent a Democratic Governor, with pretty far apart ideological views of how government should work. At the end of the day, we would have liked to have done this by June 30, but we have gotten to a point where we can get a budget that passes the Senate, meets a lot of our priorities, and makes investments that we want to see invested in the State budget, and also begins to deal with the most significant problem in State government, which is public pensions.

So, today, Mr. President, I ask for an "aye" vote to support this budget. I know our friends across the building are not necessarily on board with this as of yet, but as I said, the most important thing about this, particularly for the people of Pennsylvania who are waiting for a budget in December, is that this is a budget that the Senate can pass and the Governor can sign. If our friends in the other Chamber have a budget that can pass the House and can pass the Senate and the Governor can sign, I am certainly open to hear about that budget, but what they have offered so far has not been able to achieve those goals. So, the people of Pennsylvania, I think, are tired of us debating this issue. I think they want to see action. Is it perfect? I am sure everyone in this room on both sides of the aisle would say this is not perfect, but let us not have perfection be the enemy of progress. I think it is time here, in December on Pearl Harbor Day, to move a General Appropriation bill out of the Senate. Hopefully our House friends will take it up, move it forward, and get the Governor's signature so we can bring this long budget impasse saga to an end. This does make significant movement in the right direction in Pennsylvania - as I said about the structural deficit, about pension reform, about significant investments in education and other areas of the Commonwealth. So, I am proud to support this bud-

get, as imperfect as it may be, but it moves Pennsylvania in the right direction in a lot of key areas. I ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I will be brief. I want to echo many of the comments of the previous speaker with respect to where we are in this Commonwealth. Mr. President, I first commend folks for their participation in helping us get there. This has been a long, protracted process; however, I think the end result is something that, as mentioned, is agreeable to the administration, and most of the parties involved in this dialogue have been agreeable to what we are attempting to do.

Mr. President, as a Commonwealth we are at a crossroads. We have a choice. We can continue to manage decline, in our view, as we have done over the course of the past 4 years or so and not make the investments in education or human service programs or economic development programs, or we can make a choice. That choice is to make investments and do things that need to be done with respect to how we educate our children and the resources that we provide to them, everywhere from the early learning programs through the pre-K programs, Headstart, K to 12, and even to higher education. The investments that are being made, I think, are very, very significant and historic. My colleague, Senator Hughes, will talk more about the details as we go forward, but in other areas where we have declined to make investments over the course of the past several years in economic development, we have seen ourselves slip from one of the top States in the country in terms of job growth, slide all the way to the bottom. We are going to begin to reverse that trend with the investments that are being discussed in this particular budget. Similarly, with respect to the decline in human service resources we have provided to our Commonwealth residents. And we all know that everybody deals with issues along the lines of drug and alcohol funding, mental illness issues, all of those types of community services which are extremely important in our community that have been really decimated over the course of the past several years with lack of funding. This budget addresses those issues.

So, Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join myself and Senator Corman in an affirmative vote, along the lines of supporting this General Appropriation bill because it represents a significant part of the framework that we have put together working together, and, more importantly, it allows us to make an investment in Pennsylvania and allows us to move forward on the issues that people want us to move forward on. So, with that being said, I reiterate a strong bipartisan message to the other side of the building and to the administration that we support this initiative and that it is appropriate to be able to do it at this point in time. I ask for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lehigh, Senator Browne.

Senator BROWNE. Mr. President, I rise along with my colleagues to support the provisions of Senate Bill No. 1073. I do this in the wake of what I am confident is near the end of my first year representing our Caucus as chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, filling the shoes of our current Majority Leader, Senator Corman, who had directed the fiscal affairs for

this Caucus for the last 6 years. My shoes are not close to being tight yet in filling those of the Majority Leader, but like him today advancing a budget proposal that, in balance with the Governor and other Members of this Chamber, although as a consensus may be not perfect for any party as the function of compromise, it is in the best interest of consensus for the citizens of this State. No doubt, I also rise in the wake of one of the most challenging budget cycles that I have experienced in my 21 years in the General Assembly, a year where our new Governor had proposed one of the most aggressive statements as to the appropriate place of State government in the lives of our citizens in many years. As is the process of democracy, we engaged in extensive debate as to its merits and our significant concerns with the many spending and revenue components of his original proposal.

Some would claim, Mr. President, that this process is just the politics of Harrisburg. Having been here for 20 years and working with many Members across the aisle, I respectfully disagree. The sincere differences of opinion among the Members of this Senate body and the Governor regarding the best fiscal path for our great State reflect the diversity of the Commonwealth. We must invest the time to debate and negotiate, to reconcile in order to further the best fiscal interests of the Commonwealth. The provisions of Senate Bill No. 1073 reflect this rigorous, sometimes frustrating, but always imperative consensus process. General appropriation provisions of Senate Bill No. 1073 provide for a responsible balance of recurring and nonrecurring revenue and expenditures to meet our constitutional obligation of a balanced budget for the current 2015-16 fiscal year, while providing a solid framework for fiscal balance, addressing our structural challenges and revenue expenditures for 2016-17.

As is the process of consensus, we must accommodate those who are engaged in considering whether they would agree to that final product. Given our Caucus's substantial concerns regarding the current uncompetitive position of Pennsylvania in its tax burden amongst citizens and employers, Senate Bill No. 1073 maintains recurring spending increases below 2.4 percent, 3.2 percent or \$1.2 billion less than originally proposed in March. It also keeps recurring spending increases at 2.4 percent less than our recurring revenue at 3.2 percent, thus addressing, at least on this annual basis, the foundation of our structural imbalance.

It must be made clear, Mr. President, that an increase in tax costs on our citizens and on our employers is not something that Members of the Senate Republican Caucus ever take lightly. We sincerely believe that it is the obligation of the Members of this Assembly and the Governor to engage in aggressive, thorough process to identify and utilize every option available, unencumbered balances and other funds, unexpended appropriations from prior years, responsible revenue and expense management recognition policies, process efficiencies and targeted spending reductions before proposals to raise recurring revenue are considered. We included many of these options with the original general appropriation proposal this Chamber sent to the Governor at the end of June, options which will allow this government to avoid \$1.2 billion in new taxes for our citizens and employers during this fiscal cycle and \$4 billion in 2016-17. We are pleased and applaud the Governor for agreeing with this approach and concurring as to the value of these techniques for inclusion in Senate Bill No. 1073. Contained within the limited increase in spending

in Senate Bill No. 1073 are historic investments in all levels of education delivery in this Commonwealth, from early education to higher education. In fact, the investment in education of Pennsylvania's children and young scholars comprises approximately 75 percent of all the new spending in the budget proposal. Given this fact, this fiscal platform truly reflects a collective priority in investing in the future of Pennsylvania. Furthermore, the provisions of Senate Bill No. 1073 clearly state our collective interests in providing for public safety, the healthcare needs of our neediest citizens, and the quality of life for our senior citizens.

Mr. President, as we move forward to continue our efforts at responsible fiscal stewardship on behalf of our citizens, we will continue to debate as to the best course of action to meet our goals and priorities. Regardless of our differences of opinion, I truly believe that all Members of this Chamber in the end advocate for what they truly believe is in the best interest of the citizens of Pennsylvania. Understanding this is the foundation for consensus and the backbone of the provisions of Senate Bill No. 1073.

Mr. President, before I conclude, I want to take an opportunity to thank all of the Members of this Chamber for their hard work on this package and all of the staff for their hard work on this package, some of the hardest working people I have ever met, and without their help this would not be possible.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, to continue on with Chairman Browne's last comments, I, too, also thank Mark Mekilo on our side, in his very first budget that he has had to navigate, and Greg Jordan on the opposite side, and all of the staff of the Committee on Appropriations and all of the staff who worked so hard on trying to end this impasse and bring us to the point that we are at right now. They put in some very significant hours, got very little sleep, and do not get enough appreciation for the work that they do, and especially in this circumstance, to get us to this moment right now. So thanks to the staff, thanks to the workers, and thanks to the Members. We are here at a moment that, if you will, Mr. President, we are close to being done, and as the Members on our side have heard me say, things are still fluid, but I think for the first time since March 3, when the Governor introduced his budget proposal, there is a path forward, and in fact, a light, maybe dim, but a light at the end of the tunnel. Cooler heads are seeming to prevail, and we are on the path where we can hopefully, maybe prayerfully, get the job done that needs to get done.

To be specific, in this budget document we need to be very clear. This budget document that we are providing has in it the largest increase in basic education funding in the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I want to say that again, Mr. President. This is a historic budget proposal that most of the folks, not just in this Chamber, but in this building, including the Governor's Office, are in agreement to, has the largest increase in basic education funding in the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Specifically, a \$350-million increase in basic education funding, a \$50-million increase in special education funding, a \$50-million increase in pre-K funding, and a \$10-million increase in Head Start funding. All significant programs, all important initiatives, and all investments that will turn the ship of

this Commonwealth around and get us going in the right direction. In this budget is the largest increase in education funding in the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In this budget, Mr. President, in higher education spending, 5-percent increases for our State-related universities; 5-percent increases in our State System universities, our 14 universities called under the banner of PSSHE; 5-percent increases in our community colleges; increased support at PHEAA, all to help young people and those who want to further themselves in the area of education and higher education. All to assist them in achieving their dreams, for in this nation if you do not have a higher education degree of some extent, it is very difficult to move forward. This budget realizes that, recognizes that, and makes a decision to invest in that area—an extremely important investment, one that needs not to be overlooked, one that needs to be embraced as we try to march down this path forward, as we try to increase the brightness of that light that is at the end of this budgetary impasse.

In this budget, Mr. President, are increases in our human services funding. Our human service categories have faced some very difficult rollbacks in the previous 4 years. On March 3, the Governor offered us a way forward to try to increase and prioritize funding for our human service programs, and we begin this process in this budget document. We begin the 3-year restoration of county human services which had been cut. We put funds together to reduce the waiting list for mental health services. We put funds together to reduce waiting lists for intellectual disabilities, for long-term managed care, for autism intervention and services, for services with persons with disabilities, and for attendant care. This budget recognizes the need there and makes a decision to go forward to address that need and begins the process of a 3-year restoration. This is the down payment on restoration of those services.

In this budget, Mr. President, there is an increase of 10 percent for those suffering from domestic violence and the organizations that service those individuals. In this budget, for our rape crisis centers, there is an increase of 10 percent in funding for those who are suffering in rape crisis situations. In this budget, there is \$1 million in homeless veterans initiatives to make sure that those who serve, those who fight, those who put their lives on the line do not wind up in a situation so far beneath the service that they provided, and that is our homeless veterans. In fact, it is a crime that any veteran be in a homeless situation. In this budget we attempt to address that crime. In this budget, Mr. President, the growing heroin and opioid epidemic, it is all across the nation and growing rapidly in this Commonwealth, there is an extra \$2.5 million to address that. In this budget we are moving forward and not backward. In this budget, Mr. President, we are attempting to solve folks' problems and reset the ship of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In this budget, in the area of economic development and job creation and putting Pennsylvania's people back to work at family-sustaining wages and jobs that help make sure that their families and their communities transform themselves, there is a 30-percent increase in funding for our job creation and economic development programs. The Pennsylvania First Program has a \$15-million increase; Keystone Communities, an \$8.8-million increase; our PREP program, a \$3.25-million increase; our infra-

structure and facilities improvement grants, an \$11-million increase. On and on and on, Mr. President, this budget document attempts to invest in people and invest in the programs that, in fact, invest in those people. Whether it be in economic development and job creation, whether it be in the human service area, whether it be in our higher education area, or most importantly, the area that is number one in all of the research and number one in the minds of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and that is the issue of our education spending. As I said earlier, this budget reflects the largest increase in education spending in the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. That should not be ignored, it should be embraced. It should be supported by everyone, not just in this Chamber, in the other Chamber, and as we already know, it is endorsed and supported by the Governor's Office.

Mr. President, as I said in the beginning, we are not done yet. Things are still fluid. Things can change, but it is time that we end this impasse. In fact, it is long past time that we end this impasse. What has happened on this floor, what has happened in this Chamber, what has happened on both sides of the aisle here is that we have—well, the adults have entered the conversation and we made a decision to see beyond our differences and focus on the things that we can agree upon. When we did that, we came up with a document that truly represents the best way forward for the people of the Commonwealth. The best way forward for young and old. The best way forward for those who are working and those who are struggling to find a job. The best way forward for folks who want to achieve an opportunity for themselves and their families and go on to a 2-year college or a 4-year institution. We have put ourselves in a position, Mr. President, where we can get this thing done.

I am not one to quote Ronald Reagan. I am not one to quote Ronald Reagan. I will say it one more time, Mr. President, I am not one to quote Ronald Reagan, but some almost 30 years ago, he made a statement that I will paraphrase. He said, Mr. Gorbachev, bring these walls down. In this environment, Mr. President, I suggest to all of us, Members of the General Assembly, Members of the Senate, Members of the House, members in the front office, the Governor's Office, it is time for us to end this impasse now. The action that we take on the floor of the Senate on this day, within the next few minutes, will be the opportunity to bring the walls of the impasse down, to get us going in the right direction, and to end this foolishness—this impasse that just should not be. Let us grow up, let us act like adults, let us get the work done, let us move Pennsylvania forward, and let us all vote in the affirmative for this budget presentation that we have in front of us today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

#### YEA-43

Alloway	Farnese	Pileggi	Vance
Argall	Fontana	Rafferty	Vogel
Bartolotta	Gordner	Resenthaler	Vulakovich

Blake	Greenleaf	Sabatina	Ward
Boscola	Haywood	Scarnati	White
Brewster	Hughes	Scavello	Wiley
Brooks	Kitchen	Schwank	Williams
Browne	Leach	Stefano	Wozniak
Corman	McGarrigle	Tartaglione	Yaw
Costa	McIlhinney	Teplitz	Yudichak
Dinniman	Mensch	Tomlinson	

## NAY-7

Aument	Eichelberger	Hutchinson	Wagner
Baker	Folmer	Smucker	

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

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

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED****THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED****SB 1082 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER**

**SB 1082 (Pr. No. 1460)** -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 5 of the Third Consideration Calendar, by Senator CORMAN, as a Special Order of Business.

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION  
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

**SB 1082 (Pr. No. 1460)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 24 (Education), 51 (Military Affairs) and 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, extensively revising pension provisions as follows: In Title 24: for retirement for school employees, in the areas of preliminary provisions, of membership, contributions and benefits, of school employees' defined contribution plan and of administration and miscellaneous provisions; and for health insurance for retired school employees, in the area of preliminary provisions. In Title 51: for employment preferences and pensions, in the area of military leave of absence. In Title 71: for boards and offices, in the area of Independent Fiscal Office; and for retirement for State employees and officers, in the areas of preliminary provisions, of membership, credited service, classes of service and eligibility for benefits, of contributions, of benefits, of State employees' defined contribution plan and of administration, funds, accounts, general provisions. Providing, as to the revisions: for construction and administration, for applicability, for liability, for member statements and for suspension of provisions of the Public Employee Retirement Study Commission Act.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator BLAKE. Mr. President, we have been debating pension reform for some time in this building, and the debate has gotten more critically important, incidental to this budget impasse, which has been so difficult for so many people across this State, our schools, our nonprofits, and our people. This pension reform, as has been stated on this floor, is linchpin, is essential to the budget that we voted, and that we will continue to vote this week. I have stated many times on the floor, Mr. President, the tenets for State pension reform that were maintained by the leadership and the Members on this side of the aisle. Those tenets were not to blow up our unfunded liability, to exacerbate the amount of debt that we have, essentially because of our failure to meet past actuarial payments to our pension systems. So we did not want to exacerbate that situation and increase our unfunded liability. We wanted to avoid, if we could, impairment of contract that would put us in court and have us at odds with our workers. We wanted to guarantee retirement security for our workers going forward so they would not be wards of the State after they served the people of the Commonwealth in our workforce, both in our schools and in our State agencies.

We also wanted, Mr. President, to try to obtain some fiscal relief for our General Fund budget and for our school districts. So when we take a look at Senate Bill No. 1082, there are a couple of things important to point out. We do not blow up our unfunded liability with this bill, and, in fact, as I am sure Senator Browne will point out, we shift risk that is fiscally responsible across the board arising for this Commonwealth. On the impairment of contract issue, Mr. President, there are some things that had to be done. They were incidental to Senate Bill No. 1, which has been vetoed by the Governor, but these are issues that relate to taxpayer fairness. There are some provisions in Senate Bill No. 1082 that guarantee taxpayer fairness and actuarial fairness--equity, if you will--in terms of what our employees contribute to the systems and that to which they are entitled when they leave.

On the issue of retirement security, Mr. President, I think my colleague, Senator Browne, will agree with me on this, we have come a long way from Senate Bill No. 1. When we look at Senate Bill No. 1082, our future workers will be able to realize, probably for pension alone, 50 percent to 55 percent of replacement income. When combined with Social Security, that puts their retirement between 80 percent and 85 percent replacement income. The three pillars of a good pension are savings, Social Security, and pension, occupying 33 1/3 percent of an individual's retirement. So, in this bill, for future workers, we are likely to see about an 85-percent replacement income, which is, in our opinion, reasonable retirement security.

I think it is important, Mr. President, for me to point out that for the tens of thousands of current workers in Pennsylvania--and I need to emphasize this--for the tens of thousands of current workers in Pennsylvania, whether they be in our school system or in our State agencies as members of the State Employee Retirement System, this bill has very nominal, almost no impact, on them going forward. Very nominal impact, because any changes relative to current benefits are only impacted prospectively, and there are only three areas in which that prospective change occurs. It occurs relative to the calculation of final average salary,

what we often refer to in this building as anti-spiking provisions; it only affects the Option 4 revenue, or cost neutrality, the actuarial fairness of the lump sum withdrawal if our retirees choose to take that option; and the issue of shared risk, or shared gain, which has already been something we imposed on our Act 120 employees in 2010. Those three provisions would affect current workers under this bill, but only for prospective service. Everything that our workers have earned from the day they were hired to the point at which this becomes effective is untouched and unchanged. I think that is important, Mr. President.

There are a lot of things about this bill that make some of us on this side very uncomfortable. We did not really obtain the kind of fiscal relief, what I would call short-term fiscal relief, that we tried to obtain. This side and the Governor tried very hard to see, perhaps, if we could refinance some debt and provide our school districts with a little bit of help in terms of their pension obligations. We were unable to get that fairly negotiated with the other side. We made other suggestions, Mr. President, that would have also had more immediate fiscal impacts on this year's budget. We were unsuccessful in including that in this bill.

I say this: The bill that the Governor vetoed, Senate Bill No. 1, would have been, on some calculations, about a 75-percent cut in benefits for our workers going forward. We would not stand for that, and as a result, we have come a long way from Senate Bill No. 1 to Senate Bill No. 1082. I want to again express to the Members on our side that this is a mixed bag. It is not as good as it could be. If I could use the expression of Senator Corman, we could not get perfection here, and there are some people who are going to have some trepidations about it, but there are good things. Those good things need to be considered. First of all, upward of \$3 billion in savings across the forward horizon, which is good; the issue of retirement security that we were able to defend over these past several months; the issue of fairness to taxpayers, which we do achieve in this bill.

So, Mr. President, I thank my colleague, Senator Browne, and his staff. I thank my staff, who have been involved in these negotiations, but I think it is also important to note that the Wolf administration has been heavily involved in these negotiations and that it is those parties, essentially, who have arrived at this compromise. It is not perfect, but it is worthy of our attention and it is worthy of support.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lehigh, Senator Browne.

Senator BROWNE. Mr. President, I rise, along with Senator Blake, who should be commended for all of his hard work on this proposal over the last year to try to reach a pension reform package that this Assembly can collectively embrace and advance to the Governor for his signature that truly is something that this State government can be proud of, very proud of in relative terms to where pension reform is across the nation, and something that I am asking our colleagues today to embrace.

Mr. President, we have been talking a lot about structural deficits in the building over the past year, or over the past many years, and at the surface level it is a discussion of expenses exceeding revenue capacity. What the foundation of the issue of structural imbalance, Mr. President, is, when you get to the core, it is the cost of risk. If this nation was an insurance plan, Pennsyl-

vania would be among the select group of States in the high-risk pool. Mr. President, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is currently insolvent, with total debt exceeding our assets, fundamentally because our collective-risk profile is too high. In 2015, and in the future, without any change, it is too high - demographic risk, in tax policy risk, and yes, retirement and legacy cost risk. If we were truly to address the root cause of our structural deficit problems, those challenges, which will continue to apply extreme pressure on our ability to match revenue and expenditures, we must aggressively seek reforms which lower our overall risk profile and set this great State on a more sustainable course to long-term fiscal solvency for us and for succeeding generations.

This challenge, and the means to address it, is at the core of Senate Bill No. 1082. The provisions of Senate Bill No. 1082, for the first time in the history of Pennsylvania, recognize the potentially crippling costs that uncontrolled, unmanaged risk can have on the solvency of an enterprise, either public or private, and includes reforms that provide for a better balance of that risk for the benefit of our taxpayers and our school district and Commonwealth employees. Through its proposed defined benefit and defined contribution side-by-side design and its shared-risk, shared-gain provisions between taxpayers and school district and Commonwealth employees, Senate Bill No. 1082 will allow this Commonwealth to more effectively mitigate the potential debt caused by losses in the investment markets while providing a competitive benefit for our employees. A benefit which, on a take-home basis with Social Security, will effectively replace their employment earnings in retirement.

Mr. President, it is important to point out that in any retirement plan it is the gain on invested assets which primarily determines whether a retirement plan is meeting expectations, given that the return on invested assets is 80 percent of the whole issue. For the first time in 100 years, the General Assembly is advancing this measure, and advancing this measure is compelled by now sharing a significant percentage of the risk of investment with its employees to quantify the value of that risk for the benefit of its taxpayers. In the future, if our retirement plans are not able to meet rate-of-return expectations, which can happen and which has happened, which we see in our current balance sheet at a projected \$65 billion in unfunded debt, and even if that is by 1 percentage point over the working life of a plan participant, it will quantify to billions of dollars in savings to the taxpayer, savings which can be used to balance our books, invest in our children, and, yes, protect our workers. In fact, based on reasonable assumptions as to the cost of investment risk, this Commonwealth, in advancing and enacting this bill as opposed to maintaining our existing platform, the taxpayers of Pennsylvania will be realizing up to \$40 billion in savings.

Interested parties, Mr. President, may argue that the provisions of Senate Bill No. 1082 are Draconian on our State and school district workforce. To this, I must respectfully disagree. The greatest threat to any worker's retirement security is threats to his job security. The experience this government has had with managing investment risk over the past 20 years with pension payments to exceed 30 percent of payroll, with retirement debt climbing to \$65 billion, has led to thousands of unnecessary job losses in State government and our school districts. This will continue if investment performance does not meet expectations.



By better managing and balancing potential investment loss, Pennsylvania will be empowered to maintain a more financially solvent platform at the State and school district level, resulting in better job and retirement security for our workers, all while providing replacement of employment earnings in retirement. It must be understood, Mr. President, that when the private sector moved to a balance of risk and retirement benefits to a defined contribution plan, it was not a move against the well-being of its workers—that is a common fallacy—but a recognition of the danger of unmanageable risk on their enterprise and on the employment security of their labor force. By making this move, the private sector was standing up for the workers, not undermining them.

It may be argued by interested parties, Mr. President, that the provisions of Senate Bill No. 1082 do not address the current challenges of the Commonwealth in experiencing pension debt. We must understand that unfunded pension debt is due to benefits that have already been earned by our workers and not currently funded. There is no reasonable way for changes in prospective benefits to address existing debt caused by benefits earned in the past. It, like all other classes of debt on our books, must be paid off and must be serviced. What is vital to understand is that our existing debt only stays at its projected levels if our pension systems are able to meet earnings assumptions. If they do not, existing debt will grow. Given past experiences and the risk that may be repeated in the future, the provisions of Senate Bill No. 1082 provide greater security that our current debt stays at current levels, will be paid down, and our financial path can be managed with more certainty and clarity.

It may be argued, Mr. President, by interested parties that the provisions of Senate Bill No. 1082 do not address our current budget challenges. I heard that today and I heard that in our meeting of the Committee on Appropriations yesterday. Respectfully, to argue this is to not appreciate the root cause of our current budget challenges, the foundation of our structural imbalance, and to do what is necessary to insure a more sustainable path is paved for this Assembly in budget matters. The challenges this Assembly has had with managing legacy results of a significant investment loss, challenges which have led to many actions by this Assembly, Act 38 and Act 40 of 2003 and 2004 in the wake of the market downturn in 2001, Act 120 in the wake of a historic market downturn in 2008 and 2009, is the most significant contributor to our current deficits, the most significant contributor to upward pressure on tax rates, and the most significant contributor to our lack of resources to appropriately invest in the future of Pennsylvania.

This legislation, by recognizing and addressing the root cause of our current budget challenges, does more than any other reform can do, providing more certainty these problems of the present will not repeat themselves as challenges of the future. Mr. President, it has been said that the current financial position of this Commonwealth does not only pose an acute threat to the well-being of our generation but on our children as well. That is said about our debt, that is said about debt at the Federal level, and it is something we must constantly be concerned about. We have a clear opportunity today, with the provisions of Senate Bill No. 1082, to collectively state that we will work together, that we will accept and not deny the challenges that face us, and do whatever is necessary to not let them happen again. An endorsement

of the provisions of Senate Bill No. 1082, Mr. President, is an investment in the future of Pennsylvania's children. Let us embrace it. Let us do that by endorsing the provisions of Senate Bill No. 1082.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator EICHELBERGER. Mr. President, in addition to all of the financial information that we have heard about and all the good reasons why this bill is critical for the future of this State, another point that I would like to emphasize for the employees of Pennsylvania who are in one of these two systems is this new section that would be the defined contribution portion of their investment would be portable within 5 years for these folks. Today, on a national average, State employees work an average at their State job about 7 1/2 years. Pennsylvania's average is a little higher than that, but it is still below 10. So many, many employees in Pennsylvania never reach their time to be vested in their plan. We learned, in dealing with some experts as we looked at pension issues here in the last year, that this is a discriminatory plan against many people, particularly younger people. It is trending a lot more so that people do not stay in the same job for a long period of time. Younger generations move much more frequently. Interestingly, women, particularly women of child-bearing years, are the ones who are in and out of the workforce. As they leave a job they may have in the public sector and then come back a year or two later and try to get a job, they may end up in the private sector, they lose the benefit of their earnings on the money that they have put in out of their paychecks.

So, this is a very good program for employees, despite what some people who may be walking the halls might say about the workforce that we have in this State. This is good for most of the people who are in the workforce today. So, I did not want that point to go without being emphasized today, because this is great for financial aspects of it, but it is also very good for the employees of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, you have heard the policy. I think it was well described by the Senators from Lackawanna and Lehigh, and as well from the Senator from Blair. So, I just want to take a more personal moment for myself to thank the Members of the Senate Republican Caucus. We are not the only ones who identified this as a big issue. Obviously, the Governor had his proposal, and the Senate Democrats had proposals on this issue in the past. When we got together for the first time this year, and this is my first year as Leader of this Caucus, we decided that this issue had become so paramount and so important to the future of Pennsylvania that this had to be our year to take the stand. This issue had been talked about and had been introduced. It had gone around and been discussed, but we were never able to get action, for whatever reason, even when, as Republicans, we had a Republican Governor and the Majority in both the House and Senate, we were still unable to get to the point where we could move this issue to a final vote and to the Governor's desk.

To the credit of the men and women of the Senate Republican Caucus, we decided that was enough, that this issue had to be resolved, and it had to be this year. So, we went out and we listed this as the number one issue. Many may say, if you want to get partisan about things, that we were taking on public employee unions and beating up public employee unions, but nothing could be further from the truth. I, myself, have enjoyed support from public employee unions in the past. Public employees are our neighbors. They are not some sort of unknown lobby interest here in Harrisburg. They are our neighbors. The neighbor who lives behind my home in Bellefonte is a State policeman. The neighbor who lives in the house in front of me is a corrections officer. Two of my best friends with whom I coach Little League baseball are school district employees and Penn State University employees. My brother works in State government. So, this is not about some sort of faceless special interest. This is about our neighbors, and this is about our friends. It is a system that we need to preserve for them as well and for the future employees who take their place in the workforce in the future. It is also a big interest issue for the Commonwealth and the taxpayers of the Commonwealth. Can we develop a system that takes us out of the risk business? A business that does not allow us to get in a situation where we did in 2008 when the two funds lost \$30 billion in value. We believe by moving to a defined contribution that we will take ourselves out.

As I said before, Mr. President, it is nice to have ideas and it is nice to sort of talk about them, but you need to complete these ideas. You need to come forward and get legislation passed and get it to the Governor's desk. We started this process in May when the Caucus stood up and passed what I would argue is the most comprehensive pension reform bill ever introduced here in the Senate. Then in June, when we had to make some accommodations to get our friends in the House onboard, we did that. We could have taken our ball and gone home and said, well, it is not our proposal, so we are not going to do anything, but nope, we have to get this done, and we as a Caucus, again, joined, made the accommodations, and sent this bill to the Governor in June. Unfortunately, the Governor did not support it and vetoed it.

But again, we stuck at the issue and still said this had to be part of the process. Through negotiations with our friends on the other side of the aisle, and with our friends in the administration, we are here today with a final product that, again, will pass the Senate today, and that the Governor will sign. Again, people should understand how important that is. I mean, it is great to have your beliefs in the world, it is great to have your positions, but if you cannot get them accomplished, what does it matter? I mean, we are judged by the job performance we do, we are judged by accomplishments, not by rhetoric, not by what we stand for, but what we got done. I can stand for all of the great things in the world, but if I never get any of them done, what good am I here? What good am I for the people of the 34th Senatorial District if nothing gets done? I stand high on the mountain with my pure values, but I never got anything done. Is that serving my constituents? So today we made some more accommodations to get this bill to the point where the Governor will sign it.

As it stands today, I want to read a couple of national organizations' opinions on this. ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council wrote to us. *(Reading:)*

We were pleased to learn the details of the side-by-side hybrid pension agreement put forward by the state's Republican leaders. Your proposed side-by-side hybrid pension structure is a strong reform, substantially advancing key pension reform principles. Should your proposal be adopted by the legislature and signed by Governor Wolf, it will help ensure that Pennsylvania will be able to meet its retirement commitments to current and retired public employees, while moving to a new, more sustainable structure for future workers.

That was signed by Lisa Nelson, the chief executive officer of ALEC, as well as the members of the legislature who make up the national board of ALEC.

More impressive though, Mr. President, is the Pew Charitable Trusts. Certainly, Pew Charitable Trusts can never be viewed as a partisan organization, but a national organization that looks at financial situations. Let me read one little sentence that really says it all. *(Reading:)*

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Passage and successful implementation, combined with the state's continued and dramatic increase in pension funding, would result in a national model for reform—a **national model for reform**—and establish Pennsylvania as one of the brightest turnaround stories among states.

A national model for reform, and one of the brightest turnaround stories among States. That is what we are accomplishing here today.

I think everyone in this Chamber as well as the administration deserves credit if we can get this to the finish line. Again, we hope our friends on the other side of the building take up this bill and send it to the Governor so we can be that national model. Instead of Pennsylvania having one of the worst pension systems in the nation, we are prepared to be a national model, which is something of a great accomplishment because we had the courage to put up our votes, we had the courage to stick to our principles, we had the courage to make accommodations to get a bill passed and signed, which is the most important thing. That is what we are here to accomplish today. I want to thank the Members of my Caucus, as well as the whole Chamber, but the Members of my Caucus who really took this on as the issue that we found was the most important issue facing the Commonwealth. Because we were able to accomplish this, and hopefully, the Governor will get it and sign it, we will be a national model for pensions in the future.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. I thank the gentleman for doing a hard job.

And the question recurring,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

#### YEA-38

Alloway	Dinniman	Rafferty	Vulakovich
Argall	Eichelberger	Reschenthaler	Wagner
Aument	Folmer	Scarnati	Ward
Baker	Fontana	Scavella	White
Bartolotta	Gordner	Schwank	Wiley
Blake	Hutchinson	Smucker	Wozniak

Boscola	McGarrigle	Stefano	Yaw
Browne	McIlhinney	Tomlinson	Yudichak
Corman	Mensch	Vance	
Costa	Pileggi	Vogel	

## NAY-12

Brewster	Greenleaf	Kitchen	Tartaglione
Brooks	Haywood	Leach	Teplitz
Farnese	Hughes	Sabatina	Williams

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

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

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED**

The PRESIDENT. Senator Yaw has returned, and his 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 an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Transportation to be held in the Rules room, to be 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 meeting of the Committee on Transportation, Senate Democrats will meet in the rear of the Chamber for a caucus.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of a meeting of the Committee on Transportation, 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.

**CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED****THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED****BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**HB 57** and **HB 150** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

**BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE**

**HB 447 (Pr. No. 1037)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 6, 1951 (P.L.69, No.20), known as The Landlord and Tenant Act of 1951, providing for death of a tenant.

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

Pursuant to Senate Rule 9, the bill was laid on the table.

**BILL OVER IN ORDER**

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

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION  
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

**SB 604 (Pr. No. 597)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in special licenses and permits, further providing for Lake Erie fishing permits.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,

Shall the bill pass finally?

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

**YEA-50**

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

**NAY-0**

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

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

**BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**SB 606, SB 691, HB 837** and **HB 857** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION  
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

**HB 909 (Pr. No. 1126)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 7, 1947 (P.L.1368, No.542), known as the Real Estate Tax Sale Law, in sale of property, providing for additional costs for rehabilitation and maintenance.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

#### YEA-50

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

#### NAY-0

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

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

#### BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 917, SB 936, SB 952, SB 1022 and SB 1054** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

#### BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

**HB 1161 (Pr. No. 1512)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 22, 1983 (P.L.306, No.84), known as the Board of Vehicles Act, further providing for definitions and for license to engage in business.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

#### YEA-50

Alloway	Eichelberger	Mensch	Vance
Argall	Farnese	Pileggi	Vogel
Aument	Folmer	Rafferty	Vulakovich
Baker	Fontana	Reschenthaler	Wagner
Bartolotta	Gordner	Sabatina	Ward

Blake	Greenleaf	Scarnati	White
Boscola	Haywood	Scavello	Wiley
Brewster	Hughes	Schwank	Williams
Brooks	Hutchinson	Smucker	Wozniak
Browne	Kitchen	Stefano	Yaw
Corman	Leach	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Costa	McGarrigle	Teplitz	
Dinniman	McIlhinney	Tomlinson	

#### NAY-0

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

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

#### BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**HB 1279, HB 1332, HB 1335, HB 1340 and HB 1603** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

#### SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

#### BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**HB 49, SB 126, SB 127 and HB 139** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

#### BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

**HB 158 (Pr. No. 692)** -- 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 terms and courses of study, providing for secretary declaration of emergencies.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

#### BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 201, HB 400 and SB 731** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

#### BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

**SB 805 (Pr. No. 922)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in restructuring of electric utility industry, further providing for energy efficiency and conservation program.

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

**SB 805 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 805, Printer's No. 922, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

**BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION**

**HB 805 (Pr. No. 1843)** -- 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 professional employees, further providing for temporary professional employees, for contracts, execution and form, for causes for suspension and for persons to be suspended and to receive tenure, for collective bargaining agreements and for timing of appeal of suspension; and making editorial changes.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

**BILL LAID ON THE TABLE**

**SB 976 (Pr. No. 1372)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in wiretapping and electronic surveillance, further providing for definitions and for exceptions to prohibition of interception and disclosure of communications.

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

**SB 976 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 976, Printer's No. 1372, 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 1013, HB 1170, HB 1195, HB 1201, HB 1329 and HB 1341** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

**RECESS**

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a brief recess of the Senate for purposes of off-the-floor meetings of the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Aging and Youth, the Committee on Finance, and of the Committee on Public and Health and Welfare.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of meetings of the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Aging and Youth, the Committee on Finance, and of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

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

**BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

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

**HB 1198 (Pr. No. 1750) (Rereported)**

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

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

**BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION**  
**AND RECOMMITTED**

**HB 1198 (Pr. No. 1750)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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 recommitted to the Committee on Appropriations.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**  
**BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES**

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

**SB 1064 (Pr. No. 1402)**

An Act transferring roads between Hanover Township, Lehigh County, and the Department of Transportation.

**HB 950 (Pr. No. 2625) (Amended)**

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions relating to operation of vehicles, further providing for traffic-control signals and for expiration of automated red light enforcement systems provisions.

**HB 1579 (Pr. No. 2273)**

An Act designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 62 over the Allegheny River, Tionesta Borough, Forest County, as the Lt. Col. Michael McLaughlin/AMVETS Post 113 Memorial Bridge.

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

**HB 1735 (Pr. No. 2599)**

An Act amending the act of December 30, 2003 (P.L.441, No.64), known as the Tobacco Product Manufacturer Directory Act, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions.

**HB 1736 (Pr. No. 2600)**

An Act amending the act of June 22, 2000 (P.L.394, No.54), known as the Tobacco Settlement Agreement Act, further providing for definitions.

Senator BROOKS, from the Committee on Aging and Youth, reported the following bill:

**HB 777 (Pr. No. 877)**

An Act amending the act of August 26, 1971 (P.L.351, No.91), known as the State Lottery Law, in pharmaceutical assistance for the elderly, further providing for determination of eligibility.

**SENATE RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Senators VULAKOVICH, COSTA, ARGALL, AUMENT, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER, BROOKS, DINNIMAN, EICHELBERGER, FOLMER, FONTANA, GORDNER, GREENLEAF, HUTCHINSON, KITCHEN, PILEGGI, RESCHENTHALER, SABATINA, SCAVELLO, SCHWANK, TEPLITZ, WHITE, YUDICHAK, RAFFERTY, FARNESE and WARD, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 257**, entitled:

A Resolution designating December 8, 2015, as "National Guard Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,  
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator VULAKOVICH. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, Senator Costa and I are offering a resolution commemorating the 260th anniversary of Pennsylvania's first militia law, as well as designating Tuesday, December 8, as "National Guard Day" in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's General Assembly considers many important issues each year, but few have the lasting impact or the worldwide influence of one considered over 260 years ago. In 1755, the General Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania received a great number of petitions from the several counties of the colony that made it clear that many citizens were, and I quote, "very willing to defend themselves and their country and desirous of being formed into regular bodies for that purpose, instructed and disciplined under proper officers with suitable and legal authority." Responding to those petitions, the General Assembly passed Pennsylvania's first militia law on November 25, 1755. The rest, as they say, is history.

Pennsylvania's militia men played a roll in every major military action from the French and Indian War through the second Gulf War. They were there for the Revolution, they served in the war between the States, and some of the most storied exploits of the division came on the European battlefields of World War I and World War II. They fought in Korea and Vietnam and then in the Middle East. Pennsylvania's citizen soldiers continue to serve with honor and distinction today both in military and disaster relief roles. Pennsylvania's National Guard Force reaches from the joint force headquarters located at Fort Indiantown Gap, Lebanon County, to almost 90 communities across the Commonwealth. In fact, the Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the top 10 employers of this Commonwealth, with approximately 3,608 of its members serving in a full-time capacity, and the remaining 16,178 members serving as traditional members who train on a part-time basis while pursuing civilian education or careers. And yes, it is important that we remember that these citizen soldiers are ordinary people who make extraordinary sacrifices.

In the last 5 years, the Pennsylvania National Guard activated roughly 9,416 troops who spent more than 31,533 duty days on State active duty missions, including several winter storms, hurricanes, and many other domestic support missions. It is truly fitting that we recognize this service and fidelity of all of the men and women who have served our great Commonwealth. We owe them our deepest gratitude, and in that spirit, Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to adopt this resolution, and I ask all Pennsylvanians to remember and give thanks for all of the soldiers and airmen from across Pennsylvania who have served our Commonwealth.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks the gentleman for a very important resolution, and recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I also rise today to talk briefly about the resolution designating December 8, 2015, as National Guard Day. To begin, Mr. President, I thank my good friend and colleague, as you mentioned, from Allegheny, Senator Vulakovich, the chairman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, for being the major sponsor of this resolution. It has been my honor to work with him this past year as the Democratic chair of that committee, and I appreciate the diligence and hard work that he provides. He is really cognizant of the issues that are important to our many veterans in this Commonwealth, but also recognizes the hazards that we deal with in this Commonwealth, and making certain that we protect those individuals.

As was stated, Mr. President, Pennsylvania's National Guard was founded in November 1755 with counties formed, recognized, and organized around the willingness to have residents who dedicated themselves to defend themselves and their country, and providing for proper officers as well as legal authority. Two hundred and sixty years later, Mr. President, the National Guard still exists and is on duty to this day. From Fort Indiantown Gap to the high peaks and plains of Afghanistan, the Pennsylvania National Guard has been proudly standing vigil over those individuals in times of peace and during war. Mr. President, as I said, I rise today to recognize the work that is

being done by these fine men and women, and also want to commend the chairman for his insistence that we do this along those lines.

Pennsylvania's National Guard is a very, very proud Pennsylvania institution, and I am proud to rise today and speak on this very, very important issue recognizing December 8, 2015, as National Guard Day here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. We appreciate all that Senator Vulakovich and Senator Costa do on emergency management for our veterans and members of the National Guard. There is no doubt we have the greatest National Guard in all of America and in the world, and we are grateful for the great job they do.

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 Nikolaus Hans Herrmann and to Glenn R. Walbert by Senator Scavello.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Joyce Tambolas by Senator Teplitz.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to members and coaches of the Villa Maria Academy Girls' Golf Team by Senator Wiley.

### CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION

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

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Paul L. Ely by Senator McIlhinney.

### BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator RAFFERTY. 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 1064, HB 777, HB 950, HB 1579, HB 1735 and HB 1736.**

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

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015

9:30 A.M.	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (public hearing on Act 537, also known as the PA Sewage Facilities Act)	Room 8E-B East Wing
Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider House Bills No. 530, 941, 1198, 1322, 1327 and 1690)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
Off the Floor	LAW AND JUSTICE (to consider House Bill No. 1690)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
Off the Floor	PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE (to consider House Bill No. 1322)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015

10:00 A.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to consider Senate Bill No. 56; and Senate Resolutions No. 156, 254 and 255)	Room 461 Main Capitol
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### PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator RAFFERTY. Mr. President, today, December 7, we mark the 74th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Imperial Japanese Navy. It is a solemn day in American history and it is one that we should remember and not just celebrate with those who were at Pearl Harbor, the heroes that they are, but celebrate as a nation what happened that day and remember that day, because, Mr. President, unfortunately for us, our World War II veterans are passing away. I happened to work, in later years, with a sailor who was attached to the U.S.S. California that day, one of the battleships on Battleship Row. He often talked about the carnage, the fire, and the bravery that was shown by men and women that day in Pearl Harbor.

Mr. President, we were attacked. We entered the war. We entered the war to end fascism, Nazism, and totalitarianism. The United States carried on its shoulders the Allied Troops and Allied Forces during World War II. Our young men rose to the occasion, Mr. President. Our Navy, our Marines, our Army, our Army Air Corps, our Coast Guard, our Seabees, and our merchant marine to make sure that democracy survived and thrived in this world. During World War II, we saw the occasion of many of our military leaders be awarded a fifth star recognizing their accomplishments as commanders and leaders on the field of battle. It all began, Mr. President, on December 7, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when we were attacked unknowingly, unprepared for on a Sunday morning when men were still in their berths or just waking up to start cleaning the decks of the ships and the planes attacked. As oil spilled into the ocean and fire exploded on the decks of the ships and began raging in the ocean waters, many a life was lost.

Mr. President, to mark that occasion, at Pearl Harbor today on the bottom of the ocean still sits the U.S.S. Arizona as a memorial to us all of the lives lost, the carnage cost, and the sacrifices made by our nation. Yet also at Pearl Harbor, anchored not far away, is where it ended - the U.S.S. Battleship Missouri, where the final documents of surrender were signed. So, when people take a trip to Pearl Harbor they will see the beginning of World War II and the ending of World War II symbolized in ships. One a wreck, a tomb, laying on the bottom of the ocean, and one in pristine condition that was used for the surrender documents to be signed between the Allied Forces and Imperial Japan.

We remember all of those men and women who gave their lives that day and we remember the men and women who continue to serve in the U.S. military, those who are alive with us today, who served in World War II, who went through that horrific and trying time to bring the world to a safer place and democracy to thrive. We thank all of the men and women who served in the military through subsequent wars, and certainly those with us today as we fight a new enemy without borders. We commend our military and our National Guard for the sacrifices they make as volunteers to insure our freedoms and liberties.

So, Mr. President, let us remember today, December 7, a day we were attacked, but a day the United States stood tall and mustered the courage and conviction to keep democracy and freedom and liberty alive in the world at a place through today with our men and women in their service. We ask for them God's blessings and know that they show the same spirit and courage that were shown by those at Pearl Harbor on December 7 and all throughout World War II.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks my friend from Montgomery for recognizing this day of infamy and all that America became after that attack. We also had a ceremony honoring them in the East Wing Rotunda and three survivors of the Pearl Harbor attacks were in attendance. I know, Senator Rafferty, you are a fan and a historian of such folks, and I told them to reach out to you and come to your office and tell you all about Pearl Harbor. Thank you so much for the petition.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love and sisterly affection, Senator Farnese.

Senator FARNESE. Mr. President, I want to join in your comments and to the comments of our good friend, Senator Rafferty, for the remembrance not only of the men and women at that period, but, of course, the men and women across our country who serve each and every day in uniform. It is fitting that we remember them and we remember the sacrifices they made. I thank Senator Rafferty for his comments.

Just briefly, Mr. President, every year around budget time when we get a budget done, usually it is much warmer outside, I would usually get a phone call from my parents. My dad was not a guy who used to get very involved in politics. He would not really say a lot or comment a lot, but almost every single budget he would give me a call, I would call him sometimes on my way home, and he would sort of let me know what he thought about my comments that day. He would always comment about my good friend, Senator Hughes, who happened sometimes to get a little excitable at the podium, at least in the last 4 years. I sort of got used to hearing that all the time. As I sat here today when we

passed the first piece, the General Appropriation bill, it reminded me that I will not be hearing from him this year. I thought it would be important for me to recognize that.

Certainly, I miss him and miss the opportunity to speak with him, but it was something I promised I would do when this budget eventually passed. So, I want him and my mom to know that I am thinking about him today and that he is with me, with my mom and me, as we celebrate the holidays without him, our first set. He is alive and well with me thinking about him and I know he is looking down on us and God knows what he is thinking, but it was something that I always looked forward to and it is something I think that I will always remember. It has been tough this holiday season without him, but I wanted him to know that he is with me, he is in my heart, and on behalf of my mom, want him to know that we miss him.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks the Senator from Philadelphia. Your dad is, I am sure, looking down every day on Petitions and Remonstrances and is proud of you, as is your great mom, and he is in heaven looking out for you, and as I say, he recognizes what a proud dad you have made him and what a great job you are doing for Pennsylvanians.

## RECESS

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Tuesday, December 8, 2015, at 1 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 4:25 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.