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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2015

SESSION OF 2015 199TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 78

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, December 23, 2015

The Senate met at 1:10 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

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

PRAYER

The following prayer was offered by Senator JOHN R. GORDNER:

Shall we pray.

In our church, we sing a praise song that says my God is an awesome God. I hope that regardless of the individual faiths of the Members of the Senate, that we do believe that our God is an awesome God, in that in whatever we do or see, in nature and, hopefully, in other human beings, we can see the brilliance and the awesomeness of that God. We go back over 400 years ago to William Penn and his Holy Experiment here in Pennsylvania, and we are thankful for his tradition of free beliefs and opportunity. I hope that as 2015 comes to a close and we head to the new year, that we continue to look at those opportunities that are presented, that we examine our faith, and that we look for the best in others in all that we do. In Your heavenly name, we pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Senator Gordner for an awesome prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

December 21, 2015

Senators ALLOWAY, EICHELBERGER, SCARNATI, FOLMER, BARTOLOTTA, WAGNER, MENSCH, WARD, AUMENT and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SB 1059**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 23, 1970 (P.L.563, No.195), known as the Public Employe Relations Act, in representation, further providing for representation elections and for certified representatives.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, December 21, 2015.

Senators VOGEL, COSTA, BARTOLOTTA, BROOKS, EICHELBERGER, RAFFERTY, BREWSTER, MENSCH, FOLMER, YUDICHAK, YAW, RESCHENTHALER, STEFANO, WAGNER, BROWNE and WARD presented to the Chair **SB 1092**, entitled:

An Act imposing a duty on the Department of Environmental Protection to maintain a system for applicants to track the status of certain permit applications; and providing for permit notifications.

Which was committed to the Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, December 21, 2015.

December 22, 2015

Senators SABATINA, COSTA, BAKER, FONTANA, DINNIMAN, BARTOLOTTA, RAFFERTY, HAYWOOD and HUGHES presented to the Chair **SB 1093**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in school health services, providing for cardiac assessments of participants in extracurricular athletic activities.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, December 22, 2015.

Senators SABATINA, WAGNER, RAFFERTY, MENSCH, FONTANA, VULAKOVICH, STEFANO, BARTOLOTTA, SCHWANK and HAYWOOD presented to the Chair **SB 1094**, entitled:

An Act establishing the Naturally Occurring Retirement Community Program; and providing for powers and duties of the Department of Aging.

Which was committed to the Committee on AGING AND YOUTH, December 22, 2015.

Senators SABATINA, BREWSTER, YUDICHAK, FONTANA, VULAKOVICH, COSTA, DINNIMAN, BARTOLOTTA, AUMENT and FARNESE presented to the Chair **SB 1095**, 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 grounds for disciplinary proceedings and for off-premises sales, shows, exhibitions or rallies on Sundays.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, December 22, 2015.

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

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

December 22, 2015

- HB 757 -- Committee on Law and Justice.
HB 1520 -- Committee on Transportation.
HB 1567 and 1716 -- Committee on Judiciary.
HB 1625 and 1734 -- Committee on Education.
HB 1653 -- Committee on State Government.
HB 1689 and 1727 -- Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Brooks, Senator McIlhinney, Senator Smucker, Senator Tomlinson, and Senator Ward.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Yudichak.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests legislative leaves for Senator Brooks, Senator McIlhinney, Senator Smucker, Senator Tomlinson, and Senator Ward.

Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Yudichak.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of October 27, 2015, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of October 27, 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

Table with 4 columns of names: Alloway, Argall, Aument, Baker, Bartolotta, Blake, Boscola, Brewster, Brooks, Browne, Eichelberger, Farnese, Folmer, Fontana, Gordner, Greenleaf, Haywood, Hughes, Hutchinson, Kitchen, Mensch, Pileggi, Rafferty, Resenthaler, Sabatina, Scarnati, Scavello, Schwank, Smucker, Stefano, Vance, Vogel, Vulakovich, Wagner, Ward, White, Wiley, Williams, Wozniak, Yaw.

Table with 4 columns of names: Corman, Costa, Dinniman, Leach, McGarrigle, McIlhinney, Tartaglione, Teplitz, Tomlinson, Yudichak.

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

RECESS

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a Republican caucus to be held in the Majority Caucus Room.

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

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

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

AFTER RECESS

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Brooks, Senator Tomlinson, Senator Smucker, Senator Ward, and Senator Yudichak have returned, and their respective leaves are cancelled.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

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

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

PREFERRED APPROPRIATIONS BILL
REVERTED TO PRIOR PRINTER'S No.,
ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1460 (Pr. No. 2632) -- 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.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

MOTION TO REVERT TO PRIOR PRINTER'S No.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move to revert to prior Printer's No. 2626 on House Bill No. 1460.

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

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise to ask for a negative vote on this motion to revert to prior Printer's No. 2626 to House Bill No. 1460. Mr. President, before I begin my remarks, I want to take a few moments to allow Members to understand and appreciate what has taken place over the course of the past several months. What I would like to do first is express my thanks. The motion before us would take an agreed-to budget that we adopted in the Committee on Appropriations earlier this month, a \$30.8 billion budget that does a lot of historic things for Pennsylvania, as we know. In my final remarks, Mr. President, I will get into some of those details.

It also represents a mirror image of what this Chamber passed a few months ago that we sent over to the House, of which we continue to wait for their consideration, again, representing a significant increase in education investments and the like. The motion to revert would revert it back to what the House of Representatives sent to us. Not only does it not have the revenue that we think is appropriate, it does not provide for the level of revenue to sustain it, and that is a problem for our Members. So, I am asking for a negative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, this reversion motion is here on December 23 at 20-some minutes before 4 o'clock, and

it is the only way to get a budget to the Governor's desk that he can sign. He can sign it and still get all of the Federal money in the budget to the schools, and he can get education money to the schools from the State. We can continue to have this discussion, and we are not claiming that this is the end of the discussion, but we need to get something to the Governor.

I understand the concern, but we voted a budget out of here last week which spent more than this and did not have the revenues for it either. So, it certainly was not a problem last week, and I cannot imagine why it is a problem this week. That discussion is going to have to continue. We understand that and we will continue that discussion. This is not the end of the process. Having said that, this is the only way to get a budget to the Governor before Christmas so we can start driving money out to our schools and to social services, which are hurting and in need right now.

I ask for an affirmative vote on the motion to revert to prior Printer's No. 2626 on House Bill No. 1460. Thank you.

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, just so we are clear, we have stayed with this process for over 6 months. We have extended ourselves beyond what I think most of us would probably feel we are capable of doing. We have run this course, and now we are at a point where it almost feels like we are caving in, even though we are in the majority. There are five actors in this process, Mr. President. In this budgetary process, there are five actors - the Governor's Office, the Senate Republicans, the Senate Democrats, the House Democrats, and the House Republicans. There are five actors. Four of those actors have themselves together. Four of those participants are working off of the same sheet. Four of those entities are trying to get to the same place. They expressed a desire to get to the same place a week or so ago when we passed a \$30.8 billion budget that had the largest increase in education funding in the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Four of us - the Governor, the Senate Republicans, the Senate Democrats, and the House Democrats - four of the five actors have themselves together, signed off on the same playsheet and, in fact, voted out of this Chamber, less than 10 days ago, a significant piece of legislation that would have dramatically moved Pennsylvania forward. We got our act together. Four versus one.

The House Republican Caucus has seen fit to undermine the majority will of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I am calling it for what it is. One entity, one Caucus, has said even though everybody else is together, I am going to take my sandbox and go home. So they retreated to their homes. They retreated to their families. They retreated to getting ready for the holiday season. They retreated while the rest of us were prepared to stay here and do the business. So now as a result of one group, we are put into a position where we all have to backtrack and not do the significant work that the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have asked us to do and have waited over 6 months to get done.

If we pass this legislation, and I understand it can get itself to the Governor's desk, we will be voting for a cut of \$265 million in basic education funding. We will be voting for a cut of \$20 million less for special education funding. We will be voting for a cut of \$30 million less for early childhood education. There will be no restoration of the cuts or further investments in our county human service programs. There will be no new invest-

ments in job training and economic development programs. Just that short snapshot right there and the fact that we waited so long to get to a point, and the fact that we worked so hard to get to a point where four of the five actors in this budgetary drama have gotten their act together and worked together to try to get this done but one, the House Republican Caucus, is scuttling the whole thing and not allowing us to move the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania forward.

Be clear: the Governor is ready to go. Be clear: Senate Republicans are ready to go, as evidenced by a vote in a bipartisan fashion less than 10 days ago. Be clear: Senate Democrats are ready to go. Be clear: the House Democrats are ready to go. But one entity, the House Republicans, are scuttling this bipartisan and, in fact, bicameral, and, in fact, unity with the Governor's Office to move Pennsylvania forward. That is unfair and that is not right. They need to come off their vacations and they need to bring their legislative behinds back to Harrisburg so we can get the work done and move this Commonwealth forward. It is a tragedy, it is a travesty that one entity can scuttle incredible increases in education, incredible increases in special education support, and the restoration of cuts in our human service programs. One entity, Mr. President, and that is not right. That is not fair. I ask for a negative vote on this motion. 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-31

Alloway	Eichelberger	Pileggi	Vance
Argall	Folmer	Rafferty	Vogel
Aument	Gordner	Reschenthaler	Vulakovich
Baker	Greenleaf	Scarnati	Wagner
Bartolotta	Hutchinson	Scavello	Ward
Brooks	McGarrigle	Smucker	White
Browne	McIlhinney	Stefano	Yaw
Corman	Mensch	Tomlinson	

NAY-19

Blake	Farnese	Leach	Wiley
Boscola	Fontana	Sabatina	Williams
Brewster	Haywood	Schwank	Wozniak
Costa	Hughes	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Dinniman	Kitchen	Teplitz	

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

The PRESIDENT. The Senate now has before it House Bill No. 1460, Printer's No. 2626.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?
It was agreed to.

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, just a few moments. My colleague, the gentleman from Philadelphia, laid out some of the

concerns that have been raised with respect to the changes between the original House Bill No. 1460 that has now been reverted to and the agreement that we had reached with respect to our colleagues. I want to take a few moments to speak to that.

Mr. President, it has been a pleasure, quite frankly, to work with our fellow Republican colleagues and our colleagues in the House and the administration to try to frame a budget spend number that was appropriate for the people of Pennsylvania and was historic in many ways. While we do not agree with what is taking place at this particular point in time with regard to the reversion, what I want to say to our colleagues is that I am proud to be a Member of this Senate, because we worked very, very well together to build a framework that we put together not only on a GA bill, but also on a pension proposal that made its way through here, and on wine and spirits legislation. We have continued work to do, however, on a number of other areas. So, I want the Members to appreciate and understand that while we do not agree with what is going on here, we do not want this bill to go to the Governor because we want to continue to fight--and we will continue to fight--to provide for a better spending level that I think the people of Pennsylvania expect us to do.

Mr. President, we know that this House Bill No. 1460, as it now stands, the original House bill, does not meet the needs of Pennsylvanians, nor does it provide the level of revenue that is necessary for the Governor to be able to do what he needs to do. My hope and my expectation is that we will continue to stand together - Senate Democrats, Senate Republicans, House Democrats, and the Governor - to work toward a final budget proposal, final budget plan that captures what we agree to and implements the proposal and the framework that we put together. I want the Members to understand that there has been a very, very good, cooperative, bipartisan conversation taking place here, which I think is appropriate in the way we should conduct business. I only wish our brothers and sisters on the other side of the building will be able to do the same. Time will tell whether or not that happens, but I felt compelled to put those remarks on the record.

Now, for the bad news, for some folks, I ask for a negative vote on this bill.

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-33

Alloway	Eichelberger	Rafferty	Vogel
Argall	Folmer	Reschenthaler	Vulakovich
Aument	Gordner	Scarnati	Wagner
Baker	Greenleaf	Scavello	Ward
Bartolotta	Hutchinson	Schwank	White
Brooks	McGarrigle	Smucker	Yaw
Browne	McIlhinney	Stefano	
Corman	Mensch	Tomlinson	
Dinniman	Pileggi	Vance	

NAY-17

Blake	Fontana	Sabatina	Wozniak
Boscola	Haywood	Tartaglione	Yudichak
Brewster	Hughes	Teplitz	
Costa	Kitchen	Wiley	
Farnese	Leach	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 return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same without amendments.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 57, HB 150, HB 158 and SB 489 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 606 (Pr. No. 598) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in particular rights and immunities, providing for limited liability for pilots and apprentices.

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

SB 606 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 606, Printer's No. 598, 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 691, HB 805, HB 837, SB 936, SB 1013, HB 1201 and HB 1296 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL REVERTED TO PRIOR PRINTER'S No., ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1332 (Pr. No. 2684) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 24 (Education) and 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in retirement for school employees, further providing for definitions and for construction of part; providing for notice to members; further providing for credited school service, for creditable nonschool service, for eligibility for annuities, for eligibility for vesting, for eligibility for refunds, for regular member contributions for current service, for pickup contributions, for return of accumulated contributions, for maximum single life annuity, for disability annuities, for member's options, for termination of annuities, for death benefits, for payment of benefits, for duties of board regarding applications and elections of members, for duties of employers, and for rights and duties of school employees and members; in retirement for State employees and officers, further providing for definitions, for credited State service, for creditable nonstate service, for Social Security integration credits, for eligibility for annuities, for eligibility for vesting, for eligibility for special vesting, for eligibility for refunds, for regular member contributions for current service, for Social Security integration member contributions, for waiver of regular member contributions and Social Security integration member contributions, for member contributions for the purchase of credit for previous State

service or to become a full coverage member, for contributions for the purchase of credit for creditable nonstate service, for incomplete payments, for return of total accumulated deductions, for maximum single life annuity, for disability annuities, for member's options, for termination of annuities, for death benefits, for payment of benefits, for duties of board to advise and report to heads of departments and members, for duties of the board regarding application and elections of members, for duties of heads of departments, for rights and duties of State employees and members, and for taxation, attachment and assignment of funds; and providing for construction of part with respect to the Internal Revenue Code.

On the question, Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

MOTION TO REVERT TO PRIOR PRINTER'S No.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move to revert to prior Printer's No. 1814 on House Bill No. 1332.

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

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

The PRESIDENT. The Senate now has before it House Bill No. 1332, Printer's No. 1814.

On the question, Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration? It was agreed to.

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I ask for an affirmative vote. This is an important step in the process to get this to the Governor. We agree and we would like to have it done expeditiously. Thank you.

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

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	Resenthaler	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.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 1335 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 56, SB 126, SB 127, HB 139, SB 201, HB 400, HB 561, SB 731, HB 752, SB 805, HB 950 and SB 976 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS 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 Eugene R. Thomas, Glenn W. Daub, Phyllis Bierly, John D. Heile and to Harold G. Dovey by Senator Aument.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Riley P. Newman, Michael J. Santora and to Gary S. Severns by Senator Baker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Roy C. Fultz, Sr., and to Wade A. Bonsell by Senator Corman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Austin John Moreno, Kelsey Beam, Frank Galbraith, Donald McMonagle and to Kevin Pierce by Senator Dinniman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kyle John McKiernan by Senator Folmer.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Alex J. Prevendoski and to the members and coach of the Bishop Canevin High School Girls' Volleyball Team by Senator Fontana.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Chief Master Sergeant George R. Flick by Senator Gordner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Charles Staub by Senator Greenleaf.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Reverend and Mrs. John Friggle and to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Lineman by Senator Hutchinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Charles Ivey by Senator Kitchen.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Riley Smith by Senator McIlhinney.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Suzanne Laverick-Stone by Senator Mensch.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Evan John Burke by Senator Pileggi.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to John Bates by Senator Reschenthaler.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. H. Frederick Robinson and to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Chapman by Senator Scarnati.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Chief James H. Snyder and to the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of Reading by Senator Schwank.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to William O'Neill, Gregg R. Darnley, John R. Werner, Jerry Bond, Joe Miller, Jerry Hathaway, Terrance Willis, Collin Leaper and to Jacqueline S. Gumbert by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Chief Frank E. Williamson, Jr., and to David Michael Tristan by Senator Vance.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Steven Matthew Carbone by Senator Ward.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. William Keener, Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Bowser and to Mr. and Mrs. James Frank Kellner by Senator White.

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTIONS

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

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Daniel Grotta, to the family of the late Robert G. Gallagher and to the family of the late Shawn Elaine Wilska Murphy by Senator Baker.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Honorable Thomas J. Maloney by Senator Boscola.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Anita T. Nyari and to the family of the late Edward T. Gresko by Senator McIlhinney.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Ginger Michelle Kleinfelter McNally by Senator Teplitz.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Louis Patti by Senator Tomlinson.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Folmer.

Senator FOLMER. Mr. President, I was not going to speak because we are closing to going home for our Christmas break. I know this has been a long and hard journey trying to do a budget, but I want to speak on an issue that I believe is getting lost in the shuffle. We will be entering the Christmas season, the holidays, and people will be going home and celebrating and such. I want to make sure that people understand that there are families right now whose children are still waiting for medical cannabis. I think it is highly egregious that we cannot get a bill done that has 90 percent of Pennsylvanians who are in favor of this. We have not only children who are suffering from epilepsy, we have veterans suffering from PTSD, other citizens suffering from other various illnesses, and all they are looking for is an opportunity to legally have safe, compassionate access to an organic plant.

So, as we leave and prepare to enjoy the holidays with our families, and I hope that I am not putting a dampening light on people's festive activities, but I want them to understand that we need to get this bill done. It is the right thing to do, and I am

hoping that once we come back we will actually be able do so, not for myself, but for the folks who are suffering from this and just want safe access to this organic plant. I do not understand it. It angers me to no end, but I felt compelled to speak on this before we left, and I am hoping that when we come back we can get this done.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks my friend from Lebanon for all of his great work and wishes him a merry Christmas, a happy new year, and happy holidays, and I look forward to working with him and all of our colleagues in the upcoming new year.

BILLS SIGNED

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

HB 1332 and **HB 1460**.

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 Monday, December 28, 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 4:02 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

NOTE: Session scheduled for December 28, 2015, was canceled.