

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016

SESSION OF 2016 200TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 3

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, January 20, 2016

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

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend KEITH H. ESLINGER, of St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we give You thanks for Your establishment of government upon the earth, that nations and communities will live in peace, restrained from actions derived solely from a self-convoluted nature, sinful passions, whims, and desires. We pray that such good government, which has become, sadly and unfairly, an oxymoron to some, will come to mean to them that which You intended in minds of all, a God-given gift necessary to life, one of Your strong hands at work in the world. Heal the wounds of those Pennsylvanians who have been estranged or are apathetic to the political process, that they will learn to appreciate the freedom of our American franchise.

We ask You for Your blessing upon the legislature, Governor, and courts of this great Commonwealth, and all here who strive toward the goal of faithfulness to the common good. Pray that the faith of each man and woman here, as they understand it, will inform their actions and every outcome. Bidden or not bidden, You are present. Guide their hearts and minds with compassion and wisdom spoken and done here. Lead them in the way You would wish them to go. We pray that any allegiance to ideological purity, which the world so horribly suffered in the last century, will be frustrated in this new century and in times to come. Instead, as far as right and possible, cause a spirit of concord and shared ideals to continue to predominate here.

Instill in every legislator a sense of vocation that You have called them. May they cherish the truth that what they do here is not simply their choice or decision, but Yours, so that they shall know with humility that they are to manifest Your will for the benefit of those You have chosen to serve. Pray this in the name of the One who watches over us, even the Lord of heaven and earth. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Eslinger, who is the guest today of Senator Vance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator FOLMER, from the Committee on State Government, reported the following bills:

SB 488 (Pr. No. 1508) (Amended)

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, reducing the size of the General Assembly.

HB 153 (Pr. No. 1318)

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, reducing the size of the General Assembly.

HB 1484 (Pr. No. 2097)

An Act amending the act of October 30, 1987 (P.L.375, No.75), entitled, "An act providing for the designation of certain trees and land on the grounds of the State Capitol in Harrisburg as "Soldiers' Grove" in honor of war veterans; imposing duties upon the Department of General Services; and making an appropriation," further providing for duties of Department of General Services; and providing for preservation of "Soldiers' Grove" and for construction.

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

SB 1086 (Pr. No. 1509) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, further providing for display of registration plate and for surrender of registration plates and cards upon suspension or revocation and providing for suspension of registration upon unpaid tolls; and, in fees, further providing for reinstatement of operating privilege or vehicle registration.

SB 1108 (Pr. No. 1503)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in licensing of drivers, further providing for classes of licenses and for examination of applicant for driver's license; in special vehicles and pedestrians, providing for certain passengers prohibited in autocycles; and, in accidents and accident reports, further providing for accident report forms and for department to compile, tabulate and analyze accident reports.

HB 1199 (Pr. No. 1574)

An Act repealing the act of May 27, 1965 (P.L.63, No.50), entitled "An act authorizing the Department of Highways, with the approval of the Governor, to erect and maintain a bridge over the Monongahela River in Washington and Allegheny Counties, and to provide the necessary approaches and connections with State highways; empowering counties to pay certain damages, and making an appropriation."

HB 1229 (Pr. No. 1614)

An Act designating the overpass on State Route 3145 over Interstate 376, BMS 02-3145-0010-0537, in the Market District at Settlers Ridge, Robinson Township, Allegheny County, as the Roy F. Johns, Jr., Overpass.

HB 1660 (Pr. No. 2438)

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

RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SR 247 (Pr. No. 1434)

A Resolution urging the United States Department of Transportation to work with tank car manufacturers and owners, crude oil shippers and the rail industry in adopting a higher pool fire survivability standard and assisting with additional Federal funds to sustain the training of emergency first responders to ensure communities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the rest of the United States benefit from the safe transportation of Crude by Rail shipments.

SR 262 (Pr. No. 1504)

A Resolution urging the United States Surface Transportation Board, the United States Department of Justice, the United States Department of Transportation and the Congress of the United States to reject any plans submitted by Canadian Pacific Railway to acquire Norfolk Southern Corporation and to consider the potential negative impact of the proposal with respect to building a more efficient freight network in this Commonwealth.

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

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

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

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Wiley.

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

Senator Fontana requests a legislative leave for Senator Wiley.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of November 16, 2015, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of November 16, 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-49

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

CALENDAR

BILL ON CONCURRENCE IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 880 (Pr. No. 1411) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in preliminary provisions, further providing for Keystone Exams.

On the question,
Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 880?

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 880.

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

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Smucker.

Senator SMUCKER. Mr. President, I rise to urge support for Senate Bill No. 880 as amended by the House. We have been hearing increasingly in the last weeks and months from our school districts, educators, and parents about the need to pass a bill that will delay the requirements of the Keystone Exams being used as an education requirement. I think it is worth noting something that we can celebrate: in December, it was revealed for the fourth straight year that the U.S. high school graduation rate has improved, reaching an all-time high of 82 percent in the 2013-14 school year. That has been true in Pennsylvania as well. We are seeing modest increases in the number of students who are graduating from our schools. We have something we can celebrate in the increasing graduation rates that we are seeing across the country and here in Pennsylvania as well.

So, we are making progress, but with that progress we have to keep in mind that we must insure that our students are prepared for college or careers when they leave our K through 12 system. That was the goal behind the Keystone Exams and the tests that come along with the exams themselves. I still support that goal. I think not holding our schools to a high standard would be doing a disservice to the students who are leaving our schools sometimes unprepared. So, accountability of our schools and accountability to insure that our students have achieved a certain body of knowledge is a concept that I still wholeheartedly endorse. In measuring that preparation, we must insure that our yardsticks are accurate and fair. We have heard a number of problems with the implementation of this requirement, that require us, I believe -- what this bill will do is give us a pause to re-evaluate and re-establish exactly what those requirements should be. I do want to mention the Minority chair, my colleague who has done work on this issue, and, in fact, was one of the first to point out some of the inconsistencies and problems with the implementation. So, I appreciate his work on this. This bill will simply provide for a 2-year pause in the requirements, and the addition of what the House has proposed, I think, is a very good one. It will establish parameters, essentially a timeline, during which the Department of Education will come back to the legislature with new provisions for its implementation. The requirement is that the department would come back to the legislature within 6 months with a new plan for how to carry this out.

Some of the problems that we have seen with the implementation is with the project-based assessment. It is unwieldy and unworkable as it is currently carried out. We know that not all students can test to the standards. So there must be some alternative path like the project-based assessments, but not as it is carried out today. So, this legislation will give all stakeholders time to work together to improve the process, review commonsense recommendations, and provide fair and effective options for students and parents. Again, as I have said before, we need accountability in our schools. We should continue on the path of implementing the Keystone Exams that we currently have and for additional courses. We are certainly not abandoning that goal. We are simply re-examining the timeline and putting in place a better method of achieving the outcome.

Thank you, Mr. President, and I urge my colleagues' support for this bill.

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

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, first, I thank Senator Smucker for joining with me, and together our joint leadership on this issue. For 4 years, from the very day that these requirements were issued, the graduation requirement, I fought it. Yet, in both administrations, both the Corbett and in the current administration, this requirement has continued, knowing the following: we knew that millions were being spent on this requirement despite the fact that the Secretary of Education, Secretary Dumesq, had told us and had told the IRRC and the State Board of Education that it would not cost the Commonwealth any money. We know that over \$300 million of a mandate has already been spent on this requirement without results to show for the spending of that money. If you are going to spend money, spend it on teaching, not simply on testing and that requirement.

The Department of Education and the State Board in both administrations knew that the project assessments could not possibly work. In March of last year, 2015, there were 126,000 students who had failed one of these tests, and they were to do a project assessment. Because they did not trust the teachers, every project assessment had to be corrected by two teachers at another school. Because they had no money to pay the teachers, they told them they would give them professional development credits for testing the students. Yet, it is impossible for these project assessments to take place. If two teachers had to correct 126,000 failures from the March re-test alone, that is 246,000 project assessments that were to be corrected. Think about it for a second, if you were giving a teacher one credit for every test they corrected, it meant that no teachers who corrected tests would have to have professional development, and you need professional development for re-licensure every 5 years. So, we had a system of project assessments which did not work, everyone knew it did not work, and yet we continued these tests for the last 3 to 4 years and we were willing to destroy the whole system of professional development and allow teachers to be re-licensed simply by correcting tests.

Also, Mr. President, they knew, in both administrations--and remember, it is a requirement that not only has been put in by the Department of Education under both administrations, but it was initiated through the State Board of Education. They knew the anxiety of students and parents. Many kids simply do not do well on testing. I did not do well on testing and I probably would not have graduated high school with this current requirement, but I did all right for myself. I went on and got a doctorate degree, and I think many of these students should not be deprived of that same opportunity. They knew that there were vocational students who wanted careers who could not go to the vocational program because they had to sit in the classroom to take remediation of algebra I and many dropped out of school and many careers were destroyed.

So in essence, Mr. President, this was bad policy. It was bad policy that every educational organization in this State objected to, and yet it continued in both administrations. Yet, the State Board never overrode it, Mr. President. Why do I say that? For a very important reason. I certainly understand the importance of accountability and of assessment. My doctorate degree is in education. I spent my whole life in education, and I thank the Majority chair for his focus, because we had many discussions, but he never left the fact that we have to have good assessment. I agreed with him, and we worked this out. This is not good assessment. This is not fair assessment. That is why today we are overriding

this. It was overridden unanimously in both the Senate and the House, and I am glad that these amendments were put in by the House because it will make the department more responsible. It was only for the last 2 months or so that the current Department of Education was willing to add its voice in objecting to these exams.

Finally, Mr. President, I hope Members understand something that is very important. The Secondary and Elementary Education Act has been changed by the U.S. Senate and more flexibility is now given to the States. In August of this coming year, the State of Pennsylvania is required to present an education plan to the U.S. Department of Education, and then they have 120 days to approve that plan. What we have to make sure of, Mr. President, and every Senator here has to understand this, if we are not careful, we are going to get stuck with some bad plan, as these Keystone graduation requirements are. Remember also that despite what the law says on teacher evaluations, the department went off and established its own plan and its own SPP scores. It did not matter what we passed. Here is the key: We need to make sure that there is legislative input and legislative approval of whatever new plan is submitted to the U.S. Department of Education. We cannot tolerate and suffer once again with some kind of education plan, as a Keystone graduation requirement, that is not in the interest of the education of our students.

Thus, I will be presenting a bill, with the approval and support of our Majority chair, and I thank him for that, and I hope each of you will sign onto it, that will simply say that no plan can be submitted--this plan is going to be done over the summer when we are not in Session--without the approval of the four chairs of the Committees on Education. We cannot accept this happening again. It happened with the Keystone graduation requirement in this administration, it happened when they raised the scores and made a deal with the U.S. Department of Education in a waiver, and in the process said, no teachers are going to be evaluated this year, despite what State law says. It is incredible that the executive branch takes over the responsibilities.

Finally, Mr. President, our Constitution, unlike the Constitutions of many other States, clearly says that it is the legislators and the legislative responsibility to run an efficient school district. It is not placed in the hands of the Governor, as other States do. It is not placed in the hands of the Department of Education or the State Board of Education, as other States do. We, as a legislature, need to defend our Constitution and reclaim our authority in terms of education. With this plan that is going to get submitted, if we do not, we will be suffering under a plan for decades ahead that we had absolutely no input into except for some consultation and others in the executive branch will be defining what education means. We have that authority in the Constitution. We need to take that authority. We need to let it be known that the legislature of Pennsylvania is serious about education. If there are going to be assessments, if there are going to be teacher evaluations, then we need to have our say, do we not? We need to stand up for students and teachers--remember, 40 percent of our budget is in education and we have the right and we need to take that right to say, you do not put in any plan unless you also respect the legislature, come to the legislature, and if they still put it in the plan and the education chairs object, then I would urge us to come together and override that plan and let the U.S. Department of Education know that it is not acceptable to us.

So, Mr. President, we celebrate today. I am especially happy after 4 years of working on this. I am especially grateful for a Majority chair who truly cares about education, and we all care about assessment, but let us make sure this does not happen again, and the only way that will happen is approval of the bill that I am going to put in. I will send you that cosponsorship. Let us have the whole Senate sign onto that bill just as we did when we objected to the graduation requirement.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator SCAVELLO. Mr. President, before I make my comments on Senate Bill No. 880, I just wanted to -- hearing the previous speaker, the gentleman from Chester, I pray for the day that the Federal government will get out of education and let the States handle education rather than every President every 4 years, every 8 years, try to change it. Let the States handle it. So, if someone in D.C. is hearing me, get the mandates out, let the States handle education. We will do a better job.

I am going to speak about this because from a standpoint of growing districts, and even when you are losing population, you are staying the same. We have a tremendous amount of transient students. Testing and holding the school accountable for students who might be in that school district a few months, and having teachers who instead of teaching kids are teaching them to take a test, it is the wrong thing to do, and it is something that we need to address. Senate Bill No. 880 is vitally important to our young people, and I am happy that we are moving forward with the bill outside of our conversations on the omnibus Public School Code bill. I have opposed the use of the Keystone Exam as a graduation requirement, or any testing, for years. Although Senate Bill No. 880 does not propose to get rid of the graduation requirement, only delays its implementation, I view the legislation as a positive step forward in our efforts to reduce the amount of time students spend on preparing for tests, actual assessments, and any post-remediation that is necessary.

With that said, I think it is important for us to acknowledge that while this legislation technically provides for a 2-year delay in the graduation requirement practice, it is only really 1 year. Thousands of high schoolers are halfway through their junior year because we are only finally passing this legislation now. Our school districts have been operating under the requirement that would have taken effect in 2017. This means those high school juniors built their core schedules, sat in remediation courses, or opened and prepped project-based assessments assuming that they would have to pass the Keystone Exams for their graduation in 2017. They have had to retake the Keystone Exams and undergone continuous pressure of these high-stake exams. Moreover, school districts built their education program this year around the 2017 requirement.

I wish we could have passed Senate Bill No. 880 over the summer so these students would not have lost out on valuable educational opportunities that enrich their lives and drive the enthusiasm for learning. I hope that as we examine whether the graduation requirement should stand for 2019, we do not make that same mistake again.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator KITCHEN. Mr. President, I am compelled to rise and publicly thank Senator Smucker for this bill. Without his core sponsorship, we probably would not have it. I must equally thank the Minority chair, Senator Dinniman, for all of his hard work. I know it has been at least 4 or 5 years, and not just this bill, but Senator Dinniman speaks up for poor children across Pennsylvania and all children across Pennsylvania to have a good education. So, I want to publicly thank him.

Mr. President, the test was so unfair because we are asking students to take a test that really they were not prepared for because how can they when half of the children in the poor schools may not have computers, library books, and the latest textbooks? I think that when we are talking tests, the playing ground should be fair. It does not mean that we will just say, okay, here is a program for underachieving schools, and not get the result, or why are the children not achieving grade level, and we are spending taxpayer dollars.

So, I am glad to see Senator Dinniman stand up for children across Pennsylvania. Mr. President, really, I would say more, but I do not want to be involved in some legal ramifications here, because the amount of money that we have been spending for our children here in Pennsylvania, they should be able to read and write at grade level and they cannot, and we should go back and ask why. I know in some schools it is not enough money, when you compare it to the suburban schools, but then we need to ask how are we coming up with some of the solutions to these problems?

So, Mr. President, once again, thank you to my colleagues.

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-49

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

NAY-0

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

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

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 56 and HB 57 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 158 (Pr. No. 2721) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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 gentlewoman from Luzerne, Senator Baker.

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, I want to rise to compliment Representative Peifer on this commonsense bill. It expands emergency weather declarations during state of emergencies. What I do not think people realized during the prolonged manhunt last year with the Pennsylvania State Police in Pike County, it had a severe impact on our school districts in the Poconos. So, while many of them were closed during the manhunt, it forced one of the districts, in fact, to change its graduation date because it did not fit under what a declaration of a state of emergency was.

So, Representative Peifer has put this commonsense approach together. I believe it will help us to address unknown situations for the future. So, I just want to compliment him on his good work and acknowledge that, and thank you for the support.

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-49

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

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendments in which concurrence of the House is requested.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 489, SB 606 and SB 691 -- 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 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.

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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 837, SB 1013, HB 1201 and HB 1296 -- 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 1335 (Pr. No. 1817) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in powers of department and local authorities, further providing for emergency telephones along Pennsylvania Turnpike.

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.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

PREFERRED APPROPRIATIONS BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 1106 (Pr. No. 1500) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making a supplemental appropriation from the General Fund to the Department of Corrections for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 126 and SB 127 -- 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 139 (Pr. No. 123) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of January 28, 1988 (P.L.24, No.11), known as the Private Academic Schools Act, further providing for definitions, for State Board of Private Academic Schools, for powers and duties of board, for application for license, for issuance and renewal of license, for directory of private academic schools, for requirements for licensure and operation, for enforcement, refusal, suspension or revocation of license and for promulgation of rules and regulations.

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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

HB 561 (Pr. No. 634) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 568 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 731 (Pr. No. 735) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in preliminary provisions, further providing for Keystone Exams; and, in State Board of Education, further providing for powers and duties of the board.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 805, HB 950, SB 976, SB 1056 and SB 1104 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

HB 1552 (Pr. No. 2178) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in preliminary provisions, providing for powers and duties of the Secretary of Education.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 254, ADOPTED

Senator CORMAN, without objection, called up from page 6 of the Calendar, **Senate Resolution No. 254**, entitled:

A Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 2894, the "Caregivers Access and Responsible Expansion for All Veterans Act" or the "CARE for All Veterans Act."

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator VULAKOVICH. Mr. President, I will be brief, but I want to say a few words about this resolution. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Program was established in 2010. The program provides critical support services and benefits including education, training, stress management, and support groups to caregivers of post-9/11 veterans. Senate Resolution No. 254 urges the Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 2894, the Caregivers Access and Responsible Expansion for All Veterans Act, or CARE for All Veterans Act for short, which expands eligibility for the Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Program to caregivers of all veterans, not just the post-9/11 veterans.

For many of our veterans, the most important care and support they receive is not found in a VA clinic or hospital, but right at home, and the most important care provider is not necessarily their doctor or nurse, but a family member or loved one. These are true caregivers - family and friends who dedicate their livelihood, their love, and their support to improving the quality of life for our veterans. I have been working with P.J. McGill on this issue. While he routinely lobbies for AARP, as a veteran, he is advocating for this legislation.

I ask for a positive vote from this body on this very important issue.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks the gentleman from Allegheny for his work on veterans issues.

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SENATE RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Senators VANCE, AUMENT, BAKER, HUTCHINSON, MENSCH, COSTA, HAYWOOD, SCHWANK, BARTOLOTTA, BROWNE, EICHELBERGER, GREENLEAF,

RAFFERTY, RESCHENTHALER, SCAVELLO, BOSCOLA, BREWSTER, FONTANA, SABATINA, TEPLITZ, WOZNIAK and FARNESE, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 266**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of January 24 through 30, 2016, as "Nurse Anesthetists Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator VANCE. Mr. President, nurse anesthetists were the very first professional group to provide anesthesia in the United States, and the oldest recognized group of advanced practice nurses. More than two-thirds of all of our rural hospitals rely on certified registered nurse anesthetists to provide anesthesia care. Fifteen hundred facilities in our State would be unable to maintain trauma stabilization and surgical and obstetrical capabilities without the work of these certified nurse anesthetists. This would force many rural patients to travel very, very long distances in order to get care. Our certified nurse anesthetists work in hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, physician's offices, and medical facilities. They provide about 32 million anesthetics a year in the United States. I ask the Senate to join me in supporting this resolution.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks the gentlewoman for her work on this important issue and all healthcare issues.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

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 Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Schadel and to the Blue Ridge Rifles Muzzleloader Club by Senator Argall.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Pierce Leshner, Jr., Robert S. Boyce, Esther Enck and to William R. Royer by Senator Aument.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Amon T. Blance by Senator Brooks.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Doris Pimental, Jonathan Bruce Swavely, Eva A. Stanus, Lillian Esther Glickman, Nina Jackson, Hartman's Butcher Shop and to the Parkland Garden Club by Senator Browne.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Donald Flad, Fred Fenselau, SATORI and to Boyle Construction Management by Senators Browne, Boscola, and Scavello.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Lehigh Carbon Community College by Senator Browne and others.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Lucas Richard Kearns by Senator Costa.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Harry Blair Thompson by Senator Eichelberger.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Regina B. Engler by Senator Folmer.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Andrew Marlin Myers by Senator Gordner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Chief William E. Westerman and to Joseph J. Hasychak by Senator Hutchinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Timothy M. H. Lauenders by Senator Mensch.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the Honorable Fiorella Reginelli-Mirabito by Senator Scavello.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Glenn Robinson by Senator Smucker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Pamela Skelton and to KinderCare Learning Center by Senator Teplitz.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ted Stoudt, Michael C. Burnell and to John H. Delp by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ken Kinzel, John P. Monper, Cody Monper, Brandon McCrea and to Matt Wagner by Senator Vulakovich.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Nicholas Metzger by Senator Wagner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Brian Jeffery Worst by Senator White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Sister Mary Drexler by Senator Wiley.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ethan Scott Jaap by Senator Wozniak.

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTIONS

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

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Kevin J. Holehan, to the family of the late Marilyn Moore Maslow and to the family of the late Rose Marie Coccimigilo Conigliaro by Senator Baker.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Anthony Nikoloff by Senator Teplitz.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator RESCHENTHALER. 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 488, SB 1086, SB 1108, HB 153, HB 1199, HB 1229, HB 1484 and HB 1660.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016

9:30 A.M. BANKING AND INSURANCE (public hearing on House Bill No. 1638) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016

9:00 A.M. AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (public hearing on Senate Bill No. 1055) Room 8E-B East Wing

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2016

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Governor's Office/Governor's Budget Office/Executive Offices) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Independent Fiscal Office - Economic Outlook & Revenue Overview) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Health) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Judiciary) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Treasury Department) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Auditor General) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2016

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - State Police/Homeland Security) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Environmental Protection) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Community & Economic Development) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Attorney General) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Corrections/Board of Probation and Parole) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Transportation) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Aging) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016

10:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of General Services)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Labor & Industry)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Agriculture)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016

10:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - State Related Universities)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - PA State System of Higher Education)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - PA Emergency Management Agency/Fire Commissioner)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016

10:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Human Services)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Revenue/Lottery)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Military and Veterans Affairs)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016

10:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Education)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - PA Liquor Control Board)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

BILL SIGNED

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

SB 880.

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, January 25, 2016, 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 11:55 a.m., Eastern Standard Time.

NOTE: Session scheduled for January 25, 2016, was canceled due to inclement weather.