

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2016

SESSION OF 2016 200TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 55

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, October 26, 2016

The Senate met at 11 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend ERIC H. REIMER, of St. John's Lutheran Church, Hatboro, offered the following prayer:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, maker of all things. You have filled this world with a great abundance and You have raised up leaders to insure that all Your people may share in Your gifts. Guide the deliberations of this Assembly to see past the struggles of today and seek a lasting wholeness and justice for all Your people so that the hungry may be fed, the sick may find healing, the terrorized may find safety, and the oppressed may find freedom. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Pastor Reimer, who is the guest today of Senator Greenleaf.

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:

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Senators SCAVELLO, McGARRIGLE, TARTAGLIONE, ARGALL, GREENLEAF, TEPLITZ, VULAKOVICH, RAFFERTY, KILLION, BREWSTER and DINNIMAN presented to the Chair **SB 1395**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 26, 2001 (P.L.755, No.77), known as the Tobacco Settlement Act, in Commonwealth universal research enhancement, providing for spinal cord injury research program, further providing for department responsibilities and for use of funds and providing for spinal cord injury research programs funding.

Which was committed to the Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, October 26, 2016.

Senators ARGALL, MENSCH, FOLMER, AUMENT, BARTOLOTTA, RAFFERTY and BROWNE presented to the Chair **SB 1398**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Public School Employees' Benefit Board and providing for its powers and duties; requiring a school employee health benefits evaluation; providing for a health benefits program for public school employees; and establishing the Public School Employees' Benefit Trust Fund.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, October 26, 2016.

Senators EICHELBERGER, SCARNATI, FOLMER, WHITE, WAGNER, AUMENT and ALLOWAY presented to the Chair **SB 1399**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 23, 1970 (P.L.563, No.195), known as the Public Employee Relations Act, repealing the definition of "maintenance of membership"; and further providing for employee rights and the scope of collective bargaining and for membership dues deductions.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, October 26, 2016.

Senators ALLOWAY and CORMAN presented to the Chair **SB 1401**, entitled:

An Act providing for the creation of Water Quality Improvement Grants to local governments, county conservation districts, State agencies and individuals for point and nonpoint source prevention, reduction and control programs, for establishment of a verified total maximum daily limit parameter credit program and for the powers and duties of the State Conservation Commission.

Which was committed to the Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, October 26, 2016.

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:

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HB 1525 and **1530** -- Committee on Judiciary.

HB 1528 and **2134** -- Committee on Public Health and Welfare.

HB 1804 -- Committee on Finance.

HB 2382 -- Committee on Labor and Industry.

APPOINTMENT BY THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the Minority Leader has made the following appointment:

Mr. Robert Mazza as a member of the Pennsylvania Wine Marketing and Research Program Board.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Teplitz.

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

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

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

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

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of September 27, 2016, and September 28, 2016, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of September 27, 2016, and September 28, 2016.

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

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

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

YEA-48

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

GUEST OF SENATOR STEWART J. GREENLEAF PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator GREENLEAF. Mr. President, our Chaplain for today, Pastor Eric Reimer, is the senior pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Hatboro, which is in my senatorial district. Pastor Reimer has lived in and been a part of the Pennsylvania community in many ways. He has resided in Berks, Lehigh, Luzerne, Columbia, Adams, Schuylkill, Beaver, and Montgomery Coun-

ties. He grew up in Macungie, where he served as a volunteer firefighter, and is a graduate of Bloomsburg University. He worked with children and juveniles in the juvenile system and helped juveniles and children who are at risk. He is married and has two children. He was called to the ministry and attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, where he graduated with a master in divinity in 2009. Pastor Reimer has served as pastor of Rehoboth Lutheran Church in Economy, Pennsylvania, and is now senior pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church. It is my pleasure to have him here today. One of the major services that he has in his church is to reach out to those people who are suffering in regard to food and other human necessities. The church has been well known for that and he has been well known for that. I have enjoyed working with him on those types of activities.

The PRESIDENT. Will the guest of Senator Greenleaf, Pastor Reimer, please rise so that we may welcome you to the Pennsylvania State Senate. Thank you for your prayer, Pastor.

(Applause.)

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SENATE RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Senators VULAKOVICH, COSTA, ARGALL, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA, BOSCOLA, BREWSTER, BROOKS, BROWNE, DINNIMAN, EICHELBERGER, FARNESE, FONTANA, GORDNER, GREENLEAF, HUTCHINSON, KILLION, MCGARRIGLE, MENSCH, RAFFERTY, RESCHENTHALER, SABATINA, SCAVELLO, TEPLITZ, WARD, WHITE, WOZNAK, YAW, YUDICHAK and FOLMER, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 489**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing October 26, 2016, as "Veterans Day at the Capitol 2016" in Pennsylvania to highlight the accomplishments and needs of Pennsylvania's veterans and to raise awareness of the issues veterans face and the benefits they receive while residing in this Commonwealth.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator VULAKOVICH. Mr. President, it is my pleasure this morning to offer this resolution proclaiming October 26, 2016, as "Veterans Day at the Capitol 2016." In every war and conflict, Pennsylvania men and women have answered the call to duty in fighting for our freedoms. Today we have nearly 1 million veterans, ranking us fourth nationally. Our State has many great programs to assist our veterans, including a property tax exemption for 100-percent disabled veterans, six State veterans homes, and the Veterans Trust Fund. In this Session, we have been very, very productive, and I thank my colleagues for working together to pass the following initiatives: Strengthening the Veterans Trust Fund; establishing an "Honoring our Heroes" motorcycle license plate, and increasing funding for the Veterans Trust Fund; requiring State agencies to take veterans' military credentials into consideration when applying for professional certifications; standardizing the definition of "veteran" in our State Military Code; setting a penalty for falsely claiming to be a veteran

