

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

SESSION OF 2017 201ST OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 52

SENATE

TUESDAY, September 19, 2017

The Senate met at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend THOMAS M. LANG, Pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fleetwood, offered the following prayer:

O God, we lift before You all who serve to govern our Commonwealth. Especially we pray for those who serve in this Senate along with all who support them in their public service. As they gather this afternoon, grant them wisdom to understand the complexity of issues, the passion to fairly represent the people to whom they are accountable, the patience to listen and understand each other, the will for doing justice, the compassion for addressing the needs of the downtrodden, and the spirit of endurance in a time of division and when leaders receive little affirmation. You have entrusted them with the gift of this great Commonwealth. Carefully watch over its population spread over towns small and large, rural villages, mountains, farmlands, and along the many lakes, streams, and rivers. Provide them with gifts to govern such a far-reaching populace, the determination to be fair, just, and truthful in all manner of service, and the kindness that encourages fruitful conversation and effective comradery among the people. Unite citizens and legislators as servants of this land with its rich history, its multiplicity of talent and skill, its diverse culture and deep religious faith, with the passion to savor every wonder, and to endure every challenge. Grant us grace to live, work, and play together in unity and peace. In Your Holy name we pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Pastor Lang, who is the guest today of Senator Schwank.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

**APPOINTMENT BY THE
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the President pro tempore has made the following appointment:

Mr. William K. Lieberman as a Commonwealth Trustee of the University of Pittsburgh.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator GREENLEAF, from the Committee on Judiciary, reported the following bills:

SB 742 (Pr. No. 1162) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of November 29, 2006 (P.L.1471, No.165), known as the Sexual Assault Testing and Evidence Collection Act, further providing for rights of sexual assault victims.

SB 790 (Pr. No. 1163) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in additional special funds, establishing the First Chance Trust Fund.

SB 827 (Pr. No. 1050)

An Act amending Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, enacting the Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act (2015); providing for user direction and agreements, for disclosure of digital assets and electronic communications, for functions of fiduciaries and for compliance and immunity for custodians of digital assets and electronic communications; making conforming amendments; and providing for functions of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts.

SB 854 (Pr. No. 1118)

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sentencing, further providing for sexual offenses and tier system.

SB 883 (Pr. No. 1164) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in criminal history record information, further providing for expungement.

HB 561 (Pr. No. 586)

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in wiretapping and electronic surveillance, further providing for administrative subpoena.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

The PRESIDENT. Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Dinniman. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of June 19, 2017; June 20, 2017; and June 21, 2017, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of June 19, 2017; June 20, 2017; and June 21, 2017.

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-49

Alloway	DiSanto	Leach	Street
Argall	Eichelberger	Martin	Tartaglione
Aument	Farnese	McGarrigle	Tomlinson
Baker	Folmer	McIlhinney	Vogel
Bartolotta	Fontana	Mensch	Vulakovich
Blake	Gordner	Rafferty	Wagner
Boscola	Greenleaf	Regan	White
Brewster	Haywood	Reschenthaler	Williams
Brooks	Hughes	Sabatina	Yaw
Browne	Hutchinson	Scarnati	Yudichak
Corman	Killion	Scavello	
Costa	Langerholz	Schwank	
Dinniman	Laughlin	Stefano	

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

GUESTS OF SENATOR JUDY SCHWANK PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Berks, Senator Schwank.

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, I am very pleased to welcome today's guest Chaplain, the Reverend Thomas M. Lang, Pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fleetwood, my town. Pastor Lang is a native of Bucks County, a graduate of Gettysburg College with a B.A. in sociology, and a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg where he received his Master of Divinity degree. Ordained for 37 years, Pastor Lang has served congregations in West Virginia, Maryland, and eastern Pennsylvania, including small town and rural congregations, those places he talked about in his prayer, Mr. President, as well as the oldest German-speaking congregation in the United States. While living in western Pennsylvania, he and his wife, Sue, served as co-pastors of the Lutheran Campus Ministry at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, IUP, part of our PASSHE group of colleges and universities.

Pastor Lang is accompanied by his wife, the Reverend Susan M. Lang, also a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, where she also received her Master of Divinity

degree. They have two adult daughters, Mary, who works as a life skills clinician at Kids Peace in Orefield, Pennsylvania, and Kristina, who works as a department specialist in the Boyer College of Music at Temple University.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming our guest Chaplains here today. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Schwank, today's pastor, Reverend Lang, and his wife, Reverend Susan Lang, please rise so that we may welcome you to the Pennsylvania Senate. Thank you for your prayers.

(Applause.)

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SENATE RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Senators ARGALL and MENSCH, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 181**, entitled:

A Resolution commemorating the 283rd anniversary of "Schwenkfelder Thanksgiving Day" on September 24, 2017, in Pennsylvania.

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

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Schuylkill, Senator Argall.

Senator ARGALL. Mr. President, Senator Mensch and I offer this resolution today. Many of us, of course, all have different stories of immigration and how we came to Pennsylvania. Most of us do not know the details, but because of the Schwenkfelder Church and its sister institutions, I know that I am an 11th generation descendant of a very brave woman who came over in the 1730s. I have, with the help of a very well-trained intern, provided for each of you the story of how it is that the Schwenkfelders came here to Pennsylvania. I am not going to read the whole thing, but allow me to just summarize it.

It began in 1726 seeking freedom of thought and worship. They walked away from Silesia on the German-Polish border and ended up in Saxony, about 50 miles away. That only worked out until the 1730s where, again, they were forced to flee. Finding no other alternative, these refugees of faith responded to William Penn's offer of freedom of faith in Pennsylvania. The pastor who was just introduced made note that in the 16-year-old Christopher Schultz's diary, *Reise-Beschreibung Von Altenau Bis Pennsylvaniaen, (Account of the Journey from Altona to Philadelphia)*, this group of 180 Schwenkfelders decided to come here, traveling first to Pirna; then to Altona near Hamburg; then to Haarlem, Holland; and finally to Plymouth, England; and then with a very arduous journey, coming to Pennsylvania. Schultz's diary described storms producing waves as tall as mountains, which were prone to flooding the ship, and then despite the extreme heat, the passengers' drinking supply was rationed, the reserve of beer ran out 2 weeks into the voyage, and they were forced to drink water that had turned foul. Illness was common, probably scarlet fever, and they finally arrived in Philadelphia on September 22, 1734, after a voyage of 129 days. Three people were born on that ship. Unfortunately, two died, along with six other people.

So, I ask all of us today, as we hopefully adopt this resolution, to think of the four churches that were established here in Pennsylvania that still continue: the Palm Schwenkfelder Church in

Senator Mensch's district, the Central Schwenkfelder Church in Lansdale in Senator Rafferty's district, Olivet-Schwenkfelder United Church of Christ in Norristown in Senator Leach's district, and the Schwenkfelder Missionary Church in Philadelphia in Senator Williams' district. This day of remembrance is known in their native tongue as Gedachtnistag. I ask all of you, the next time that you are complaining about your morning commute, imagine 129 straight days in a sick, crowded, hot, storm-tossed wooden sailing vessel with foul water, limited food, and no beer. Frohliche Gedachtnistag to all.

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

Senator MENSCH. Mr. President, throughout Pennsylvania, we are really blessed with a number of wonderful historical sites. In fact, I feel my message is an important enough message that I would like the Senators here to visit my district sometime and see the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center, which is located in Pennsburg, in the heart of my district. Pennsylvania is blessed, we have so many of these wonderfully rich, cultural, and historical sites. One of those is, indeed, the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg where it demonstrates hundreds of years of Pennsylvania German history and shows many of the antiques and artifacts from throughout its history. There is one item in particular. If you ever go there, you have to ask to see the Mensch desk, because one of my early relatives designed and built a desk and filled it with what is called fraktur. If you have ever seen Pennsylvania German art, it is called fraktur. It is a beautiful, wonderful desk exhibiting a great deal of Pennsylvania German heritage. But, we have so much of that in the Heritage Center, and I wish that everyone would take the opportunity to visit.

**GUESTS OF SENATOR ROBERT B. MENSCH
AND SENATOR DAVID G. ARGALL
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

Senator MENSCH. Mr. President, with us here today to celebrate the resolution, we have four members from the Palm Schwenkfelder Church. If I can, please, I would like to introduce them. First, we have Jerry Heebner, who is a board member; Lee Schultz, who is a member of the Palm Schwenkfelder Church; Rebecca McBrien, who is a board member; and Rachel Osborn, who is a staff member at the Heritage Center. Mr. President, please join me in issuing a warm Senate welcome to these four visitors from the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Mensch and Senator Argall from the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center - Jerry, Lee, Rebecca, and Rachel - please rise so that we may welcome you to the Pennsylvania Senate.

(Applause.)

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY**

The SECRETARY. Permission has been granted for the Committee on State Government to meet off the floor today in the

Rules room to consider the following bills: Senate Bill No. 625, Senate Bill No. 822, Senate Bill No. 826, House Bill No. 1287, House Bill No. 1420, and House Bill No. 1421.

RECESS

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

Senator FOLMER. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for purposes of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on State Government, to be followed by a Republican caucus.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, after the meeting of the Committee on State Government, Senate Democrats will meet in the rear of the Chamber for a caucus.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of a meeting of the Committee on State Government, followed by Republican and Democratic caucuses to be held in their respective caucus rooms, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Ward has returned, and her personal leave is cancelled.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Brooks, and legislative leaves for Senator Bartolotta, Senator Greenleaf, Senator Wagner, and Senator Martin.

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

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 45 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 168 (Pr. No. 140) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for notice and disclosure of proposed collective bargaining agreements and related documents and for open records.

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

SB 168 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 168, Printer's No. 140, 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

HB 211, HB 234, HB 236 and SB 251 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 252 (Pr. No. 232) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in parking authorities, providing for granting of interests and mixed-use projects for authorities in cities of the second class.

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	DiSanto	Leach	Street
Argall	Eichelberger	Martin	Tartaglione
Aument	Farnese	McGarrigle	Tomlinson
Baker	Folmer	McIlhinney	Vogel
Bartolotta	Fontana	Mensch	Vulakovich
Blake	Gordner	Rafferty	Wagner
Boscola	Greenleaf	Regan	Ward
Brewster	Haywood	Resenthaler	White
Brooks	Hughes	Sabatina	Williams
Browne	Hutchinson	Scarnati	Yaw
Corman	Killion	Scavello	Yudichak
Costa	Langerholz	Schwank	
Dinniman	Laughlin	Stefano	

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.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 280 (Pr. No. 2220) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in bonds and recognizances, further providing for bail to be governed by general rules.

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 285, HB 409 and HB 411 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 503 (Pr. No. 500) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 65 (Public Officers) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in open meetings, further providing for executive sessions.

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

SB 503 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 503, Printer's No. 500, 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 LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 504 (Pr. No. 753) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law, in procedure, further providing for exceptions for public records.

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

SB 504 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 504, Printer's No. 753, 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 552, SB 564, SB 616, SB 629 and **HB 631** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 663 (Pr. No. 781) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of November 10, 1999 (P.L.491, No.45), known as the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, in adoption and enforcement by municipalities, further providing for administration and enforcement.

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

SB 663 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 663, Printer's No. 781, 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 751 and **SB 781** -- 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 1490 (Pr. No. 2163) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in rates and distribution systems, further providing for rates to be just and reasonable; and providing for water and sewer authorities in cities of the second class.

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

HB 1523 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 145, SB 297, SB 435, SB 471 and **SB 472** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION,
AMENDED AND REREFERRED

SB 530 (Pr. No. 571) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.220, No.39), known as the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act, further providing for definitions, for reciprocity, for restriction on the use of title "licensed clinical social worker," for penalties and for unlawful practice; and repealing provisions related to appropriation.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on second consideration?

Senator KILLION offered the following amendment No. A3400:

Amend Bill, page 1, line 4, by inserting after "definitions,":
for qualifications for license,

Amend Bill, page 1, line 5, by inserting after "worker,":
for restrictions on the use of title "Licensed Professional Counselor,"

Amend Bill, page 1, line 10, by striking out "10 and 16.1" and inserting:

7(e)(3)(i) and (f)(3)(i), 10, 16.1 and 16.3

Amend Bill, page 2, by inserting between lines 11 and 12:

"Clinical social work assessment." A process of evaluation in which a clinical social worker conducts a differential, individualized and accurate identification of the psychosocial and behavioral problems existing in the life of an individual client, family or group for the purpose of establishing a plan to implement a course of psychotherapeutic counseling. The term includes, but is not limited to, a mental health examination and psychological history.

Amend Bill, page 2, lines 15 through 23, by striking out "defined as the" in line 15 and all of lines 16 through 23 and inserting:

a marriage and family therapist assessment or a professional counselor assessment.

Amend Bill, page 2, line 24, by striking out "by a clinical social worker"

Amend Bill, page 2, line 25, by inserting after "classifications":
by a clinical social worker, a marriage and family therapist or a professional counselor.

Amend Bill, page 2, line 29, by inserting after "worker's":

marriage and family therapist's or professional counselor's

Amend Bill, page 3, by inserting between lines 8 and 9:

"Independent practice of marriage and family therapy." The application of marriage and family therapy knowledge and skills by an individual:

(1) who regulates and is responsible for his or her own practice and treatment procedures; and

(2) whose practice is not affiliated with any other practice, health care facility, government agency or government-regulated social service agency.

"Independent practice of professional counseling." The application of professional counseling knowledge and skills by an individual:

(1) who regulates and is responsible for his or her own practice and treatment procedures; and

(2) whose practice is not affiliated with any other practice, health care facility, government agency or government-regulated social service agency.

Amend Bill, page 3, line 19, by inserting after "in":

or advertises to engage in

Amend Bill, page 3, by inserting between lines 23 and 24:

"Marriage and family therapist assessment." The professional application of psychotherapeutic and family systems theories and techniques to evaluate and identify psychosocial and behavioral problems in the context of significant interpersonal relationships between individuals, couples, families and groups for the purpose of treatment. The term includes, but is not limited to, a mental health examination and psychological history.

Amend Bill, page 4, line 26, by inserting after "assessment":

diagnosis

Amend Bill, page 5, line 12, by inserting a bracket before "and" where it occurs the first time

Amend Bill, page 5, line 12, by inserting after "assessment":

], assessment, diagnosis and treatment

Amend Bill, page 6, by inserting between lines 2 and 3:

"Professional counselor assessment." The professional application of psychotherapeutic and counseling theories and techniques to evaluate, identify and establish counseling plans for the treatment of individuals, couples, families and groups with emotional, mental, addiction and physical disorders. The term includes, but is not limited to, a mental health examination and psychological history.

Amend Bill, page 6, by inserting between lines 6 and 7: Section 7. Qualifications for license.

* * *

(e) Marriage and family therapist license.--An applicant shall be qualified to hold oneself out as a licensed marriage and family therapist if the applicant submits proof satisfactory to the board that all of the following apply:

* * *

(3) The applicant has complied with the experience requirement as follows:

(i) An individual meeting the educational requirements of paragraph (2)(i) or (ii) must have completed at least 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience, acceptable to the board as determined by regulation, obtained after [the completion of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of graduate coursework] being granted a master's degree.

* * *

(f) Professional counselors license.--An applicant is qualified for a license to hold oneself out as a licensed professional counselor if the applicant submits proof satisfactory to the board that all of the following apply:

* * *

(3) The applicant has complied with the experience requirements as follows:

(i) An individual meeting the educational requirements of paragraph (2)(i) or (ii) must have completed at least 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience, acceptable to the board as determined by regulation, obtained after [the completion of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of graduate coursework] being granted a master's degree.

* * *

Amend Bill, page 6, line 21, by inserting after "worker":

, a marriage and family therapist or a professional counselor

Amend Bill, page 7, by inserting between lines 6 and 7:

Section 16.3. Restriction on the use of title "Licensed Professional Counselor."

Only individuals who have received licenses as licensed professional counselors under this act may style themselves as licensed professional counselors and use the letters "L.P.C." in connection with their names. It shall be unlawful for an individual to style oneself as a licensed professional counselor, advertise or engage in the independent practice of professional counseling or use any words or symbols indicating or tending to indicate that the individual is a licensed professional counselor without holding a license in good standing under this act.

Amend Bill, page 7, line 19, by inserting after "work":

, the independent practice of marriage and family therapy or the independent practice of professional counseling

Amend Bill, page 8, line 4, by inserting after "work":

, the independent practice of marriage and family therapy or the independent practice of professional counseling

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

It was agreed to.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on second consideration, as amended?

It was 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, as amended, was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 542 and **SB 655** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 728 (Pr. No. 884) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of October 27, 2014 (P.L.2911, No.191), known as the Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions Program (ABC-MAP) Act, further providing for requirements for prescribers.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 753 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 831 (Pr. No. 1840) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions relating to operation of vehicles, further providing for obedience to authorized persons directing traffic and providing for drivers in organized motorcycle processions; and, in rules of the road in general, further providing for following too closely.

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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 625 (Pr. No. 702)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1970 (P.L.128, No.49), entitled "An act granting to the Governor of the Commonwealth the sole authority for regulating the display of the flag of the United States from any public ground or building and from any ground or building of certain other institutions," further providing for display of flag.

SB 822 (Pr. No. 1046)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1970 (P.L.128, No.49), entitled "An act granting to the Governor of the Commonwealth the sole authority for regulating the display of the flag of the United States from any public ground or building and from any ground or building of cer-

tain other institutions," further providing for the display of the official POW/MIA flag on Commonwealth grounds or buildings.

SB 826 (Pr. No. 1036)

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Governor, to grant and convey to Monroe County Municipal Waste Management Authority, or its successors or assigns, certain lands, buildings and improvements situate in Stroud Township, Monroe County.

HB 1287 (Pr. No. 1562)

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Governor, to grant and convey to the Warrior Run-Fort Freeland Heritage Society certain lands situate in Delaware Township, Northumberland County.

HB 1420 (Pr. No. 1784)

An Act amending the act of December 19, 1990 (P.L.1200, No.202), known as the Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act, further providing for registration of charitable organizations, financial reports, fees and failure to file.

HB 1421 (Pr. No. 1785)

An Act amending the act of December 19, 1990 (P.L.1200, No.202), known as the Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act, further providing for registration of charitable organizations, financial reports, fees and failure to file, for registration of professional fundraising counsel and contracts and for registration of professional solicitors, contract and disclosure requirements, bonds, records and books.

SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senators BOSCOLA, COSTA, FONTANA, FARNESE, BROWNE, DINNIMAN, SABATINA, AUMENT, GREENLEAF, RAFFERTY, SCAVELLO and KILLION, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 182**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of September 2017 as "Vertebral Subluxation Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, I have remarks to submit for the record.

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentlewoman from Northampton, Senator BOSCOLA:)

Mr. President, I rise today to commend the healthcare professionals of the Chiropractic Fellowship of Pennsylvania with this resolution. Their efforts to educate the public on the importance of correcting spinal column issues called vertebral subluxations are very important.

A vertebral subluxation happens when one or more bones of the spine move out of position, causing pain and other health problems.

Chiropractors are the only licensed professionals who undergo years of training to learn how to properly correct and adjust these problems. We also heard this morning from some Pennsylvania chiropractors how their healthcare tactics can relieve chronic pain in many instances and avoid dependency on opioid prescriptions.

So thank you, Mr. President, for consideration of this resolution today.

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

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

Senators BOSCOLA, COSTA, FONTANA, FARNESE, BROWNE, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, STREET, TARTAGLIONE, VULAKOVICH, AUMENT, GREENLEAF, KILLION, LANGERHOLC, MENSCH, RAFFERTY and SCAVELLO, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 183**, entitled:

A Resolution designating September 18, 2017, as "Pitt Hopkins Syndrome Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, I offer this resolution celebrating the fifth annual "Pitt Hopkins Syndrome Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania. Pitt Hopkins Syndrome is a very rare disorder with several different diagnoses involved worldwide. It is caused by a specific variation that is present in a person's DNA. This is a relatively recent discovery thanks to new testing technology established in 2007. Pitt Hopkins is found to be caused by the spontaneous mutation of the 18th chromosome, therefore the date of September 18 has been chosen for its annual advocacy day around the globe.

This disorder is typically characterized by intellectual and developmental delays, distinctive facial features, and can also include breathing issues, seizures, and gastrointestinal problems for some. The individuals are often impacted by their speech, memory, and language. Treatment strategies involve early intervention programs and daily therapies. Now, luckily, great strides have been made in research and technology thanks to the Pitt Hopkins Research Foundation that is focused on achieving progress and ultimately a cure. Given the recent discovery of the gene, as well as similarities of its conditions to other disorders, there is still much ground to cover in terms of education and awareness. There are likely more people, especially children, who remain undiagnosed. Most cases occur in people with no history of the disorder, and because it is so rare, online support groups and annual conferences do play a pivotal role for the affected families and their loved ones to connect with others and share their personal experiences.

Mr. President, I first came to know about Pitt Hopkins through meeting a wonderful family from the Lehigh Valley, the Maginns, whose young daughter, Rylie, was diagnosed early on. They are leading the charge on this issue and devoting so much of their time to advocacy. They have certainly done a great job bringing the issue to my attention directly and to the forefront in

Pennsylvania. So on September 18 each year, the research foundation celebrates the anniversary of its operation. They are an all-volunteer organization founded by families and dedicated professionals, and through fundraising, grant-writing, and advocacy they are creating treatment breakthroughs in current medical practice every day.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

Senators TARTAGLIONE, BROOKS, FONTANA, DINNIMAN, FARNESE, GREENLEAF, BARTOLOTTA, SABATINA, ARGALL, BROWNE, MENSCH, SCAVELLO, BREWSTER, COSTA, GORDNER, BOSCOLA, WHITE, VULAKOVICH, HUTCHINSON, BAKER, AUMENT, YUDICHAK, RAFFERTY and HUGHES, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 184**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of September 2017 as "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, September will be "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month." As you know, this is an issue that is near and dear to me. I suffered my spinal cord injury 14 years ago. I never imagined I would suffer such an injury, but I have not stopped living my life because of it, and I have not stopped working to overcome it, and neither should anyone else living with a spinal cord injury. I hope that by recognizing this month we will raise awareness and improve access to treatments for individuals with spinal injuries.

Did you know that every 48 minutes another person in the U.S. becomes paralyzed from a spinal cord injury? Today, we have more Americans living with paralysis than ever before, and that number is growing as our veteran population expands. Fortunately, with breakthroughs in nerve cell regeneration and therapies, like the ReWalk program that I am participating in, there is more hope for a brighter future than ever before. Organizations like The Buoniconti Fund, the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, and MossRehab are working harder than ever to help individuals with spinal cord injuries rediscover their own footsteps.

At this time, I ask that we recognize September as National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month, and I ask that we take the necessary steps to insure everyone gains access to the latest medical treatments and technologies, because every individual with a spinal cord injury deserves the opportunity for a better quality of life.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Amen, Senator.

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

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

Senators TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, FARNESE, GREENLEAF, SABATINA, ARGALL, BROWNE, DINNIMAN, MENSCH, BREWSTER, COSTA, VULAKOVICH, HUTCHINSON, FOLMER, AUMENT, YUDICHAK, RAFFERTY and HUGHES, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 185**, entitled:

A Resolution observing September 15 through October 15, 2017, as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania in recognition of the achievements of Hispanic Americans in our Commonwealth.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, just as the United States is a melting pot of cultures, ethnicities, and religions, so, too, is Pennsylvania. Many residents in this Commonwealth are of Hispanic heritage. Their rich traditions and customs were introduced to this State by some of the nation's earliest settlers during the 1400s. Today, Hispanic Americans are the largest minority ethnic group in the nation. Their dedication and contributions have enabled this nation to become a global leader and an emblem of liberty, justice, and innovation. Hispanics have played a significant role in these achievements, and for that, we owe our sincere thanks.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing September 15 through October 15 as "Hispanic Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania, and I encourage all residents in this State to learn more about the Hispanic culture and celebrate its presence in our daily lives.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

Senators AUMENT, LEACH, EICHELBERGER, GREENLEAF, MARTIN, BARTOLOTTA, BROOKS, DINNIMAN, ARGALL, BROWNE, YUDICHAK, FARNESE, RESCHENTHALER, BREWSTER, SCAVELLO, MENSCH, LANGERHOLC, SABATINA, RAFFERTY, COSTA, FOLMER, HUGHES, BAKER, KILLION, VOGEL and TARTAGLIONE, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 186**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of September 2017 as "Veteran Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I rise today to offer this resolution designating September 2017 as "Veteran Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. A 2014 study conducted by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs

found that an average of 20 veterans died from suicide each day. Even though veterans make up less than 9 percent of the United States' population, they account for 18 percent of all suicides in America. In 2014, more than 7,400 veterans took their own lives, and of those, 65 percent were individuals 50 years or older. The VA study also found that women veterans are at a greater risk of suicide. Since 2001, the suicide rate for U.S. female veterans has dramatically increased by 85.2 percent. Officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs have responded to the veteran suicide crisis by boosting their mental health personnel and suicide hotline staff in recent years. This year, each VA facility has been asked to commit to "Be There" for veterans through a number of enhanced methods, including a "no wrong door" philosophy for suicide prevention, so every VA employee will assist veterans in need and establish buddy systems so veterans can reach out to someone when in need.

But we need to do more. Communities, peers, close associates, and the media are critical in preventing death by suicide. Today, we urge civilians to help prevent veteran suicide by learning about the warning signs of depression and crisis, and to be there for our veterans. I certainly urge my fellow veterans to reach out to those with whom you have served, check in with a brother or sister in arms, and do it today. Please join us in our efforts to raise awareness and help prevent veteran suicide by designating September 2017 as Veteran Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators FONTANA, MARTIN, FARNESE, ARGALL, McGARRIGLE, GREENLEAF, BROWNE, SCAVELLO, COSTA, AUMENT, RAFFERTY, BOSCOLA, HUGHES, MENSCH and TARTAGLIONE, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 187**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of September 2017 as "Realtor Safety Month" in Pennsylvania.

Which was read, considered, and adopted by voice vote.

Senators FONTANA, MARTIN, FARNESE, GREENLEAF, ARGALL, BREWSTER, SABATINA, BROWNE, COSTA, AUMENT, RAFFERTY, BOSCOLA, HUGHES, MENSCH and TARTAGLIONE, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 188**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of October 15 through 21, 2017, as "Homeless Children's Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in adopting this resolution which desig-

nates the week of October 15 through October 21, 2017, as "Homeless Children's Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania. Mr. President, designating this week will bring attention to the growing problems and issues children experiencing homelessness face throughout Pennsylvania and across the nation. The Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act states that children are homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Children of all ages are negatively impacted by homelessness in the areas of physical health, emotional and behavioral development, and academic success. Unfortunately, every county in this State has homeless children, which are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population. In fact, Mr. President, 42 percent of homeless children in Pennsylvania are 6 years of age or younger. During the 2014-15 school year, there were more than 26,000 reported cases of homelessness among Commonwealth youth, but there is some good news. New provisions were placed in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act which include protections for homeless youth in public education, effectively defining how schools must handle this issue, and what actions must be taken.

Mr. President, I also recognize the Homeless Children's Education Fund out of Pittsburgh, which is why I introduce this resolution each year. This organization has advanced the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in Allegheny County for 18 years by providing educational programs and services, acting as a trusted advocate and sharing collective relationships that maximize the impact among community partners. Many events will be taking place during Homeless Children's Awareness Week in Pittsburgh, including a Stand Up for Homeless Children performance art installation. Mr. President, I encourage others throughout the State to create their own events throughout this week to draw attention to the challenges homeless children face.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators FARNESE, DINNIMAN, GREENLEAF, FONTANA, SABATINA, BOSCOLA, BREWSTER, RESCHENTHALER, BROWNE, COSTA, AUMENT, RAFFERTY, HUGHES, MENSCH and TARTAGLIONE, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 189**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing September 21, 2017, as "International Day of Peace"; expressing support of its ideals and principles; and encouraging Pennsylvanians to meaningfully engage at this worldwide event.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator FARNESE. Mr. President, I rise with my good friend, Senator Dinniman, to offer this resolution honoring September 21, 2017, as the "International Day of Peace." The United Nations established the International Day of Peace in 1981 to pro-

mote global ceasefire and nonviolence. This year the United Nations' global theme for Peace Day is "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All," which encourages us all to join in the common desire for peace.

On Thursday, communities will come together through diverse peace education activities for the purposes of forwarding a culture of peace. Peace Day observances in Pennsylvania will be wide ranging, from Erie to Philadelphia, creating practical events and acts of peace for our citizens to further understand and actively participate in a movement of nonviolence. On September 21 at noon in all time zones there will be a global observation of a minute of silence in connection with Peace Day. There will be Peace Day Philadelphia, a Philadelphia region initiative that encourages broad-based participation in the International Day of Peace, and it will host several events this week including youth peace builder training, discussions on combating racism and discrimination, a peace concert, film screenings, multi-cultural events, and more. I hope many of you will be able to participate in Peace Day activities and will continue, Mr. President, to reflect on what global peace can accomplish.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

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

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

Senators STEFANO, AUMENT, BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER, COSTA, DINNIMAN, GREENLEAF, RAFFERTY, RESCHENTHALER, MENSCH, WHITE, VULAKOVICH and TARTAGLIONE, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 190**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of October 1 through 7, 2017, as "National Newspaper Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Fayette, Senator Stefano.

Senator STEFANO. Mr. President, I offer this resolution designating October 1 through 7 as "National Newspaper Week" in Pennsylvania. Newspapers are an essential component to educating the people of our Commonwealth about what is happening in the world, about the goings on in our communities, and informing the people about the action that their government is about to take. National Newspaper Week has been sponsored by the Newspaper Association Managers since 1940. Speaking as the owner of a printing company, there is nothing quite as real as holding the newspaper in your hand with a cup of coffee in the morning while you are catching up on the daily news. I also thank the Newspaper Association Managers for all they do to insure an informed public, support of our communities, and I wish them a successful commemoration of National Newspaper Week in Pennsylvania.

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

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

Senator COSTA, on behalf of Senators SCHWANK, EICHELBERGER, FONTANA, FARNESE, GREENLEAF, BREWSTER, AUMENT, RAFFERTY, HUGHES, MENSCH, COSTA, BROWNE, VULAKOVICH, STREET and TARTAGLIONE, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 191**, entitled:

A Resolution designating October 9, 2017, as "PANDAS Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

Which was read, considered, and adopted by voice vote.

Senators EICHELBERGER, MARTIN, SABATINA, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, LANGERHOLC, FARNESE, BARTOLOTTA, BROWNE, BREWSTER, RESCHENTHALER, WHITE, DINNIMAN, YUDICHAK, RAFFERTY, VOGEL, BOSCOLA, HUGHES, McILHINNEY, FOLMER, MENSCH, AUMENT, COSTA and TARTAGLIONE, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 192**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of September 2017 as "Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

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

Senator EICHELBERGER. Mr. President, here are a few facts about brain aneurysms in the United States and in Pennsylvania. Surprisingly, an estimated 6 million individuals in the United States, or about 1 out of 50, have a brain aneurysm. Brain aneurysms are most likely to occur in individuals between the ages of 35 and 60, and there are typically no warning signs that people have these aneurysms. It is more likely to occur in women. It is about a 3-to-2 ratio that more women have these than men. Each year more than 30,000 individuals in the United States suffer from ruptured brain aneurysms, and 40 percent of those folks die. About 3,000 to 4,500 of those individuals who have ruptured aneurysms die before they even reach a hospital. The good news is, though, that a number of advancements have been made in recent years with the detection of aneurysms which can lead to treatment and help for people who have them. CT scans are important, MRI tests, and there is a test called a cerebral arteriogram. So the early detection of brain aneurysms can save lives, and we are thankful for that.

I ask my colleagues to join me in an affirmative vote to recognize the month of September as "Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month" in the great State of Pennsylvania.

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

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

Senators SABATINA, MARTIN, DINNIMAN, LANGERHOLC, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, RAFFERTY, EICHELBERGER, FARNESE, HUGHES, YUDICHAK, WHITE, MENSCH, COSTA, KILLION, BROWNE, VOGEL, BARTOLOTTA, STREET and TARTAGLIONE, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 193**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of October 2017 as "Polish American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator SABATINA. Mr. President, my resolution designates the month of October 2017 as "Polish American Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania. This year marks the 409th anniversary of Polish settlers arriving in the United States. It is also the 36th anniversary of Polish American Heritage Month, which began in Philadelphia and has become a national celebration. The Poles were some of the earliest settlers to the New World, and their customs and contributions resonate in society to this day. Their contributions even include fighting for our independence, specifically General Casimir Pulaski. General Pulaski's service skills and bravery during the Revolutionary War earned him the title of "Father of the American Cavalry," and this year marks the 238th anniversary of his death.

Polish Americans in Pennsylvania have made numerous contributions to our nation and our great State, including Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, baseball great Stan "the Man" Musial of Donora, and singer Bobby Vinton of Canonsburg. Polish communities are still found in Pennsylvania, including the neighborhoods in my district of Bridesburg and Port Richmond. Pennsylvania is rich in many traditions and diversity thanks to the contributions of many different cultures, including the Polish. Individuals of Polish heritage have many reasons to be proud and celebrate their heritage, culture, and achievements of their people. So I ask, Mr. President, that my colleagues join me in recognizing October 2017 as Polish American Heritage Month in Pennsylvania. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT. It sounds like a great idea, but do not forget Pope John Paul II, and, of course, our friends Mike Blichasz, Richard Krzyzanowski, Joe Zazyczny, and many others.

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

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

Senator COSTA, on behalf of Senators SCHWANK, BROWNE, BARTOLOTTA, ARGALL, DINNIMAN, SABATINA, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, BREWSTER, RESCHENTHALER, YAW, McILHINNEY, BOSCOLA, FARNESE, BAKER, MENSCH, AUMENT, RAFFERTY, COSTA, HUGHES and TARTAGLIONE, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 194**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of September 2017 as "Recovery Month" in Pennsylvania and encouraging relatives and friends of individuals suffering with mental illness or substance abuse issues to take preventive steps, be alert to warning signs and assist those in need to seek appropriate treatment and recovery support services.

Which was read, considered, and adopted by voice vote.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator FONTANA. 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 625, SB 742, SB 790, SB 822, SB 826, SB 827, SB 854, SB 883, HB 561, HB 1287, HB 1420 and HB 1421.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

9:30 A.M.	TRANSPORTATION (to consider Senate Bills No. 796, 837, 887 and 888; House Bill No. 407; and a public hearing on the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's budget and program priorities)	Room 8E-B East Wing
Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bill No. 530)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider House Bill No. 453; and certain Executive Nominations)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017

10:00 A.M.	AGING AND YOUTH and HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (joint public hearing on providing an update on the Lyme Disease Task Force Report) CANCELLED	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2017

9:30 A.M.	AGING AND YOUTH and HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (joint public hearing providing an update on the Lyme Disease Task Force report)	Senate Maj. Caucus Rm.
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PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator FOLMER. Mr. President, I again rise in support of Senator Argall's Senate Bill No. 76 because I believe no tax should have the power to leave you homeless. Today, however, Mr. President, I have a surprise for you and the other Members of the Senate. Rather than hearing from me, you will be hearing from a constituent and a friend of mine, Mr. Jim Rodkey.

Jim Rodkey is a homeowner, a husband, a father, and a grandfather who has watched and commented on what has been hap-

pening in creating the instability and the near impossibility for many to actually use their own labor and productivity to become homeowners. Jim Rodkey recently delivered these remarks at a public forum hosted by Senator Argall, Senator Martin, and Senator Aument on alternatives to the existing school property tax system. Jim Rodkey received a standing ovation for his remarks from those who attended the forum. Nonetheless, Mr. President, I will try to be as passionate as Jim has been and was.

Mr. President, Jim Rodkey and those who join in advocating against the property tax, especially school property taxes, see them as arbitrarily unjust and unfair. Jim and many others believe no debate on property taxes can be justly presented without referencing the current system of education funding and its inequities and the inherent injustice to the property owners. Jim Rodkey and others say we as a society should understand that the property tax is unfair, as demonstrated by the things that have been done to try to fix this system of taxation. Unfortunately, all of these attempted fixes of the current property tax system have failed, and the more we try to fix the property tax system for the purposes of funding education, the more unfair, unjust, and inequitable it has become for taxpayers. To add insult to injury, those fixes actually cost more to maintain either through the property tax or other forms of taxes.

Mr. President, Jim Rodkey says the arguments against elimination of these egregious taxes rest largely in those who levy the tax, but rarely, if ever, do they consider the instability and the inherent injustice of the property tax. Mr. President, opponents of Senate Bill No. 76 talk about the 60-percent increase in the PIT while conveniently leaving out the fact that Senate Bill No. 76 eliminates 100 percent of the school property taxes. Using the 60 percent hides the fact that Senate Bill No. 76 actually focuses on about \$0.88 on the dollar. Jim Rodkey and others find the current system of property taxation to be particularly offensive because it is contrary to the likes of John Locke, Montesquieu, Cato, Algernon Sidney, Cicero, James Otis, and countless others who said the primary function of government is the protection of our rights to our homes.

Mr. President, Jim Rodkey knows we have an inherent right to property, and no one, Mr. President, has the right to take that from us. Citizens like Jim Rodkey point to Claude-Frederic Bastiat's timeless essay called "The Law" to call the status quo what it is, legal plunder. Jim Rodkey and others ask, by what right can anyone justly claim to put my home on the potential auction block in order to provide for things that a majority of us cannot provide for our own families? To take from our labor and industry, to take food from our tables to put upon your own, while asking us to be satisfied with the crumbs that fall from the table in these failed relief schemes and fixes that never fix. Mr. President, Jim Rodkey and others say, as homeowners, we are more than just the collateral damage of a failed, broken, archaic, and unjust tax policy, we are working families who are not looking to escape our responsibility to fund education. We are willing to pay in other ways that are more equitable. Jim Rodkey and others know education is important and that funding of the education of our children for future generations is necessary.

However, Mr. President, Jim Rodkey and others also believe the current property tax system is unsustainable. Mr. President, citizens say if the truth be told, it is not Senate Bill No. 76 that puts the future of our children's education in jeopardy, rather it is the current system and the protection of the status quo that is

creating liabilities that cannot be sustained, and that is what is failing our children, Mr. President. Countless citizens like Jim Rodkey know the struggle to eliminate property taxes has been going on for decades, yes, decades, Mr. President. These same citizens, Mr. President, have seen opponents do everything possible to crush efforts to eliminate school property taxes while at the same time doing nothing to provide a fair or equitable solution. Mr. President, these frustrated citizens note opponents of efforts to eliminate school property taxes will admit the inherent problems of the current system, but will defend it rather than change it or honestly look at the egregious nature of the property taxation.

Jim Rodkey and his wife, Sue, have traveled with others at their own expense across the Commonwealth to advocate for the elimination of school property taxes. While they are not being paid or reimbursed for their time or expenses, they do it because they recognize the importance of this issue. Jim Rodkey and citizens like him believe the right to their homes is a sacred trust. They believe government has a duty and obligation to uphold and protect our rights to property as guaranteed by the U.S. and Pennsylvania Constitutions. As citizens like Jim Rodkey have traveled across the State, they have seen the true face of property tax. They have talked to countless people where it is already too late to save their homes from the tax collector. They have talked to others who are sacrificing essentials like food, new clothing, and medication so they can try to keep their homes. Mr. President, Jim Rodkey and citizens like him have talked to people who have been struck with debilitating illnesses, and while they could have maintained their mortgage payments, their property taxes have been stripped or are in the process of stripping them out of their homes and not allowing them to stay within their homes. How sad, Mr. President.

As Jim Rodkey and others have traveled throughout Pennsylvania, they have met people who have struggled through the death of a spouse who must now also face the potential of losing their homes as well. Again, while they may be able to maintain their mortgage, the constantly-increasing property taxes make staying in their homes impossible. Adding insult to injury, Mr. President, these people are too often told that they must lose their homes because they bought too much house. That is so callous. How inappropriate for any government official to say that you bought too much house. Mr. President, Jim Rodkey and his fellow citizens have talked with young people who want to buy a house to establish permanent roots in our communities. However, they say that while they could afford the mortgage, they cannot afford the property tax, especially when they look down the road and see the historic pattern of the increases in those property taxes. Jim Rodkey and his fellow citizens have talked with veterans who sacrificed for our country who are now struggling due to this egregious tax.

Mr. President, Jim Rodkey and his compatriots have also talked with those whose jobs have been stripped from them, in part because of the property tax climate in Pennsylvania, who are forced into lower paying jobs to provide for their families. Again, while they can keep up with their mortgages, the property tax strips their homes from them. In his travels, Jim Rodkey has also talked to many who told him that they have not seen wage increases in 10 years while seeing their property values decrease, yet their property taxes keep increasing at a rate they simply can no longer sustain.

In his travels, Jim Rodkey has seen blighted homes because the constant increase of the property taxes contribute to an inability to do the necessary maintenance on their homes. As a Lebanon city resident, Jim Rodkey has seen firsthand overcrowding because of the impact of increases in property taxes, which makes rent unaffordable to families who must double up to meet the costs of rent. Unfortunately, it is not a senior problem. The disease of the property tax reaches to touch all ages, from children to their grandparents.

In his remarks at the forum hosted by Senator Argall, Senator Aument, and Senator Martin, Jim Rodkey asked this question: Do we just continue to ignore the plights of the citizens to protect the status quo? Do we continue to accept the twisted logic that 10,000 people losing their homes each year is not a significant enough reason to replace what is proven to be broken and irreparable? Mr. President, Jim Rodkey asked the question: Is not more than 45,000 residents, 1 every 11 1/2 minutes from July 15 to July 16, fleeing from the State to escape the taxation burden enough evidence that we can no longer maintain the status quo? If not, what more will it take?

Mr. President, citizens like Jim Rodkey see us sitting and doing nothing while playing the blame game as to why taxes keep going up on our homes, and Jim knows there is plenty of blame to go around, except for one group. The homeowners cannot be blamed. Homeowners did not create this mess, yet when Jim Rodkey and others strip away all the rhetoric, it is only the homeowner who is being held accountable. That accountability extends to the egregious notion that homeowners either pay for the ability to legally plunder their homes or lose their homes. Mr. President, I would like someone in this General Assembly to answer Jim Rodkey's questions because I think they are good questions and deserve answers. How is this not legalized plunder? How is this not extortion? How is this an acceptable way of doing business in Pennsylvania? As Jim Rodkey and others noted, if we cannot fund education without denying the right of homeownership to those who could, through their own labor and industry, otherwise afford to do so, does this not mean we have a very serious and ethical problem?

Mr. President, Jim Rodkey is my friend, he is a trusted colleague, he is a good neighbor, and I totally agree with him. This must change. We must all be held accountable to each other for funding education in a way that is fair to all. The only way to accomplish that is through the elimination of a tax that violates our right to property, the very homes we live in, because no tax should have the power to leave you homeless.

Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Jim Rodkey, for putting these important thoughts into words.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I thank the gentleman for his very eloquent comments on the issue of property tax relief, and I certainly commend the constituent whom he referenced a number of times and the work that has been done.

Mr. President, this whole issue of property tax relief and reform is something that we must address here in this General Assembly, and I will say to you that while there are concerns about a particular piece of legislation, Senate Bill No. 76, I think what has been good for the greater good has been the conversation that

has taken place through the various policy committees. Mr. President, I think that is something we need to continue to advance, and, quite frankly, bring the measure to the Senate floor for a vote so we can determine one way or the other what we are going to do with that particular measure.

The concern that I have raised a number of times on this floor, as it relates to Senate Bill No. 76 in particular, is the issue regarding our commercial properties. Those individual commercial properties and businesses, if we were to eliminate the property tax completely--and, I think as we all know, Senate Bill No. 76 does not completely eliminate it, but at the end of the day it goes a long way toward that end--but what it does is allows for close to \$4 billion of property taxes that are currently being paid by commercial entities, commercial properties, that burden to be shifted away from the commercial entities and onto the backs of our taxpayers. So, the young family that was mentioned by my colleague who would likely see elimination of part or most of all of their property tax relief, they would still have to deal with the burden of replacing nearly \$4 billion of property taxes that would not make its way into the school funding conversation. So, that is an issue that I think still exists along the lines of a concern that has been raised. As the gentleman knows and my colleagues here on the floor know, Senate Democrats have put forth a proposal that does not result in complete elimination, nor does Senate Bill No. 76, but rather provides in excess of a \$1,900 rebate back to our property owners who are paying those taxes in the manner which we think is, at the end of the day, just as effective as what we have talked about.

Mr. President, this General Assembly, over the course of the past two Sessions, has tried to address property tax relief. The taxpayers and the voters of Pennsylvania, come this fall, will have an opportunity to take a big step toward trying to resolve that. As the Members know, a number of years ago we put into place a homestead exemption at 50 percent through that constitutional amendment process, and voters will have the opportunity to again examine that conversation and make a determination as to whether or not we want to increase that to 100 percent, to allow for school districts, counties, and communities to make a decision about how they want to change the manner in which they are going to fund their schools or their school districts or how they are going to fund their counties or their municipalities as it relates to eliminating school property taxes. So, I think the conversation that is taking place is warranted. Folks will learn more about the constitutional amendment on the ballot this fall. I encourage them to look at it, appreciate what it means, and understand what it means as it relates to trying to resolve the issue of property tax that exists particularly at our school district levels. That is something I think we have to address.

So, Mr. President, I thank the gentleman for again bringing the issue to the attention of our colleagues here today and I look forward to continued dialogue along those lines, that we look not only at Senate Bill No. 76, but all of the other measures that have been introduced, again, trying to get to the same end, and that is trying to help our seniors, in particular, but also our property owners, and provide them with the ability to be able to manage the taxpaying that they need to do to fund our schools, our counties, and our local municipalities.

Thank you, Mr. President.

RECESS

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

Senator FOLMER. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, September 20, 2017, at 11 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 4:54 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.