

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018

SESSION OF 2018 202ND OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 9

SENATE

TUESDAY, February 6, 2018

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

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend SARA HERTZOG, Pastor of Maiden creek Church, Blandon, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Holy One, whom we call by many different names because we are a diverse people, but who has called us to live together in community respecting the uniqueness of gifts of each and every person, we thank You that we live in a country where we can choose our leadership. Keep before us the responsibilities that come with representing those who elected us, as well as those who did not. As we gather together today, give us ears that truly hear one another, voices that speak the truth in love, minds that make sense out of confusion, and hearts that seek to fulfill Your purposes. Eternal spirit, as we meet today, keep us focused on our commitments to make our Commonwealth and the communities we represent better places in which to live. May our participation today inform, enrich, and inspire lives. May it also challenge us anew to live out the principles and visions that we share to make liberty and justice a reality for all. In Your many names we pray. Amen.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

**RECALL COMMUNICATION
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communication in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which was read as follows and referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations:

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

February 6, 2018

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated December 11, 2017, of Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 1408 Rose Lane, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Temple University of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education, to serve until October 14, 2018, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice the Honorable Jim Cawley, Newtown, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

TOM WOLF
Governor

NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communications in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which were read as follows and referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations:

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
COUNCIL ON AGING

February 6, 2018

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, William J. Davies, 1501 Concord Road, Wyomissing 19610, Berks County, Twenty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Council on Aging, to serve until October 8, 2020, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Stuart Wesbury, Willow Street, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
COUNCIL ON AGING

February 6, 2018

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Daniel Drake, 1131 Taylor Avenue, West Chester 19380, Chester County, Ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Council on Aging, to serve until October 8, 2019, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Orla Nugent, Reading, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
COUNCIL ON AGING

February 6, 2018

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Brad Mellon, 324 Sturgis Road, Harleysville 19438, Montgomery County, Twenty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Council on Aging, to serve until October 8, 2018, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Sara Parker, Hershey, deceased.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
COUNCIL ON AGING

February 6, 2018

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Samuel Trychin, 212 Cambridge Road, Erie 16511, Erie County, Forty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Council on Aging, to serve until October 8, 2018, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Terry Barley, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

February 6, 2018

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Emmai Alaquiva, 117 Pinewood Court, Pittsburgh 15202, Allegheny County, Thirty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, to serve until July 1, 2020, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Susan Corbett, Glenshaw, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

February 6, 2018

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Norman Earl Stull, P.O. Box 27, Spinnerstown 18968, Bucks County, Twenty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, to serve until July 1, 2019, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Stephen Harmelin, Philadelphia, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

February 6, 2018

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Tim Warfield, Jr., 130 Springdale Road, York 17403, York County, Twenty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, to serve until July 1, 2020, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice E. Jeanne Gleason, Johnstown, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

February 6, 2018

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Jennifer Unis Sullivan, 29 College Drive, Monaca 15061, Beaver County, Forty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Dentistry, to serve for a term of six years, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice John DeFinnis, Berwick, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF POLK CENTER

February 6, 2018

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Gregory Miller, 1375 East Gilmore Road, Grove City 16127, Venango County, Twenty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Polk Center, to serve until January 17, 2023, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Albert Geniviva, Gibsonia, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF POLK CENTER

February 6, 2018

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Chuck Walczak, 4370 Thoroughbred Loop, Erie 16506, Erie County, Forty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Polk Center, to serve until January 17, 2023, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Sarah Gibson, Lewisburg, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

February 6, 2018

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, James Joo-Jin Kim, 915 Mount Pleasant Road, Bryn Mawr 19010, Delaware County, Seventeenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Temple University of the Commonwealth System of Higher Education, to serve until October 14, 2018, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice the Honorable Jim Cawley, Newtown, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

HOUSE MESSAGES

**HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS
TO HOUSE BILLS**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the Senate to **HB 359**, **HB 1175** and **HB 1602**.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

**2016 ANNUAL LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE
WASTE PROGRAM REPORT**

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communication, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

January 29, 2018

Ms. Megan Martin
Secretary - Parliamentarian of the Senate
Senate Post Office Box 203053
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3053

Dear Ms. Martin:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is pleased to present to you its Annual Low-Level Radioactive Waste Program Report to the General Assembly and the Appalachian Compact Commission. This report covers the calendar year 2016.

The report provides a summary of the current activities of the Appalachian States Low-Level Waste Compact (compact), a list of all low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) generators in the compact, and the

amounts of LLRW disposed by volume. It also contains a discussion of LLRW generation trends, LLRW in storage, waste minimization and financial statistics relating to all aspects of the compact.

The Pennsylvania Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Act (35 P.S. §§ 7130.101-7130.905) requires that this report be prepared each year. The enclosed report is based on data from the U.S. Department of Energy's Manifest Information Management System (MIMS). MIMS is a national database that contains the actual volume and radioactivity of LLRW disposed of at four existing LLRW disposal facilities in the country. The information on waste in storage was obtained directly from the LLRW generators.

DEP is providing a link for accessing the report online. The report can be found in the DEP eLibrary at www.dep.pa.gov. Select Data & Tools; eLibrary; Publications; Radiation Protection; Low-Level Radioactive Waste Program Annual Reports. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Clark, Director of Legislative Affairs, by email at saraclark@pa.gov or by telephone at 717-783-8303.

Thank you for your interest in this report and for continuing to partner with DEP to promote a clean environment and safer communities for all Pennsylvanians.

Respectfully,

PATRICK McDONNELL
Secretary

The PRESIDENT. This report will be filed in the Library.

**2016 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
BUREAU OF RADIATION PROTECTION**

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communication, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

January 29, 2018

Ms. Megan Martin
Secretary - Parliamentarian of the Senate
Senate Post Office Box 203053
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3053

Dear Ms. Martin:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is pleased to present to you the Bureau of Radiation Protection's Environmental Radiation in Pennsylvania 2016 Annual Report.

The report provides details of the DEP's radiation program activities and environmental monitoring data for 2016. The Radiation Protection Act (No. 1984-147) requires the report to be done on an annual basis with copies to be submitted to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly.

DEP is providing a link for accessing the report online. The report can be found in the DEP eLibrary at www.dep.pa.gov. Select Data & Tools; Tools; eLibrary; Publications; Radiation Protection; Environment Radiation in Pennsylvania Annual Reports. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Clark, Director of Legislative Affairs, by email at saraclark@pa.gov or by telephone at 717.783.8303.

Thank you for your interest in this report and for continuing to partner with DEP to promote a clean environment and safer communities for all Pennsylvanians.

Respectfully,

PATRICK McDONNELL
Secretary

The PRESIDENT. This report will be filed in the library.

BILLS SIGNED

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

HB 359, HB 1175 and HB 1602.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

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

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

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

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

Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Leach.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WEEKLY RECESS

Senator CORMAN offered the following resolution, which was read as follows:

In the Senate, February 6, 2018

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the Senate recesses this week, it reconvene on Monday, March 19, 2018, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the Senate recesses the week of March 19, 2018, it reconvene on Monday, March 26, 2018, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the Senate recesses the week of March 26, 2018, it reconvene on April 16, 2018, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the House of Representatives recesses this week, it reconvene on Monday, March 12, 2018, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the House of Representatives recesses the week of March 12, 2018, it reconvene on Monday, April 9, 2018, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the House of Representatives recesses the week of April 9, 2018, it reconvene on Monday, April 16, 2018, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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	Ward
Brewster	Haywood	Resenthaler	Williams
Brooks	Hughes	Sabatina	Yaw
Browne	Hutchinson	Scarnati	Yudichak
Corman	Killion	Scavello	
Costa	Langerholc	Schwank	
Dinniman	Laughlin	Stefano	

NAY-0

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

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

**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 really delighted this morning to welcome our minister because she is an old friend, someone with whom I worked when we both worked for Berks County government. Reverend Sara Hertzog was serving as an administrative assistant--I really called her the right-hand woman of our district attorney--while I was serving as a county commissioner. So, I know her for many years and certainly can attest to what a great person she is and what a great individual to come here and offer us prayers.

Reverend Sara Hertzog currently serves as the pastor of Maiden creek Church in Blandon. The church is actually in Senator Argall's district, however, Reverend Hertzog actually lives in my district, right on the line. She also serves as the chair of the Covenant Association Standing Committee on Ministry and is an adjunct professor at Lancaster Theological Seminary where she received her Masters of Divinity degree. During the past 10 years of her pastorate at Maiden creek, Pastor Hertzog has seen worship attendance double. When she began her ministry, there were no youth programs and now there are over 50 youth who are engaged in many of the ministry programs. Pastor Hertzog was also instrumental in starting Theology with a Twist held monthly at the Kutztown Tavern. It is a group which encourages community discussion on faith issues through a variety of speakers.

Pastor Hertzog lives in Richmond Township with her husband, Gary, who is here with her today. They have two children, Beth, a history teacher at Wilson Southern Middle School, and Nathan, who is co-owner of Weaknecht Archery. In her spare time, Pastor Hertzog enjoys spending time with her four grandchildren.

Mr. President, please join me in welcoming Reverend Sara Hertzog to our Senate today

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Schwank, the Reverend Sara Hertzog and her husband, please rise so that we may welcome you to the Pennsylvania Senate. Thank you for your lovely prayer today.

(Applause.)

**GUEST OF SENATOR RYAN AUMENT
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, it is my pleasure today to introduce my guest, Isabelle Santiago-Vega, a junior at Donegal High School. Isabelle is a proud participant in the Future Business Leaders of America, as well as a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. She is currently enrolled in AP Government and Politics, as well as Spanish V, both college-level courses. Between her schoolwork and extracurricular activities, Isabelle also finds time to volunteer as a soccer coach for young children, something she takes great pride in. After high school, Isabelle is hoping to attend college to major in international relations and eventually pursue a career as a foreign service officer. Isabelle is excited to be in Harrisburg today to learn about the legislative process.

Please join me in welcoming my guest, Isabelle, to the Pennsylvania Senate.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Aument, Isabelle Santiago-Vega, please rise so that we may welcome you to the Pennsylvania Senate. Good luck in all of your endeavors. We need you to be in service.

(Applause.)

**COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO ESCORT THE
GOVERNOR TO THE HALL OF THE HOUSE**

The PRESIDENT. The time has come in our order of business to assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives for a Joint Session.

The President pro tempore has appointed the following Senators to act as a committee on the part of the Senate to escort the Governor to the Joint Session: the gentlewoman from Washington County, Senator Bartolotta, chair; the gentleman from Allegheny County, Senator Vulakovich; and the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Senator Street. The committee will leave immediately to discharge its duties.

**SENATE PROCEEDS TO HOUSE
TO HEAR GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE**

The PRESIDENT. The Members of the Senate will please form a line in the center aisle immediately behind the Sergeant-at-Arms in order that we may proceed to the Joint Session.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair now declares a recess of the Senate.

AFTER RECESS

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

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

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
LINCOLN DAY ADDRESS**

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

Senator VULAKOVICH. Mr. President, it is a profound honor to offer remarks on behalf of Abraham Lincoln, one of our greatest Presidents and most eloquent spokesmen. I often wonder what this great communicator would think of our current political discourse, where speeches have been supplanted by social media and policy too often takes a back seat to partisanship. I often wonder how successful Lincoln would have been in today's national political arena, where image is everything, camera appeal is critical, and policies can change daily, or even hourly, based on the latest public opinion poll or Twitter war.

Abraham Lincoln serves as a good reminder for all of us that character, integrity, and decency should be the hallmark of every public servant. Those traits were certainly his lasting legacy. During one of the most turbulent times in our nation's history, his most trusted advisers were his own heart and his head, and his overwhelming concern was not to win the next election but to do the right thing for a country he believed in so strongly. He took a farsighted view of governing and a nearsighted approach to his many vocal critics.

Today, Lincoln is universally admired for his honesty, for his strength of character, and his unswerving belief in doing what was right, even if it was not politically expedient. But that was not the case during his Presidency when he was routinely vilified by the press and his detractors for his handling of the Civil War. Among other things, they called him a buffoon, a traitor, a tyrant, a monster, an idiot, a bigot, a lunatic, and a bully. His hometown paper joined the chorus calling him the craftiest and most dishonest politician that ever disgraced an American office. Lincoln suffered through the disastrous midterm elections and strong efforts to dump him as a candidate in 1864. He was denounced as an outright traitor who endangered the nation by his presence. His generals and his own cabinet publicly criticized him, and yet he persevered with dignity and great success. He was triumphantly reelected based on his character.

The war drove toward its end and at the time of his second inauguration, he was at the height of his popularity, but popularity and acclaim were not what Lincoln measured himself by. Unlike many in politics today, Lincoln was not ruled by what was popular at the moment, and he refused to let his detractors define his agenda. Rather, he was guided by what he knew to be right for the long term. In a speech that helped to propel him into the White House, Lincoln urged Republicans to stay true to the founding ideals of the country. Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it. Abraham Lincoln was, by his own admission, far from perfect. He was not flashy or photogenic. He often refused to listen to his advisers and campaign managers. He was happiest when he was out of the public spotlight. By today's standards, he would have made an awful candidate. But the real qualities that defined him - decency, dedication to others, honor and compassion - made him one of our greatest Presidents.

It is these essential qualities that we, as public officials, should strive for, and it is the lasting legacy that Abraham Lincoln would be happiest to be remembered for. The words of Mr. Lincoln are as appropriate to us in this Chamber today as we seek to conduct the people's business as they were in 1865 when he delivered his second inaugural address. "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in...."

Thank you, Mr. President.
(Applause.)

CALENDAR

BILL ON CONCURRENCE IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE AMENDMENTS

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE AMENDMENTS

SB 354 (Pr. No. 1426) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 2, 1993 (P.L.345, No.48), entitled "An act empowering the General Counsel or his designee to issue subpoenas for certain licensing board activities; providing for hearing examiners in the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs; providing additional powers to the Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs; and further providing for civil penalties and license suspension," further providing for definitions; providing for reporting of sanctions and criminal proceedings and for suspension; and further providing for civil penalties.

On the question,
Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate amendments to Senate Bill No. 354?

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 amendments to Senate Bill No. 354.

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

Table with 4 columns: Alloway, DiSanto, Leach, Street. Lists names of senators who voted in favor.

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.

BILL ON CONCURRENCE IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 894 (Pr. No. 1372) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating a portion of State Route 2005 in Saxonburg Borough, Butler County, as the Chief Gregory B. Adams Way; designating a bridge on that portion of Pennsylvania Rout 271 over US Route 22, Jackson Township, Cambria County, as the Trooper Gary Fisher Memorial Bridge; designating a bridge on that portion of Pennsylvania Route 53 over US Route 22, Cresson Township, Cambria County, as the Corporal Robert J. Sherwood, Jr., Memorial Bridge; designating a bridge on Segment 80 of State Route 2015, along Overbridge Street and over Railroad Street, Lilly Borough, Cambria County, as the Paul E. Sweeney Memorial Bridge; designating a bridge on that portion of Avenue A over the Allegheny River, Coudersport Borough, Potter County, as the Commander Philip F. "Jet" Palmatier, Jr., Memorial Bridge; designating a bridge on that portion of Sunnyside Road over the Oswayo Creek, Shinglehouse Borough, Potter County, as the PVT Malon Stanley Memorial Bridge; designating a portion of State Route 1001 in Greene Township, Franklin County, as the Lance Corporal Michael L. Freeman, Jr., Memorial Highway; designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 533 over Muddy Run, Southampton Township, Franklin County, as the Private First Class Dana Edward Diehl Memorial Bridge; and designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 1004 over the Conococheague Creek, Greene Township, Franklin County, as the Private Charles W. "Bill" Roher Memorial Bridge.

On the question,
Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 894?

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. 894.

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

Table with 4 columns: Alloway, DiSanto, Leach, Street. Lists names of senators who voted in favor.

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 ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

SB 21 (Pr. No. 1323) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for competitive integrated employment in State and county agencies and any entity providing publicly funded education, training, employment and related services and long-term services and supports for working-age Pennsylvanians with a disability; establishing Employment First, the Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities and the Employment First Oversight Commission and providing for their powers and duties; and conferring powers and imposing duties on the Governor and the Office of the Governor.

Considered the third time and agreed to,
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator MENSCH. Mr. President, this legislation, also known as Employment First, will help thousands of hardworking, capable people with disabilities find employment that suits their skills and where they can thrive. Pennsylvania has had an internal Employment First policy for over 20 years. Our proposal today sets new standards for accountability to make sure that State government is keeping its commitment to seek out and hire qualified people with disabilities. We want to be sure that the State is working with business, industry, and nonprofit sectors to encourage each of those sectors to hire people with disabilities to more meaningful jobs as appropriate. Every year, approximately 17,000 Pennsylvania high-schoolers with disabilities graduate into the workforce. People with disabilities in our State are willing and are able to work. This legislation is a commitment to provide them with the opportunities they are asking for and honestly, they deserve. Senate Bill No. 21, along with its companion legislation, House Bill No. 1641, which is sponsored by Representative Cutler, has garnered strong bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate.

Mr. President, individuals with disabilities deserve a real opportunity to be a part of the Pennsylvania workforce and become contributing members of society in their communities. I thank all of my fellow Senators for their past support of this important legislation, and I ask for their continued support today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-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	Ward
Brewster	Haywood	Resenthaler	Williams
Brooks	Hughes	Sabatina	Yaw
Browne	Hutchinson	Scarnati	Yudichak
Corman	Killion	Scavello	
Costa	Langerholc	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.

HB 631 (Pr. No. 2992) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses), 23 (Domestic Relations) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sexual offenses, further providing for conduct relating to sex offenders and for general rule; in falsification and intimidation, further providing for the offense of failure to comply with registration requirements, defining the offense of failure to comply with 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 97 Subch. I registration requirements and imposing penalties; in proceedings prior to petition to adopt, further providing for grounds for involuntary termination and for definitions; in domestic and sexual violence victim address confidentiality, further providing for agency use of designated address; in sentencing, providing for a mandatory period of probation for certain sexual offenders and extensively revising registration of sexual offenders provisions; and making editorial changes.

Considered the third time and agreed to,
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator VULAKOVICH. Mr. President, today we consider legislation that would strengthen our judicial laws and keep Pennsylvania's children safe. The existing legislation must be amended due to recent court decisions that impact our child protection laws.

I stand here in support of this legislation for two reasons: It is a bill about kids and how to protect them. According to the testimony by the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association, the Pennsylvania State Police, and the Office of Victim Advocate given to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, if we do not take action on this bill, the consequences may be devastating. For example, as a matter of law, State Police may be obligated to remove more than 15,000 sexual offenders from the sex offender registry. District attorneys will continue to be unable to prosecute sex offenders who fail to comply with registration and verification requirements. The approximately 4,250 crime victims regis-

tered with the State's Office of Victim Advocate would not receive timely notification regarding sexually violent predators. If an interruption in registration and verification requirements occurred, State Police estimate they would be unable to locate approximately 15 percent of the offenders in the registry. If no action is taken, a very large number of currently registered sex offenders will no longer be required to register. This will prevent victims and the public at-large from making decisions about their public safety. Lastly, the process by which convicted sex offenders are assessed as to whether they are sexually violent predators would no longer exist.

Simply stated, we must take action. As a legislature, we have taken great strides to strengthen our child protection laws. We cannot turn our backs on our youngest and most vulnerable citizens. I encourage my colleagues to close the gaps and loopholes in our law to protect Pennsylvania's children, their great grandchildren, their grandchildren.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-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	Ward
Brewster	Haywood	Resenthaler	Williams
Brooks	Hughes	Sabatina	Yaw
Browne	Hutchinson	Scarnati	Yudichak
Corman	Killion	Scavello	
Costa	Langerholc	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 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.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 653 (Pr. No. 1374) -- 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 local taxes, further providing for collection; in consolidated collection of local income taxes, further providing for tax collection committees and for powers and duties of tax officer; in collection of delinquent taxes, further providing for costs of collection; and making a related editorial change.

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

SB 653 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 653, Printer's No. 1374, 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 653, SB 792, HB 1845 and HB 1854 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 26, SB 55, HB 99, HB 104, SB 114, SB 263, HB 291 and SB 313 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 370 (Pr. No. 1455) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions relating to retirement for school employees, further providing for definitions.

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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 384, SB 435, HB 444, SB 500 and HB 566 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

HB 595 (Pr. No. 627) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 68 (Real and Personal Property) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, as follows: in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in management of the condominium, providing for alternative dispute resolution in condominiums and for complaints filed with Bureau of Consumer Protection; in protection of purchasers, further providing for effect of violations on rights of action; in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in management of cooperatives, providing for alternative dispute resolution in cooperatives and for complaints filed with Bureau of Consumer Protection; in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in management of planned community, providing for alternative dispute resolution in planned communities and for complaints filed with Bureau of Con-

sumer Protection; and, in protection of purchasers, further providing for effect of violations on rights of action.

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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 597 and **SB 637** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 748 (Pr. No. 1009) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for public safety facilities.

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.

SB 761 (Pr. No. 1383) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the Executive, further providing for Lieutenant Governor.

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.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 762 (Pr. No. 1384) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration system, providing for audit of SURE system.

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

SB 762 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 762, Printer's No. 1384, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 776 (Pr. No. 1442) -- 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 definitions; and, in Dyslexia and Early Literacy Intervention Pilot Program, further providing for definitions and for establishment of program.

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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 780, HB 783, SB 816, HB 913, HB 914, HB 915, HB 916, SB 919, SB 938, SB 950, SB 952, SB 961, SB 963, SB 979 and **HB 1001** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 1002 (Pr. No. 1430) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 1041 over the Mahoning Creek in Grant Township and Canoe Township, Indiana County, as the Army SPC Christine L. Mayes Memorial Bridge; and designating a bridge on that portion of State Route 286 over the South Branch Cush Creek River, Montgomery Township, Indiana County, as the Sgt. Edward John Parada Memorial Bridge.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1003, SB 1024, HB 1034, HB 1239, HB 1341, HB 1364, HB 1486, HB 1550 and **HB 1926** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 226, ADOPTED

Senator CORMAN, without objection, called up from page 10 of the Calendar, **Senate Resolution No. 226**, entitled:

A Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct an independent performance evaluation of certain Statewide environmental permitting programs administered by the Department of Environmental Protection.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Luzerne, Senator Yudichak.

Senator YUDICHAK. Mr. President, I thank my colleague on the Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy, Senator Yaw, for moving this resolution and I ask for an affirmative vote and offer remarks 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 gentleman from Luzerne, Senator YUDICHAK:)

Mr. President, there are very few bipartisan issues that bring together businesses groups and environmental groups like the issue of permitting reform at DEP. The business community tells us DEP's permit process can produce long delays that add to the cost of doing business in PA, resulting in fewer projects completed and fewer jobs created. Environmental groups tell us the lack of resources and personnel at DEP impairs the agency's ability to aggressively protect the environment. While I acknowledge that DEP and the Wolf administration are looking to improve the shortcomings of DEP's permitting programs through ePermitting and other reforms, the one critical element no one has right now is independent baseline data on how DEP's permitting process is working in the field. Do we need more personnel? Can IT create greater efficiencies? Can permit turnaround time be quicker without sacrificing due diligence? All of these questions can be answered by Senate Resolution No. 226.

Senate Resolution No. 226 requires the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) to conduct a comprehensive performance evaluation of two of DEP's largest permitting programs, the Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Program (Chapter 102), and the Water Obstruction and Encroachment Program (Chapter 105). Within the scope of 12 months, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee will gather baseline data on the DEP permit process and make final recommendations to the Senate for establishing a permit process that strikes the appropriate balance between environmental protection and job creation. Senate Resolution No. 226 is supported by DEP, PA Chamber of Business and Industry, UGI, Penn Future, and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

I ask my Senate colleagues for an affirmative vote on Senate Resolution No. 226. Thank you.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 253, ADOPTED

Senator CORMAN, without objection, called up from page 10 of the Calendar, **Senate Resolution No. 253**, entitled:

A Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to amend the Gun Control Act of 1968 to protect the constitutional rights of medical cannabis users.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator FOLMER. Mr. President, it has been nearly 2 years since we stood in this Chamber to deliberate and finally pass Senate Bill No. 3, now Act 16 of 2016, to bring medical cannabis to Pennsylvania. As I said at that time, the journey to help chil-

dren and their parents, veterans, and other sick people was a long but gratifying journey, and I think even those who were not able to support the legislation would have to admit that the program is progressing well, and patients will soon have one more arrow in their quiver to fight their illnesses and diseases.

Mr. President, we have hit a bump in the road, though, and this bump is caused by the Federal government and two Federal laws that conflict with one another. Specifically, the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968 was passed to regulate the firearm industry and firearms owners, and in 1993, it was amended by the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act to include controlled substances. As cannabis is a Schedule I drug under the Federal Controlled Substance Act, the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has issued guidance restricting the ownership of firearms and ammunition related to Schedule I drugs.

When we passed Pennsylvania's medical cannabis law, we declared scientific evidence that suggests medical cannabis is one potential therapy that may mitigate suffering in some patients and also enhance quality of life. Mr. President, 29 States, including Pennsylvania, have legalized medical cannabis in some form, and I believe the guarantees of the 10th Amendment must prevail. "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Pennsylvania has a medical cannabis law that is being implemented, and Congress needs to address the problems of having two Federal laws that conflict with one another while creating problems for Pennsylvania citizens.

Mr. President, I ask for a "yes" vote on Senate Resolution No. 253, and I thank you.

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

Senator WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I thank the gentleman for raising an issue which I think intersects the times in which we live. For those who are concerned about one's ability to legally own firearms in Pennsylvania, I think it is appropriate to make a statement to Congress. Many of you have followed my career, I have spoken about illegal guns and the problems they cause within my community in particular. I have never spoken against one's legal right to own a gun. And I certainly have been converted and understand the issues as they relate to medical cannabis and the extraordinary work and research which has been done in this area. Unfortunately, we find ourselves in a different era in time where we support two issues and two perspectives which historically have been separate.

So, I do believe that the gentleman raises an extraordinarily complicated issue that frankly cuts across Republican, Democratic, suburban, rural, and urban lines because many people are needy of this newfound medical research that lies in cannabis, and many of them are people who believe in their right to own a gun, protect their property, and hunt lawfully in Pennsylvania. Historically, they have been in different camps, and now they are in one camp. I think more and more as we live those issues will be together. For those reasons, I will be inclined to be supportive of the resolution, but I met with a gentleman who confessed that there is a bit of hypocrisy.

Marijuana, regardless of whether it is medical or not, is still a Schedule I drug, which has been talked about by the highest law enforcement in this nation as an illegal drug, and with the intent to prosecute and possibly remove the ability to allow for

the research to continue. So with that conflict, I had my own resolution which I wanted to introduce which basically did not say—and by the way, for those who are concerned about whether I get fan mail for supporting legalized and recreational marijuana or I get fan mail for saying you have not made a strong enough statement, I have not made a decision about that. My resolution does not speak to allowing for the recreational use of marijuana. What it does speak to is that Congress and the Attorney General of this country can no longer have it both ways. You cannot stand with a Bible in one hand and the flag wrapped around you in your patriotism, and then prosecute people who are using cannabis and have a gun. So, I simply introduced a resolution that said, if we are going to do the chicken and egg, introduce both. It basically says, Congress, make a decision. Do we want to remove that from the Schedule I list of items or not? And tell them, while we are sending a resolution that does not demand it of them, does not commit them, but asks them to consider that, that is what we are doing. And I think, frankly, if we do one without the other, that we are not being transparent or, frankly, fair. What we are doing is a bit political.

And so again, I am working with my colleague on the other side of the aisle. I appreciate the Majority Leader and his support to try to work out these issues. I would say to those who are reticent and concerned about my resolution, you cannot vote for one and think you have solved the problem or frankly stood in good faith and transparency with regard to the problem, because we know, as legislators, it is all-encompassing. You have to do both. You cannot say to Congress, allow for this to exist knowing full well Congress has not done it, because it still exists, without the other resolution.

So, I am not asking for us to stand in regard to legalizing marijuana. What I am saying is, if we are going to send resolutions to Congress, let them be consistent, transparent, truthful for those who are suffering with chronic illnesses that medical cannabis will help and also allow them the privilege of legally owning a firearm, because the truth is if Congress did one without the other, they would be creating a criminal on one side and a tax-paying citizen on the other side, possibly within the same house. So, I am not for that.

I will support the resolution and hope that sometime, not in the distant future but as soon as we come back, that we are able to be consistent in this General Assembly to support both resolutions sent to Congress in the same manner.

Thank you, Mr. President, and I thank my colleagues.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments from the gentleman from Philadelphia, and I really appreciate the way the gentleman from Philadelphia and the gentleman from Lebanon, the chairs of the Committee on State Government, work together on all sorts of issues, and particularly this one. There is obviously, as we go down this road of medical marijuana, there is some confusion and difficulty with the Federal law. The previous administration, I believe President Obama, had an executive order essentially allowing for these businesses to grow, this research to happen, this medicine to be dispensed, and some States go even further than that. Obviously, this new administration takes a different viewpoint. I think it is important that the Federal government clarify because for people in Pennsylvania who are entering into the business, making investments

into this new enterprise, hiring employees, and patients counting on the results of this to be all out there under one administration and the next administration in Washington, D.C., come in and possibly pull the rug out from under them is something nobody wants to happen.

So, clearly, I think the resolution by the gentleman from Lebanon County today begins the process of removing some of that confusion, and there is more. The gentleman from Philadelphia does have a resolution that I committed to him that we are going to work through. He himself has admitted that he does not want the resolution to be about legalizing recreational marijuana, but asking Congress to clarify it. We want to make sure those words in that resolution hit that point exactly, because this is not about legalizing recreational marijuana, it is about trying to clarify the Federal law which is contradictory to itself, and I think that is what we are all trying to accomplish here today. Hopefully, over the next couple of weeks in our hearings of the Committee on Appropriations we can work that out, and when we come back, we can take up the resolution by the gentleman from Philadelphia and memorialize Congress to make our State feel a little easier that what we are doing here in the Commonwealth will not be made illegal by the stroke of a pen.

I make my commitment to work with the gentleman. I know the two chairs of the Committee on State Government, as I said, work well together, and, hopefully, we will be able to reach that compromise and move forward when we come back. Thank you.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, thank you for this opportunity. I rise not to take issue with the gentleman on this resolution but to point out, and certainly to support the resolution by my colleague from Philadelphia, but moreover to point out that it does not make sense that the United States of America or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania continues to have marijuana be illegal at all. California and many States are moving toward recreational marijuana. As most of you know, I have signed on as cosponsor to legislation that would allow Pennsylvania to move forward into the recreational space like California and Colorado and other places have done. I encourage the Members, as we look at this topic, to think about the fact that this would generate significant revenue for the Commonwealth. This would reduce our expenditures with respect to criminal justice and enforcing problems that are not actually problems. It would stop so many young people from being caught up in a system of criminal justice where we have disparate enforcement where in some areas people smoke and there is no enforcement, and in other areas people are vigorously prosecuted and arrested. I think that we should move as a Commonwealth and a country to a place where we move forward with recreational marijuana.

So, while I certainly applaud the efforts of my colleagues, I suggest that we move forward with full recreational marijuana to be distinguished from my colleague, Senator Williams, who is not there. I am there and think that we should, as a body, move forward with full recreational marijuana. I am not offering a resolution in that regard, but I do offer legislation and I encourage Members to sign on and support it. Thank you.

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

Senator WILLIAMS. Mr. President, sometimes your friends come at the wrong time, just for observation. For the record,

while I respect the comments of my friend from Philadelphia, that is not what my resolution will be talking about. The things we talked about are concerns of the Majority party, about moving a resolution forward, and my activity is confined to that area. I want to underscore it, not because I want to undercut the gentleman, but I want the people--we are all human beings. This is a very transparent process and we are talking to our constituents all across Pennsylvania, and for those of you who may be converted in the next couple of weeks by the Majority Leader, I do not want anyone to go home concerned that at the eleventh hour we will have an amendment that talks about recreational drugs, we are not. We are going to talk about being consistent with Congress and moving a message forward about what this particular space occupies. So, for that, I want to clarify the record.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I want to apologize and do not want to create any confusion to any Members. I did not mean to suggest that either of my colleagues was advocating for recreational marijuana, but clarify that I am, through legislation, and encourage Members to move forward with that process so that Pennsylvania can move forward, as so many other jurisdictions have across this Commonwealth.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman's remarks are appreciated. Once again, the decorum of the Senate is exemplary.

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

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	Ward
Brewster	Haywood	Resenthaler	Williams
Brooks	Hughes	Sabatina	Yaw
Browne	Hutchinson	Scarnati	Yudichak
Corman	Killion	Scavello	
Costa	Langerholc	Schwank	
Dinniman	Laughlin	Stefano	

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The resolution is adopted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator John C. Rafferty, Jr.) in the Chair.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senators HUGHES, DINNIMAN, LEACH, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, BREWSTER, BROWNE, SABATINA,

SCHWANK, AUMENT, RAFFERTY, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA and VULAKOVICH, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 273**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing February 7, 2018, as "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Hughes.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, briefly, this resolution designates February 7, 2018, as "National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day" in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. President, as you are aware, HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects the African American community. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the African American community accounts for 44 percent of all new HIV infections, and that was the number in 2016. While African Americans make up only 12 percent of the U.S. population, African American females are 16 times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV than Caucasian females. African American males are 8 times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV than Caucasian males.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day began in 2000, Mr. President, to assist in the effort to decrease and ultimately eradicate HIV/AIDS in the African American community. The purpose of this day is to promote awareness of African Americans and the broader community about how devastating HIV/AIDS is while emphasizing education, testing, involvement, and treatment. We are urging everyone through public conversations such as this to know their status, to get tested, to get a better understanding of this very devastating disease, and although we have made significant progress since the birth of this disease in the early 1980s, it still has dramatic and tragic effects on thousands, if not millions, of people across the nation. We must do everything we can, Mr. President, to continue to raise awareness, and, as I said before, to get as many people as possible tested and have them know their status.

So once again, Mr. President, this resolution designates February 7, 2018, as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Argall has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

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

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

Senators SCAVELLO, FARNESE, DINNIMAN, BROWNE, BREWSTER, SABATINA, GREENLEAF, BARTOLOTTA, EICHELBERGER, SCHWANK, FONTANA, MENSCH, WARD, RESCHENTHALER, RAFFERTY, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA, KILLION, GORDNER, AUMENT, VULAKOVICH and HUGHES, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 274**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of March 2018 as "Problem Gambling Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and recognizing the month of March 2018 as "National Problem Gambling Awareness Month."

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Monroe, Senator Scavello.

Senator SCAVELLO. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with my colleague and friend, Senator Farnese, to offer this resolution which designates March 2018 as "Problem Gambling Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and also recognizes "National Problem Gambling Awareness Month." While most people can and do responsibly enjoy gaming as a legitimate form of entertainment and recreation, this resolution recognizes that there is a small number of individuals of all ages and backgrounds who may suffer from the very public health concern of problem gambling.

The impact of problem gambling is not limited to just those individuals suffering from problem gambling, but also significantly impacts the lives of their families and communities. Consequently, we offer this resolution to raise awareness and educate the public on the warning signs of problem gambling, treatment, and prevention resources available to help minimize the harm that problem gambling causes for the individual, their families, and the community. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania must insure it is diligent in addressing any accompanying social issues in a responsible and effective manner, no matter how successful the Pennsylvania gaming industry has been in terms of job creation, revenue generation, and economic development.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Farnese.

Senator FARNESE. Mr. President, I am pleased to once again sponsor this resolution with my co-chairman, Senator Scavello, again designating the month of March 2018 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in Pennsylvania and also recognizing the month as National Problem Gambling Awareness Month. We introduce this resolution, Mr. President, each year to create awareness not only for the health implications of problem gambling, but also for the resources available should someone need treatment for this public health issue.

There are many individuals across PA and in the nation who enjoy the entertainment experience of going to our legalized casinos, including their amenities, shows, eateries, and atmosphere. But according to the National Council on Problem Gambling, 2 percent to 3 percent of people in the U.S. will have a gambling problem in any given year. While it is a treatable issue, many people affected by it do not seek treatment or know where to find resources. Resources are available and help can be found. People can access our 24-hour PA gambling addiction hotline at 1-877-565-2112. They can visit the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs' Web site for a listing of gambling addiction providers, and materials are available at the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to help people recognize problem gambling.

If we continue to work, Mr. President, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board and the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, we can continue to have an impact on effectively educating and treating problem gambling in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Thank you.

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

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

Senators BAKER, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, MARTIN, BROWNE, TARTAGLIONE, GREENLEAF, ARGALL, SABATINA, BARTOLOTTA, SCHWANK, RAFFERTY, FOLMER, FARNESE and HUGHES, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 275**, entitled:

A Resolution observing March 1, 2018, as "St. David's Day" in Pennsylvania and honoring the many Pennsylvanians of Welsh heritage.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Luzerne, Senator Baker.

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, I proudly stand today as an American, a lifelong Pennsylvanian of Welsh descent, tracing my own heritage to William Penn and the Religious Society of Friends, or the Quakers, who founded the heart of the first Welsh settlement in the city of Philadelphia. March 1 was designated the Welsh National Holiday in the 18th century, recognizing St. David, or Dewi Sant, the patron saint of Wales. His death occurred on March 1 in 589 A.D. If you were to visit Wales on March 1, you would see children in red shawls, black chimney hats, or wearing bright leeks and daffodils as accessories. Celebrations often involve singing Welsh folk songs, having tea and Welsh cake, and lamb and Welsh rarebit. Pennsylvania is home to many individuals like myself of Welsh descent.

So, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and observing "St. David's Day" here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on March 1.

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 LANGERHOLC, BREWSTER, BROWNE, FONTANA, DINNIMAN, GREENLEAF, TARTAGLIONE, MARTIN, BARTOLOTTA, SCAVELLO, EICHELBERGER, FARNESE, FOLMER, SABATINA, SCHWANK, KILLION, AUMENT, HUTCHINSON, SCARNATI, BAKER, RAFFERTY, VULAKOVICH, COSTA, MENSCH, HUGHES and BOSCOLA, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 276** entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the importance of finding the cause and cure for multiple sclerosis; expressing appreciation to the Pennsylvania chapters of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for their work; and recognizing the week of March 11 through 17, 2018, as "Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cambria, Senator Langerholc.

Senator LANGERHOLC. Mr. President, this resolution designates March 11 through 17, 2018, as "Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week." This debilitating disease generally strikes adults between the ages of 20 and 50. More than 23,000 people in our great Commonwealth are affected by this disease, and more than 2.3 million worldwide. The cause of this debilitating disease remains unknown. The Senate recognizes the importance of the continuing fight against this epidemic and asks that March 11 to 17 be designated as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week, and thanks the continuing work of the Pennsylvania chapters of the Multiple Sclerosis Society as well as the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

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 BROWNE, MENSCH, VULAKOVICH, BAKER, GREENLEAF, FOLMER, KILLION, BARTOLOTTA, COSTA, AUMENT, SCAVELLO, SABATINA, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, RAFFERTY, HUGHES and BOSCOLA, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 277**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the week of February 26 through March 4, 2018, as "Eating Disorders Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania in conjunction with the observance of "National Eating Disorders Awareness Week."

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lehigh, Senator Browne.

Senator BROWNE. Mr. President, I rise to ask the Senate to adopt this resolution designating February 26 through March 4 as "Eating Disorders Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania. It is really important to point out how significant eating disorders are in relation to their risk to Pennsylvania's population. The facts are that eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness, and approximately 30 million Americans struggle at some point in their lives with an eating disorder. These disorders affect people across all backgrounds and include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge-eating disorders.

The theme for the 2018 awareness week is "Let's Get Real," which focuses on expanding the conversation about eating disorders, provides an online screening tool, and shares a wide range of experiences, resources, and diverse stories of recovery. Our culture has a complicated relationship with food, exercise, and appearance, which leads to food and body image issues that negatively impact all of us, which we need to continue to work on collectively. Signs and symptoms of eating disorders are often overlooked, and many individuals, families, and communities are unaware of the devastating mental and physical consequences of eating disorders, as well as the pressures, attitudes, and behavior that shape them. Many cases of eating disorders go undetected, and less than one-third of youth with eating disorders will receive treatment.

Mr. President, the "National Eating Disorders Awareness Week" highlights the importance of screenings for the early detection and intervention of eating disorders and presents eating disorders as a public health issue with close connections to substance abuse, trauma, obesity, and other mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, and obsessive compulsive disorder. Given the significance of this issue, Mr. President, I appreciate the Senate recognizing February 26 through March 4 as Eating Disorders Awareness Week in Pennsylvania. Thank you very much.

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

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

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I was pleased to learn that the Governor's budget includes some areas that I have been working on for quite some time. He wants to provide an additional \$7 million for apprenticeship training, as well as an additional \$3 million for the industry partnerships, funding to allow the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation to continue maximizing their Federal matching funds, continued investment in home- and community-based services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorders, aligning workforce development efforts, leveling the playing field by having those municipalities that rely on the State Police to provide their local service to pay for those services, and most importantly, proposing an increase in the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$12 an hour.

Many of you know how long I have been working on this issue. In 2006, I was honored to negotiate the last raise of the minimum wage we had here in Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, we were not able to agree on a cost-of-living increase, as I had hoped. But while I was fighting, I was not alone. There were other advocates fighting for increasing the wages of our lowest-paid workers as well. Since then, a lot of us advocates have come together and formed the Raise the Wage PA coalition. We represent many walks of life and many different backgrounds. Franklin Roosevelt said back in 1937 after pulling the United States out of the Great Depression, "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." And for far too long, many Pennsylvanians have had to manage with far too little.

Regrettably, Pennsylvania has not raised its minimum wage since 2006, and the Federal government has not raised the minimum wage since 2009. All of Pennsylvania's neighbors and 28 States across the country have raised their minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour. But, as usual, Pennsylvania has fallen behind the times. In 2006, the price of a loaf of bread was \$0.97, now, it is about \$2.50. A gallon of milk was \$3.25, and now it is over \$4. A dozen eggs cost \$1, and now it is around \$2.65. Under the current minimum wage, a worker who logs 40 hours a week makes about \$15,000 a year. That is below the Federal poverty level for a two-person household, and in Pennsylvania it qualifies the worker to collect food stamps, and that is unacceptable.

The minimum wage is not about giving a handout, it is about giving a hand up. That is why I am pleased to announce that I have introduced Senate Bill No. 1044 along with Senator Haywood. This is a companion bill to Representative Kim's House Bill No. 1520. These bills would help the lowest-paid Pennsylvania workers by raising the minimum wage to \$12 an hour, effective immediately, raising the minimum wage to \$12.50 in 2019, and 50 cents each year until 2024, when the minimum wage would be \$15 an hour. For tip workers, the legislation would raise wages to \$9 an hour, effective immediately. Their minimum wage would increase to \$12 an hour by 2024. After that, legislation would create annual cost of living raises in the minimum wage. The adjustments would take effect automatically and would not require new legislation each year.

Mr. President, I hope that we are able to pass the minimum wage this year. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Hughes.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, it does me great honor to follow the comments by my good friend and colleague, Senator Tartaglione, having worked with her closely over the years, and especially in 2006 when we were successful in, I think, one of the best moments of this body, to raise the minimum wage in Pennsylvania. This body was the last body to come to the table to get that effort done. The previous Governor, Governor Rendell, and the House both concurred on the idea, voted the idea, and it was on us to get the job done here in the Senate. Senator Tartaglione was brilliant and eloquent in her words and her comments, in her continued activity to raise the level of public conversation around the minimum wage, and we got it done. We beat the Federal government, and it was an important thing to do, and now we are lagging behind. Quite frankly, we are lagging behind the surrounding States of Pennsylvania with respect to the minimum wage.

That brings me to the main reason why--and I will come back to that in a moment, Mr. President--that brings me to the main reason why I wanted to speak at this moment. About 4 hours ago, Mr. President, we heard from Governor Wolf as he presented to us his budget proposal for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Needless to say, having him start off his presentation by donning a Philadelphia Eagles hat and wishing great well wishes and salutations to the 2018 Super Bowl-winning Philadelphia Eagles in the 52nd Super Bowl, which many say was the most exciting Super Bowl that has ever been played. And being a longtime Eagles fan, as I know you are as well, Mr. President, having sat in the well of the House of Representatives and witness that moment, it again brought deep emotion to me, and I am sure many others, either in the body or watching on whatever device they may have been watching on.

But moving from that comment to the business at hand, which is introducing a State budget, a State budget proposal, and hopefully something that we can get done sooner rather than later, Mr. President, that would be like that win on this past Sunday evening, February 4, which happened to be my mother's birthday. Getting that accomplishment done, I think, would be something very significant. It really should not be hard, Mr. President, because the path that we have come down over the last 3 years with Governor Wolf and our Republican majorities in the House and the Senate, significant Republican majorities in the House and the Senate, along with our Democratic Caucuses and our

Democratic Governor Wolf, the path that we have come down, although rough and tumble at times, has resulted in some significantly positive outcomes for millions of Pennsylvania's citizens. Are we completely there? No, we are not completely there. Is there significant work that still must be done? Yes, there is.

But to look at what the Governor proposed today, some level of context is important. We come on this morning at 11:30 to a State that has refunded the billion-dollar cut in public education that the previous Governor foisted upon the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Governor Wolf led us through and stayed fast and true to his commitment of investing in the children of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by restoring the billion dollars in cuts in basic education funding. He and all of us should be applauded for sticking to that commitment, not wavering on that commitment, and realizing that on at least that one issue, we cannot fail our children, we must stand up for our children. So in the last 3 years, we refunded and rebuilt that billion-dollar cut. We also passed a fair funding formula for the first time in the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We have in place a fair funding formula to fairly distribute dollars toward our education system. The problem that we have, as you know, Mr. President, is that only relates to new dollars that come into the system and does not relate to all of the dollars that are in the system. So consequently, we have to build, I think, at an aggressive pace to add new dollars to our education system and get that system to fund those dollars equitably, fairly, and appropriately.

I would be mindful, Mr. President, that we still have a way to go from being one of the worst States in the nation with respect to how we equitably fund our education system. We need to move from that bottom position to be the best State in the nation and make sure that every child in Pennsylvania gets an equitable and fair education and is funded equitably and funded fairly and funded appropriately. But we did have to move from what was a zero percent in our fair funding system to now approximately 7 percent of the dollars going to that. That was not the case without his leadership, that would not have been the case without his commitment. Governor Wolf needs to be applauded for that, but that is an important context for how we come to today's budget conversation.

What we saw from the Governor today is a continued investment of more dollars in education, a continued investment in jobs and skill development and skill training for those individuals who may not be headed toward higher education, a college degree, but may be headed toward more career and technical education programs, more skill-based or with their hands, if you will, kinds of programs or kinds of professions. We see the Governor continuing in his commitment there. We see the Governor in his budget proposal today continuing investments in the heroin and opioid problems. We see the Governor wanting to put more workers and individuals in our environmental protection system. We see the Governor doing and proposing the things that I think all of us in this Commonwealth think are important and necessary. In fact, I believe I heard the comments from the Majority in this body say that maybe we can get this done sometime in May. What that says to me, Mr. President, is that we are in an environment where we are close, even in a budget proposal, to agreement if we have the optimism that was evidenced earlier today based on the foundation of solid work led by the Governor, leading up to the day and based on what I think a commitment from all of us is to not allow this election season that we are in

to hold down significant and important and necessary budget discussions and the work of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

So, what the Governor proposed is continuing down the path of smart, sensible, and practical policies in the context of the environment that we are in: Democratic Governor, significant control by the House and the Senate in Republican majorities. That is what we see. I see only two issues, Mr. President, that may be tough, and I use the word "tough," but that is with a small T, because, quite frankly, the issues that are raised here that still are unfinished business are issues that should not be difficult to get addressed, and, quite frankly, Mr. President, are issues that the overwhelming percentage of people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania want to get done. The people of Pennsylvania want more funding in education. The people in Pennsylvania want more relevant funding in the programs that can help them reset their skills in terms of jobs and employment. The people in Pennsylvania do not want a broad-based tax increase, and the Governor did not propose a broad-based tax increase, and I think that is laudable, Mr. President.

What the Governor proposed and what I think -- in fact, what I know the people do want is the Governor proposed a minimum wage increase. As Senator Tartaglione noted earlier, Mr. President, we have not had one, we have not passed one since 2006. It is now 2018. When you start thinking about the years and the time that has passed, it is almost the same amount of time that the Eagles were in the Super Bowl, because they were in the Super Bowl in 2005, and now it is 2018 and they came back. In 2006, we passed the minimum wage increase. You were part of that, Mr. President, and now we are at it again. We need to get this done. What the Governor has proposed, once again, is a sensible number. There are others in the Commonwealth who would like to see it be more, but his number is sensible and I think pragmatic in the context of the political reality that exists today in our General Assembly. He has proposed a \$12 an hour goal to get to with respect to our minimum wage. There are communities all across the country who are pushing toward \$15. He has looked at the environment, looked at the reality, and looked at the economics of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and settled at \$12. He was there the year before, he was there the year before that. It is now time for us to get that done. It is now time for the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to have a minimum wage that is much closer to the reality of their own personal economic situation.

We need to be clear, Mr. President, that all of the States that surround Pennsylvania have increased their minimum wage. New York has a higher minimum wage, New Jersey has a higher minimum wage, Delaware has a higher minimum wage, Maryland has a higher minimum wage, West Virginia has a higher minimum wage, and Ohio has a higher minimum wage. All of the States surrounding Pennsylvania have higher minimum wages. And in fact, when we took this action in 2006, I believe we were ahead of all of those States with respect to raising the minimum wage, except maybe New Jersey. We once led, and now we are behind. We need to catch up with that and in fact surpass that with implementation of the proposal that the Governor has laid out today. The overwhelming majority of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, well over two-thirds of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, are suggesting and in fact demanding that we raise the minimum wage. So that

is one issue that should not be a tough lift, that should not be difficult work. That is one issue, Mr. President.

The second issue, Mr. President, is the continued shame that exists within this Commonwealth with the very basic fact that we do not have a severance tax on natural gas, which most people would call a Marcellus Shale drillers tax, here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We are the only State in the nation that does not have a severance tax, a statewide severance tax on natural gas drilling in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania is the only State that does not have a severance tax on Marcellus Shale drilling, natural gas drilling. I will say it again. Pennsylvania is the only State, Mr. President, that does not have a severance tax on Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling. Why is that significant? We are told that we are the Saudi Arabia of natural gas, Mr. President. We have more natural gas than just about any State in the nation and most countries in the world existing within our foundation. Other States are benefitting because we do not have a severance tax, other States benefit. Drillers come in, they extract the natural gas, they put it in the pipelines, and it goes other places.

Other States have a modest shale tax, and what do they do with that modest severance tax on shale? Well, Mr. President, they invest it in their education system. They invest it in their colleges and universities. They invest it in their roads, their environment, their neighborhoods, all kinds of things and other kinds of job creation areas. That is what they do all around the country, but Pennsylvania is the only one that does not have it. That is unacceptable. Pennsylvania does not have a severance tax. And that is unacceptable, Mr. President. That is a proposal that probably well over two-thirds of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania support. What the Governor has proposed today is a modest and moderate, a practical severance tax on Marcellus Shale drilling, natural gas drilling. That is what he has proposed. Nothing excessive, nothing over the top, nothing consistent with others around here who would like to see something more robust. He has come to the table with something that is doable, and we should get that business done, Mr. President.

So, Mr. President, we get that done, we raise the minimum wage, we invest in our education system, we invest in the skills of the workforce of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we invest in our economic development programs, we invest in our environment, we invest in this tragic, tragic opioid issue, this heroin and opioid addiction problem. We invest in our communities, we make the right investments necessary in the Governor's proposal. We need the funds to support it, we need an economy that can sustain it, and one way to do that is to raise the minimum wage, and for the first time, Mr. President, or better yet for the last time, Mr. President, be the last State in the nation to have a severance tax on Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling.

Mr. President, I hope to proceed with my good friend and colleague, the Majority chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Senator Browne, to proceed on about 3 weeks' worth of budget hearings where we hear from all the departments from across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to talk in substance about their various proposals and their various initiatives, what it is they want to try to get done, and hopefully soon after that we can get to the business at hand, which is getting our budget done, increase the money in our education system, increase the money in jobs and skilled development system, raise the minimum wage, address the issue of the necessary resources and

appropriate resources from our natural gas drillers. It is interesting, and I have to come back to this point, Mr. President, everybody else is paying their fair share and their taxes, this industry is not. Every other business owner is paying their fair share and their taxes, the natural gas drillers are not. The local pizza shop is paying its fair share, the barber shop is paying its fair share in taxes, the accountant is paying his fair share in taxes, the lawyers and the other business owners are paying their fair share in taxes, the natural gas drillers are not paying their fair share, and the bottom line, Mr. President, is all of those individuals, but especially the natural gas drillers, have just received a huge windfall from the President and Congress in terms of reduction of their corporate taxes from 37 percent to 21 percent. In the light of the windfall that they receive nationally, they certainly can pay their fair share here in Pennsylvania.

So, let us get this business done. Let us address the issue of a severance tax. Let us address the issue of raising the minimum wage. Let us increase the investments in our education system. Let us make sure that we put on the front line the issue of violence and guns in our neighborhoods, and we try to get more investments in those areas so that we can help those communities grow and get rid of the guns and get rid of the violence in our neighborhoods. Let us push this Commonwealth forward. This is something that we can get done, Mr. President, and this is something that we can get done sooner rather than later and at the best, at the latest, on time.

Thank you, Mr. President.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2018

10:00 A.M. URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING (to Room 461
consider Senate Bills No. 735 and 962) Main Capitol
C A N C E L L E D

Off the Floor ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND Rules Cmte.
ENERGY (to consider Senate Bill No. Conf. Rm.
800)
C A N C E L L E D

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018

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

1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Independent Fiscal Office) North Off.

3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Approved Private Schools/Charter School North Off.
for the Deaf and Blind)

4:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Pennsylvania Intermediate Units) North Off.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018

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

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

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Pennsylvania State System of Higher North Off.
Education)

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

3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Pennsylvania Emergency Management North Off.
Agency/Fire Commissioner)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2018

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

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

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018

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

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

3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Pennsylvania College of Technology) North Off.

4:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Inspector General) North Off.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Department of Military and Veterans North Off.
Affairs)

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

3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Department of Conservation & Natural North Off.
Resources)

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018

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

1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board) North Off.

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

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board) North Off.

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

3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Department of Community & Economic North Off.
Development)

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2018

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Department of Health) North Off.
C A N C E L L E D

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Department of Health & Human Services) North Off.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Hrg. Rm. 1
Department of Drug & Alcohol) North Off.

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

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018

10:30 A.M. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Room 8E-B
(public hearing to consider the East Wing
nominations and confirmations of
Department of Human Services Acting
Secretary Teresa Miller, Department of
Drug & Alcohol Programs Acting Secretary
Jennifer Smith, and Department of Health
Acting Secretary Rachel Levine)

BILLS SIGNED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair wishes to announce the following bills were signed by the President (Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack) in the presence of the Senate:

SB 354 and SB 894.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Folmer.

Senator FOLMER. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess to the call of the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate stands in recess to the call of the President pro tempore.

AFTER RECESS

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

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

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cambria, Senator Langerholc.

Senator LANGERHOLC. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at 11:11 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 10:59 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.