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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

SESSION OF 2019 203RD OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 41

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, September 25, 2019

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

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor John K. Fetterman) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend ANGELO PIERRI, Pastor of Light of the World Church, Minisink Hills, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord, in Your name we pray today. We are so grateful for all the blessings You have already given, are giving, and will give this governing body, and in the State of Pennsylvania. You have blessed this amazing Commonwealth from its founding through turbulent times, as well as abundant times, and You have always been faithful to us. We come to You today as we begin a new Session, a new season of governing our beautiful State. You have called these dedicated and devoted men and women into service here and have made a way, sometimes where there was no way, for them to be here today. Who You call, You equip, and provide all that is needed for the task.

Lord, we open this Session with prayer because prayer can go where we cannot go. Prayer can do what we cannot do. Bless these leaders, Lord, with wisdom, discernment, moral clarity, inner strength, a heart of excellence, and a passionate sense of purpose. Help them to know that when they face all the varied challenges and tasks of governing, they are not alone, for You are with them.

Lord, give them direction when the path seems clouded. Give them clarity when the answer is not apparent. Give them courage of decision to do what is right when pressured to do what is popular. Give them stability and boldness when all around them seems to be shaken, and give them diversity of thought but unity of heart and vision. Let there be no division among them, but as they discuss and present ideas and policy and problem solving, keep them focused on the goal and objective of caring for, protecting, and benefiting the citizens of Pennsylvania with every opportunity to live up to their full potential.

Lord, supply godly counsel when needed and help this body align their thoughts, plans, decisions, and actions with Your truth and with Your heart. Lord, protect them from all harm, expose and destroy the plans of evil and keep them safe, shielded, secured, and guarded with their families and all their soldiers in the

cause of government as well. Encourage them to choose faith over fear, courage over intimidation, and resolve over turning back.

Lastly, Lord, be their hope in times of discouragement and be their light in times of darkness. Be their refuge when the storm breaks through, and lead them into all truth and righteousness. It is no easy task they begin today, but as we continue to seek You, as we are today, and call upon You for Your divine intervention, we can know that somehow, some way, You will work all things out, and then we can truly say today, and every day, all is well. Thank you, Lord, this day, in Jesus' name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Pastor Pierri, who is the guest today of Senator Scavello.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

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

September 25, 2019

HB 17, 1100 and 1671 -- Committee on Finance.

HB 301 -- Committee on Game and Fisheries.

HB 342 -- Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy.

HB 365 -- Committee on Judiciary.

HB 518 -- Committee on Education.

HB 847 -- Committee on Health and Human Services.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator HUTCHINSON, from the Committee on Finance, reported the following bill:

HB 1085 (Pr. No. 1321)

An Act repealing the act of June 22, 1935 (P.L.414, No.182), known as the State Personal Property Tax Act.

Senator MASTRIANO, from the Committee on Intergovernmental Operations, reported the following bill:

SB 398 (Pr. No. 380)

An Act amending the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the Regulatory Review Act, further providing for definitions,

for proposed regulations and procedures for review, for final-form regulations and final-omitted regulations and procedures for review and for procedures for subsequent review of disapproved final-form or final-omitted regulations.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

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

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Yudichak and Senator Muth, and legislative leaves for Senator Leach and Senator Anthony Williams.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Bartolotta and Senator Yaw, and a legislative leave for Senator Brooks.

Senator Costa requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Yudichak and Senator Muth, and legislative leaves for Senator Leach and Senator Anthony Williams.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of June 17, 2019; June 18, 2019; and June 19, 2019, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of June 17, 2019; June 18, 2019; and June 19, 2019.

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

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

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

YEA-49

Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Street
Aument	Farnese	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Gordner	Muth	Vogel
Blake	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H
Brooks	Iovino	Sabatina	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Kearney	Santarsiero	Yaw
Collett	Killion	Scarnati	Yudichak
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	
Costa	Laughlin	Schwank	
Dinniman	Leach	Stefano	

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Leach has returned, and his legislative leave is cancelled.

**GUEST OF SENATOR SCOTT F. MARTIN
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce to the Senate a very special guest from my district, Thomas Haines. I recognize him not only as my district office's newest intern, but also for his incredible wrestling career. Thomas Haines attended Solanco High School from 2011 to 2014, where he earned 174 wins on the mat and the distinction of being the most winning wrestler of all time in the Lancaster-Lebanon League. More significantly, Thomas became the 12th wrestler in the history of the PIAA to win State championships in all 4 years of his high school career. He would later go on to wrestle for Lock Haven University in the 285-pound division, where he amassed 93 wins and advanced to the NCAA Division 1 wrestling tournament for 3 consecutive years. He is currently in the process of finishing his schooling while interning in my district office. In the short time he has been with us, he has displayed many of the characteristics that brought him success on the mat. He is smart, capable, and driven, and I have no doubt he will continue to be successful in his future pursuits.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Thomas Haines.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Martin please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

**GUEST OF SENATOR MARIO M. SCAVELLO
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator SCAVELLO. Mr. President, I rise to introduce my constituent and friend, Pastor Angelo Pierri, who served as guest Chaplain today and offered the opening prayer for Session. Pastor Angelo is the senior and founding pastor of the Light of the World Church, a non-denominational church set in the beautiful hills of the Delaware Water Gap. The church began 20 years ago with eight people in a basement and is now situated on a 35-acre campus that houses 30 different church ministries, including Jo's Pantry and Jo's Closet, named after Pastor Angelo's wife, who is deceased, feeding and clothing many of the needy in our community, along with housing a community-based program for developmentally delayed young adults and also working closely with the Pregnancy Resource Center in Monroe County.

Before becoming a minister, Pastor Angelo had a long and successful career in marriage and family therapy and addiction counseling, putting himself through graduate and undergraduate school as a musician. Pastor Angelo has three children and five amazing and beautiful grandchildren. He lives in the mountain-top community of Lake Naomi in Pocono Pines. He enjoys biking, jogging, swimming, reading, and, most importantly, having coffee with his son, family dinners, and overwhelming his grandchildren with hugs and kisses.

Pastor Angelo is honored to serve God by serving God's people. Please join me in giving Pastor Angelo Pierri a warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Scavello please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

GUEST OF SENATOR PATRICK M. BROWNE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lehigh, Senator Browne.

Senator BROWNE. Mr. President, I am pleased to welcome to the Senate Chamber an intern in our Allentown district office who is with us today, Bart Burda. Bart is a graduate of Parkland High School, which is in the 16th Senatorial District. He currently is attending Lehigh Carbon Community College, where he is pursuing an associate's degree in aviation science. An outstanding student, he is part of the school's Honors Scholar Program. Through his service and commitment to the community, in 2018, Bart obtained the rank of Eagle Scout, which, by attending Eagle Scout events in our districts, we all know how important and how much work and commitment attaining Eagle Scout takes. Bart's goal and lifelong dream is to become a pilot and is working to get his pilot's license, something he expects to accomplish in the fall. Hopefully, I can be on one of his inaugural flights when he gets his license. He is a hardworking young man doing tremendous service for the people in the 16th Senatorial District.

Please join me in giving Bart a warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Browne please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Muth has returned, and her temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN P. BLAKE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna, Senator Blake.

Senator BLAKE. Mr. President, before I present a resolution, I first welcome two guests who are with us in the gallery today, Charlotte Hood, originally from Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, in my 22nd Senatorial District. She is a very active 85-year-old residing at Cornwall Manor in Cornwall, PA. She received a lifesaving and life-changing permanent colostomy in February 2019 during emergency surgery for diverticulitis. She is joined by Kelly Clark, Charlotte's cousin, who is also originally from Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, in my district. She currently works as a manager of cash control for Hershey Entertainment and Resorts, and she has become a caregiver to Charlotte and an advocate for others who have struggled with conditions which have led to the need to undergo an ostomy procedure. Please join me in welcoming Charlotte and Kelly and offer a warm Senate welcome to our guests in the gallery.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Blake please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SENATE RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Senators BLAKE, FONTANA, STREET, MARTIN, J. WARD, LEACH, HUGHES, SCHWANK, VOGEL, PHILLIPS-HILL, MASTRIANO, BROWNE, MENSCH, TARTAGLIONE, BREWSTER, AUMENT and BARTOLOTTA, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 220**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing October 5, 2019, as "Ostomy Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna, Senator Blake.

Senator BLAKE. Mr. President, this resolution recognizes October 5 as "Ostomy Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania. An ostomy is a type of surgery that creates an opening, known medically as a stoma, in the abdomen that allows for the removal of bodily waste when a person has lost normal function of digestive or urinary systems due to a birth defect, colorectal cancer, bladder cancer, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and other medical conditions. An ostomy is also necessary in cases of severe abdominal or pelvic trauma resulting from accidents or injuries sustained during military service. Approximately 725,000 to 1 million Americans have undergone an ostomy, with approximately 100,000 new ostomy procedures performed each year. This procedure, Mr. President, is often lifesaving. I again recognize our two guests in the gallery who are here in support of this resolution and appreciate the support of the Members in approving this resolution in the Pennsylvania State Senate.

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.

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 Kim Ward.

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

CALENDAR

BILL ON CONCURRENCE IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE AMENDMENTS AS AMENDED

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS
TO SENATE AMENDMENTS AS AMENDED

HB 265 (Pr. No. 2579) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in preliminary provisions, providing for career information and recruitment; in terms and courses of study, further providing for Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence; in vocational education, further providing for advisory committees, providing for a workforce development program clearinghouse and for PAsmart online career resource center, further providing for career and technical education equipment grants and providing for utilization of credits; establishing the Schools-to-Work Program and providing for powers and duties of the Department of Labor and Industry; providing for classification of program code; in transfers of credits between institutions of higher education, further providing for definitions, for duties of public institutions of higher education and State-related institutions, for Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee and for duties of department; replacing references to "vocational-technical" with "career and technical," replacing references to "vocational" with "career and technical" and replacing references to "vocation" with "career and technical"; deleting references to vocational school districts; and renaming the State Board for Vocational Education as the State Board of Career and Technical Education.

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate amendments, as further amended by the Senate, to House Bill No. 265?

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, as further amended by the Senate, to House Bill No. 265.

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

Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Street
Aument	Farnese	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Gordner	Muth	Vogel
Blake	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H
Brooks	Iovino	Sabatina	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Kearney	Santarsiero	Yaw
Collett	Killion	Scarnati	Yudichak
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	
Costa	Laughlin	Schwank	
Dinniman	Leach	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 inform the House of Representatives accordingly.

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 114, SB 174, HB 233 and HB 330 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

SB 439 (Pr. No. 427) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 28, 1935 (P.L.477, No.193), referred to as the Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits Law, further providing for disability benefits and for definitions.

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 York, Senator Regan.

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of Senate Bill No. 439. This legislation, which I sponsored as chairman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, amends the enforcement officer disability benefits law, better known as Heart and Lung Act. Since 1935, the Heart and Lung Act has been providing a significant benefit to our State and municipal law enforcement officers. Under the law, officers who are injured at work and are temporarily incapacitated from performing job duties receive their full salary and have their medical expenses paid while they recover. However, not all law enforcement officers have been provided this earned benefit, and Senate Bill No. 439 aims to change that. Specifically, this legislation extends the benefit to Fort Indiantown Gap Police; DCNR Rangers including supervisors, operations specialists, and trainees; Office of Inspector General investigative staff; Allegheny County Port Authority Police; Allegheny County Housing Authority Police; Department of Corrections, Bureau of Investigations and Intelligence, commissioned police officers; corrections officers, jail guards, and probation officers employed by participating counties; and campus police officers employed by a participating university.

These men and women who protect their communities and our Commonwealth put their lives on the line every day just as other law enforcement officers do. Therefore, they are deserving of disability benefits when they are injured on the job and are unable to work. As a former member of law enforcement myself, it is my honor to be the one to lead this effort to expand the Heart and Lung Act as a way to thank and recognize the sacrifices of those who have committed themselves to a dangerous line of work and who serve and protect, despite the possibility of serious injury. I respectfully request that my colleagues join me in support of not only Senate Bill No. 439, but of these fine men and women who deserve this excellent benefit.

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

Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Street
Aument	Farnese	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Gordner	Muth	Vogel
Blake	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H
Brooks	Iovino	Sabatina	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Kearney	Santarsiero	Yaw
Collett	Killion	Scarnati	Yudichak
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	
Costa	Laughlin	Schwank	
Dinniman	Leach	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.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 473 (Pr. No. 1190) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in minors, further providing for sale of tobacco and for use of tobacco in schools prohibited; making a conforming amendment to Title 53; and making a related repeal.

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 Dauphin, Senator DiSanto.

Senator DiSANTO. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to Senate Bill No. 473. The adverse health effects of tobacco are both well documented and well known, and smoking rates have been in decline for decades. While I am no proponent of smoking, tobacco is a lawful substance and of-age legal adults should have the right to choose whether or not to consume it. Age 18 has long been recognized as the age of adulthood in which our citizens are lawfully old enough to vote, enter legal contracts, fight and die for our country in the military, and, in effect, elect to have an abortion.

Raising the minimum purchase age of tobacco to 21 erodes the rights and decisionmaking responsibilities that comes with adulthood. Tobacco 21 as a method to discourage young people

from smoking is largely irrelevant to many teens' decision to smoke as very few buy cigarettes at a retail outlet. The majority get tobacco from friends or family in the same way teens consume alcohol before age 21. Research about adolescence smoking suggests it has little to do with the legal age for buying cigarettes and much more to do with peer pressure or making statements against parents and other authority figures. We also know that social determinants of health such as income, family structure, and education are strongly linked to adolescent smoking behaviors. Rather than government infringing on a legal adult's right to purchase tobacco, there are other options to decrease smoking, such as minimizing the visibility and appeal of tobacco products in society, bans on smoking in public, and continuing our proven tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator SCAVELLO. Mr. President, you just heard reasons why you should not vote for this bill. I am going to tell you reasons why you should. That 18-year-old individual stands with 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds, the peer pressure that is involved there, and the 21-year-old hangs out with 19-, 20-, 21-, 22-year-olds. The difference is, you have a little bit more time to think about the bad habit that you can encounter by smoking. At a young age, that 16-year-old looks up to the 18-year-old. By delaying it, you are really delaying a decision that that young man or young lady might not make in the future. Just look at the billions of dollars that we spend every year in our hospitals because of cigarette-related illnesses, billions. So when we talk about this, let us think about the future. Let us think about the savings in the future that might drive down the cost of healthcare by not having young men and young ladies start smoking at an earlier age. You are right, that 16-year-old or 17-year-old gets it from other people. He gets it from folks who are 18 years old and 19 years old. That is who they are getting the cigarettes from. Let us stop that. This is one way that we can, not allowing that 18-year-old to buy.

There was another comment about serving our country. This does not change any rules on all of the Army depots, all of the various military properties in our Commonwealth. This law does not affect them whatsoever. So the soldier, the Air Force person, whoever, they can buy their cigarettes, and this rule and this law does not affect them. I encourage the Members for a positive vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Bartolotta has returned, and her temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

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-43

Argall	Costa	Laughlin	Stefano
Aument	Dinniman	Leach	Street
Baker	Farnese	Martin	Tartaglione

Bartolotta	Fontana	Mensch	Tomlinson
Blake	Gordner	Muth	Vogel
Boscola	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Brewster	Hutchinson	Sabatina	Ward, Kim
Brooks	Iovino	Santarsiero	Williams, Anthony H
Browne	Kearney	Scarnati	Williams, Lindsey
Collett	Killion	Scavello	Yudichak
Corman	Langerholz	Schwank	

NAY-6

DiSanto	Mastriano	Regan	Yaw
Hughes	Pittman		

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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 485, HB 510, HB 511, HB 512, SB 688, SB 689, SB 690, SB 691 and SB 692 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 694 (Pr. No. 1191) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 58 (Oil and Gas) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in development, further providing for well permits.

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

YEA-49

Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Street
Aument	Farnese	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Gordner	Muth	Vogel
Blake	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H
Brooks	Iovino	Sabatina	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Kearney	Santarsiero	Yaw
Collett	Killion	Scarnati	Yudichak
Corman	Langerholz	Scavello	
Costa	Laughlin	Schwank	
Dinniman	Leach	Stefano	

NAY-0

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 716 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

SENATE AT EASE

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, could we be at ease for a short moment while I ask the Members of the Republican Caucus to join me at the Leader's podium?

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests that Republican Members please join him at the Leader's podium. Without objection, the Senate will be at ease.

(The Senate was at ease.)

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1170 (Pr. No. 2129) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act prohibiting the employment of unauthorized employees; requiring construction industry employers to verify the Social Security numbers of employees; and imposing penalties.

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

MUTH AMENDMENT A2909 OFFERED

Senator MUTH offered the following amendment No. A2909:

Amend Bill, page 4, line 10, by inserting after "longer":
Individuals who are on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipient list as of the effective date of this section are not considered to be an unauthorized employee for the purpose of this law.

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

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Muth.

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, this amendment would insure that DREAMers and future participants of the DACA program would be protected from being misidentified through the E-Verify system, an issue that continues to plague hardworking people processed throughout the faulty system. Protecting DREAMers is not only good for Pennsylvania business, but it is also the moral thing to do until there is a Federal DREAMers act passed to protect these people who often pay tax dollars in all of our States across the nation. There were over 4,870 DACA recipients in Pennsylvania as of August 2018, and to pass this without protections for these workers--I hope that this amendment will be considered for an affirmative vote and that these workers will be protected. Thank you.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, briefly, I ask for a negative vote. I believe a similar amendment, if not an exact amendment, was offered in the House and defeated. If we pass this bill without amending it today it will go straight to the Governor, which he has agreed to sign and begin to put these protections in place for our construction workers in Pennsylvania. So I respectfully ask for a negative vote.

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

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

YEA-7

Blake	Haywood	Muth	Williams, Lindsey
Collett	Kearney	Schwank	

NAY-42

Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Street
Aument	Farnese	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Gordner	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Boscola	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Brewster	Hutchinson	Regan	Ward, Kim
Brooks	Iovino	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H
Browne	Killion	Santarsiero	Yaw
Corman	Langerholc	Scarnati	Yudichak
Costa	Laughlin	Scavello	
Dinniman	Leach	Stefano	

Less than a majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the negative.

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 Browne.

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

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

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Kearney.

Senator KEARNEY. Mr. President, I am pleased to see a bill from our Republican colleagues in the House that is decidedly pro-union. As you know, building trade unions already utilize the E-Verify system internally and insure the highest degree of legal compliance, skilled training, and workplace safety on every worksite that they are part of. This bill will definitely aid union

contractors in securing a greater number of construction contracts throughout the Commonwealth. I strongly support making the market fairer for unions.

However, I have grave concerns about the real intentions and effects of this bill, which are to divide working people. We are in the midst of an era of heightened racism, hate crimes, and xenophobia. This bill encourages a see-something-say-something approach that is inherently based on ethnic discrimination. While the current bill forbids the department from investigating complaints that are solely based on race, color, or national origin, we know these discriminatory complaints will still come in. The bill would still effectively multiply division and xenophobic suspicion. The State should not be in the business of stoking division in our communities and workplaces.

As an architect and a small business owner, I am worried about the negative effects that this bill would have on small businesses and on work-authorized immigrants. Small businesses spend \$81 million annually on E-Verify, according to Bloomberg, and this new government requirement is going to take small business owners' attention and resources away from their core work to deal with and pay for compliance. The databases that feed into E-Verify can and do result in false positives for both U.S. citizens and work-authorized immigrants alike, which could cost over 2,000 jobs in Pennsylvania.

In States where this type of bill passed and was implemented, workers have left some industries in droves; in some cases, causing small businesses to lose hundreds of thousands in revenue and to shut down. I am also concerned that an E-Verify requirement will encourage the misclassification of workers and create an even more complex web of subcontractors and independent contractors to avoid the cost of compliance. The more complex this web gets, the more opaque responsibility is among employers. We could end up with less training and less safe worksites. This is the opposite of what labor stands for, so we need to be vigilant on this bill's effect.

Promoting union jobs and safe workplaces does not need to come at the expense of other workers, especially those who already live in danger because of the nation's broken immigration system. We need to recognize that the construction industry at large clearly depends on underground labor, and we need a path to legal and safe employment for these needed workers. Further, our economy, as a whole, depends on immigrants and we need to create paths to legal employment in order to achieve further economic growth; fair immigration systems and fair labor systems must support one another and must go forward together.

At the Federal level, comprehensive immigration reform is a must, and bills like these will only divide us. This is a bill that is meant to divide working people. Punishing employers will not solve our immigration problems. Going after immigrants will not solve the shameful war against organized labor. We need to advance legislation that addresses the greater enemies of all working people. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington, Senator Bartolotta.

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I rise in support of House Bill No. 1170. This bill, actually, will apply to everyone in all of the new hires in construction, not just those of minority status, if you will. This is to protect those employers and the employees. This is not a racially based or motivated piece of legislation. It simply enforces the Federal law in place, and I

look for an affirmative vote. This will help tremendously all of our building trade friends across the Commonwealth, and I ask for an affirmative vote.

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-46

Argall	Dinniman	Martin	Street
Aument	DiSanto	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Gordner	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Blake	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Hutchinson	Regan	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Iovino	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H
Brooks	Kearney	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Killion	Scarnati	Yaw
Collett	Langerholc	Scavello	Yudichak
Corman	Laughlin	Schwank	
Costa	Leach	Stefano	

NAY-3

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same without amendments.

HB 1557 (Pr. No. 2193) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of September 24, 1968 (P.L.1040, No.318), known as the Coal Refuse Disposal Control Act, further providing for designating areas unsuitable for coal refuse disposal.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-46

Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Street
Aument	Fontana	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Baker	Gordner	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Haywood	Muth	Vogel
Blake	Hughes	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Hutchinson	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Iovino	Regan	Williams, Anthony H
Brooks	Kearney	Sabatina	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Killion	Scarnati	Yaw
Collett	Langerholc	Scavello	Yudichak
Corman	Laughlin	Schwank	
Dinniman	Leach	Stefano	

NAY-3

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same without amendments.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Kim Ward has returned, and her temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 22 and **SB 60** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 81 (Pr. No. 55) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in marriage license, further providing for restrictions on issuance of license.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 217, SB 256, SB 258 and **SB 284** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

HB 305 (Pr. No. 2574) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for an inventory of State-owned assets and county-owned assets for the development of mobile broadband services in unserved areas and underserved areas of this Commonwealth and for the Statewide Mobile Radio and Microwave System.

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 327 (Pr. No. 309) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in powers and duties of the Department of General Services and its departmental administrative and advisory boards and commissions, providing for report of State facilities owned or leased.

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 OVER IN ORDER

SB 337 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 351 (Pr. No. 341) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in assault, further providing for the offense of aggravated assault.

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

HB 374 (Pr. No. 2062) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 27 (Environmental Resources) and 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for Keystone Tree Restricted Account; and, in registration of vehicles, providing for contributions to the Keystone Tree Restricted Account.

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

HB 407, SB 438 and SB 447 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 470 (Pr. No. 1186) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for an inventory of State-owned assets for the development of mobile broadband services in unserved areas and underserved areas of this Commonwealth.

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 493, SB 494 and SB 495 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 531 (Pr. No. 566) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, providing for findings regarding firearms and ammunition; and, in preemptions, providing for regulation of firearms and ammunition.

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

SB 531 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 531, Printer's No. 566, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.
The PRESIDENT. The bill will be placed on the Calendar.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 532 and SB 722 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 750 (Pr. No. 1188) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in powers and duties of the Department of General Services and its departmental administrative and advisory boards and commissions, further providing for grounds, buildings and monuments in general and providing for transfer the authority of Lieutenant Governor's Mansion; and making a related repeal.

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 763 and HB 775 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 790 (Pr. No. 1051) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act relating to conventional wells and the development of oil, gas and coal; imposing powers and duties on the Department of Environmental Protection; providing for preliminary provisions, for general requirements, for enforcement and remedies, for related funds and for miscellaneous provisions; and making an appropriation.

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

HB 956 and HB 1222 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 470, ADOPTED

Senator CORMAN, without objection, called up from page 9 of the Calendar, House Concurrent Resolution No. 470, entitled:

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing October 13, 2019, as the 244th birthday of the United States Navy.

On the question, Will the Senate concur in the resolution?

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in House Concurrent Resolution No. 470.

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

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Iovino.

Senator IOVINO. Mr. President, it was an honor and a privilege to wear the uniform of the United States Navy for 23 years, instilling in me the core values of honor, courage, and commitment. Today I rise to celebrate the upcoming 244th birthday of the U.S. Navy and recognize the central role the U.S. Navy plays in protecting peace and stability around the globe. When our Founding Fathers adopted a resolution to establish a navy, they acknowledged the role that a strong maritime force plays in securing our shores and preserving our way of life. Continental Congress authorized our first fleet of ships, including the USS Alfred, USS Andrew, USS Doria, USS Cabot, and USS Columbus. They were soon joined in the force by USS Providence and USS Wasp. From that small start to today's fleet of more than 430 vessels, and an active duty roster of more than 340,000 sail-

ors, the U.S. Navy is prepared to defend democracy and serve as a force for good all around the globe.

Over the years, technology has changed the methods and reach of engagement; however, the core mission of the service has remained the same: to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas. The demand for a navy to protect our way of life is so sacred that it was included as a provision in the United States Constitution in Article I.

On its 244th birthday, the United States Navy can be proud of the service it has rendered to this nation and its continued role of being a pillar of peace throughout the world. Mr. President, I ask for an affirmative vote on this resolution recognizing October 13, 2019, as the 244th birthday of the United States Navy. Thank you.

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

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

YEA-49

Table with 4 columns listing names of senators who voted 'YEA'.

NAY-0

A majority of 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senators MASTRIANO, PHILLIPS-HILL, VOGEL, ARGALL, J. WARD, BROWNE, MARTIN, HUTCHINSON, PITTMAN, SCHWANK, MENSCH and AUMENT, by unanimous consent, offered Senate Resolution No. 221, entitled:

A Resolution commemorating Pennsylvania's contribution to the Allied victory in the First World War.

On the question, Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Franklin, Senator Mastroiano.

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, I rise today, together with Senator Phillips-Hill, Senator Vogel, Senator Argall, Senator Judy Ward, Senator Browne, Senator Martin, Senator Hutch-

inson, Senator Pittman, Senator Schwank, Senator Mensch, and Senator Aument, to offer a resolution to commemorate Pennsylvania's magnificent contribution to the Allied victory in the First World War. A quarter of all American troops fighting in this war were Pennsylvanians. Tomorrow, September 26, marks the 101st anniversary of the beginning of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the largest and one of the most costliest battles America ever fought. The battle raged for 47 days and included 1.2 million Americans, supported by 600,000 French troops. When the armistice was signed on 11 November 1918, the Americans had suffered 10,278 soldiers killed in action, and 26,252 wounded in action.

When the United States entered the Great War in April 1917, it was woefully unprepared. We had barely 200,000 men in uniform, but only a year later, there were 4 million, half of whom made it to France to fight. As the Allies awaited the arrival of the Americans in early 1918, the Germans launched a series of five attacks along the western front and knocked the French and British out of the war before we could tip the balance of power against them. But American soldiers and Marines arrived in the nick of time to blunt the German attacks, which culminated during the second battle of the Marne in July of 1918. A month after this hard-fought victory, the American First Army, under General John J. Pershing, was created and Pennsylvania was at the heart of this powerful military organization, which included three divisions comprised of a large number of Pennsylvanians - the 28th, 79th, and 80th infantry divisions. These included young men from across our Commonwealth who, at great cost and sacrifice to secure freedom, helped pave the way for that glorious Allied victory.

The 28th division was formed from our own National Guard, and it was celebrated at the time as one of the best American units fighting on the western front. The 28th still serves our State today with distinction and honor. The 79th and 80th divisions also include a large number of Pennsylvanians. These three divisions participated in some of the bloodiest fighting in the Argonne forests and the Meuse valley, facing some of Germany's best forces. In the summer of 1918, the Allied Supreme Commander, French General Ferdinand Foch, planned a daring counteroffensive to end the war. The Americans willingly accepted the most difficult area into which to fight, the dense Argonne forest and the vast Meuse river valley, thus the name Meuse-Argonne Offensive. The Meuse-Argonne Offensive kicked off early in the morning on 26 September 1918, and it was followed by other attacks from the French, British, and Belgium armies along the western front. The Meuse-Argonne Offensive was central to victory in that its main purpose was to draw off all of the German's strategic reserves, which it did, and the second was to threaten or sever the vital Saint Paul Messes rail line. The loss of this critical line of supply would be catastrophic to the German Imperial Army.

Contrary to General Pershing's optimism that American forces would swiftly advance across the Meuse-Argonne region, fighting was bitter and the advance slow, painful, and costly. Rather than a matter of days, it took weeks to break out. When the Americans finally broke out on November 1, there were 1.2 million Americans in the line, with 120,000 casualties left behind. The fighting was brutal and costly and included armored warfare, air attacks, seemingly endless artillery barrages, hand-to-hand fighting, and even poisonous gas. The Meuse-Argonne Offensive

played a decisive role in defeating the German army and achieving Allied victory on 11 November 1918, which we still celebrate and commemorate as Veterans Day. In this historic struggle, Pennsylvania was one of America's key contributors to success. This is personified by the great record of the 28th division, 79th division, and 80th division, including a large number of Pennsylvanians. With determination and devotion, our sons broke the enemy's defensive lines and delivered victory for the Allies. In the gospel of John, Chapter 15, Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." In this war, Pennsylvania personified this, and we stood heroically on the front line of freedom with nearly 300,000 Pennsylvanians in uniform.

To commemorate our Commonwealth's sacrifice and heroic contribution to this victory, the largest monument of any State is enshrined in the humble French village of Varennes-en-Argonne. Standing in the shadow of the Argonne forest is a massive Greco-Roman memorial, which is simply called the Pennsylvania Monument, and it honors the State's sons who served in this massive great war. Engraved on this monument is a hard lesson learned by that generation of doughboys who fought so bravely there. It simply says, "The right is more sacred than peace," a profound and costly lesson for the First World War generation echoing across the ages to us today. May we never forget the dedication and determination of the Pennsylvanians who served and fought on the vanguard of freedom during the First World War and, in particular, those who gave the last full measure of devotion during America's largest battle ever fought, the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

Please join me in this resolution to commemorate Pennsylvania's contribution to the Allied victory in the First World War.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators MENSCH, BREWSTER, PHILLIPS-HILL, VOGEL, DINNIMAN, MARTIN, FONTANA, J. WARD, FARNESE, BLAKE, BARTOLOTTA, BROWNE, ARGALL, MASTRIANO, KILLION, BAKER, COSTA and AUMENT, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 222**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee on its 60th anniversary.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator MENSCH. Mr. President, I rise and represent both myself and Senator Brewster as we recognize the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, commonly referred to as LBFC, which was established as a result of Act 195 of 1959. The LBFC is a bipartisan, bicameral legislative service agency consisting of 12 Members of the General Assembly. For the past 60 years, the LBFC has conducted hundreds of projects covering a myriad of important policy and State program areas such as aging, emergency preparedness, rural affairs, transportation, community and

economic development, local government, environmental protection, liquor control, education, health, welfare, game and fisheries, veterans affairs, and many others. As the chairman of the LBFC, I have seen firsthand the incredible work this organization puts forth. Additionally, the LBFC has received multiple impact awards from the National Legislative Performance Evaluation Society acknowledging the excellence of its work.

The LBFC consistently operates in a bipartisan, bicameral manner with its four officers representing the four Caucuses of the General Assembly. Its mission remains to provide Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly with timely, accurate, and unbiased information, analysis, and performance evaluation to inform their policy decisions. Over its last 60 years of existence, the LBFC has performed a vital and necessary role in Pennsylvania's legislative process: helping to insure proper accountability and stewardship of public funds and resources, finding ways to improve government, identifying critical issues to safeguard public resources, and strengthening government control systems.

Therefore, Senator Brewster and I urge our colleagues to support this resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, and we express appreciation for the significant contribution that the Members and staff of LBFC have made to the State legislative process.

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 KILLION, AUMENT, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA, BLAKE, BREWSTER, BROWNE, COLLETT, COSTA, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, HUGHES, IOVINO, MARTIN, MASTRIANO, MENSCH, PHILLIPS-HILL, SANTARSIERO, SCHWANK, TARTAGLIONE and J. WARD, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 223**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of September 2019 as "Sepsis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Killion.

Senator KILLION. Mr. President, this afternoon I offer this resolution recognizing the month of September 2019 as "Sepsis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. Sepsis is a public health crisis both in the Commonwealth and nationwide, estimated to take a life every 2 minutes. Two hundred and seventy thousand people die from sepsis each year in the United States. This totals more than the opioid overdoses, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined. Sepsis is the leading cause of death in United States hospitals, and related hospitalization costs are upwards of \$27 billion annually, a staggering figure. Sepsis is preventable and treatable by preventing infections, practicing good hygiene, knowing the signs and symptoms, and acting fast when suspected. Until a cure is found, early recognition and care are vital and are the surest hope for survival and limiting disabilities for survivors. Annually in September, the Hospital and Healthsystem

Association of Pennsylvania, commonly called HAP, holds a sepsis conference focusing on decreasing sepsis mortality and readmissions.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues for favorable consideration of this very important resolution.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators KILLION, ARGALL, BARTOLOTTA, BLAKE, BOSCOLA, BREWSTER, BROWNE, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, GORDNER, MARTIN, MASTRIANO, PHILLIPS-HILL, SCHWANK, VOGEL, J. WARD, K. WARD, PITTMAN, MENSCH, BAKER, AUMENT and YUDICHAK, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 224**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the 375th anniversary of William Penn's birth.

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

Senators BARTOLOTTA, VOGEL, MARTIN, IOVINO, MENSCH, DINNIMAN, J. WARD, COLLETT, KILLION, K. WARD, HUGHES, SCHWANK, BROWNE, TARTAGLIONE, PITTMAN, COSTA, PHILLIPS-HILL, HUTCHINSON, REGAN, MASTRIANO, YUDICHAK, BAKER, AUMENT and BREWSTER, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 225**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the week of September 17 through 23, 2019, as "Constitution Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington, Senator Bartolotta.

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, the United States Constitution adopted the principles upon which our Republic was established, including the liberties, freedoms, and inalienable rights we the people, as Americans, hold very dear. The celebration of the Constitution was started by the Daughters of the American Revolution, or DAR. In 1955, DAR petitioned Congress to set aside September 17 through 23 annually to be dedicated for the observance of "Constitution Week." The resolution was later adopted by the United States Congress and signed into law on August 2, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. September 17, 2019, marked the 232nd anniversary of the framing of the Constitution by the Constitutional Convention. This is why it is appropriate to record official recognition to this historic document, its memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate it. The importance of honoring our United States Constitution rings especially true to me, as my sixth great-grandfather, Captain Samuel Wells, fought in the American Revolution, which led to the establishment of our Constitution. Together, we need to urge all Pennsylvanians to reaffirm the ideals that the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guard-

ian of our liberties. As George Washington said, "the Constitution is the guide, which I never will abandon."

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Constitution Week in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators BOSCOLA, COSTA, HUGHES, FONTANA, BLAKE, SCHWANK, BROWNE, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, TARTAGLIONE, BARTOLOTTA, MASTRIANO and J. WARD, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 226**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of September 2019 as "Vertebral Subluxation Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, I submit my 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 gentlewoman from Northampton, Senator BOSCOLA:)

Mr. President, I rise today to commend the healthcare professionals of the Chiropractic Fellowship of Pennsylvania with this resolution. Their efforts to educate the public on the importance of correcting spinal column issues called vertebral subluxations are very important. A vertebral subluxation happens when one or more bones of the spine move out of position, causing pain and other health problems. Chiropractors are the only licensed professionals who undergo years of training to learn how to properly correct and adjust these problems. We also heard this morning from some Pennsylvania chiropractors about how their healthcare tactics can relieve chronic pain in many instances and avoid dependency on opioid prescriptions.

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

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senators HAYWOOD, BREWSTER, STREET, KEARNEY, FONTANA, DINNIMAN, BARTOLOTTA, HUGHES, SCHWANK, BROWNE, J. WARD, HUTCHINSON, BAKER and COSTA, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 227**, entitled:

A Resolution honoring Fannie Lou Hamer on the 102nd anniversary of her birth, October 6, 2019, in recognition of her vast and valiant efforts to ensure the civil rights of minorities, women and low-income families.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator HAYWOOD. Mr. President, as has already been stated, Fannie Lou Hamer's 102nd birthday would be on October 6 of this year. Fannie Lou Hamer, originally Fannie Lou Townsend, was born on October 6, 1917, in Montgomery County, Mississippi, the youngest of 20 children to a family of cotton sharecroppers. In 1961, during surgery to remove a tumor, she was given a hysterectomy without her consent as part of Mississippi's plan to reduce the number of poor black people in that State. Ms. Hamer later called this the "Mississippi appendectomy," for the disturbingly common practice of involuntary sterilization imposed upon mainly African American women in the South between the 1920s up until the 1970s.

Ms. Hamer was recruited and became involved in the Mississippi freedom struggle. She attended numerous nonviolent protests and helped get African Americans registered to vote. She did not just see voting rights as a civil right or limited to a political one or a moral issue. Ms. Hamer dedicated her life to the fight for civil rights, she worked with the Regional Council of Negro Leadership and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee to organize acts of civil disobedience and to fight racial segregation. Ms. Hamer was threatened, arrested, shot, and beaten in attempts to deter her in the freedom struggle.

In 1964, she was elected to represent the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party at the Democratic National Convention. During that summer, she, along with others, registered over 60,000 new black voters. At the Democratic National Convention they were not seated. However, she did represent the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and made a compelling statement for voting rights and human rights. Her statement, and those along with her, were successfully culminated with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 1 year later. Ms. Hamer continued to support the poor and needy families in Mississippi. In 1971, she helped establish the National Women's Political Caucus, which helped women seek government positions of all kind.

Ms. Hamer died on March 14, 1977, in Mississippi. The organizations that she established to increase business opportunities, voting opportunities, and family needs are longstanding. Ms. Hamer's gravestone is engraved with her famous words taken from a speech that she gave alongside Malcom X in 1964. She said, "I am sick and tired of being sick and tired." That motivated her. So this resolution recognizes Ms. Hamer's fight for civil rights, human rights, and the uplift of those who have been left behind. I request unanimous support from this body.

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 REGAN, PHILLIPS-HILL, DINNIMAN, J. WARD, BARTOLOTTA, BLAKE, FONTANA, BREWSTER, MASTRIANO, SCHWANK, PITTMAN, BAKER, AUMENT and YUDICHAK, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 228**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of October 2019 as "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York, Senator Regan.

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, today I have the privilege of offering a resolution to designate the month of October as "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania. There is a critical need to raise awareness of sudden cardiac arrest and educate people about prevention strategies and how to take immediate action in the case of a cardiac emergency. Every hour of every day we lose a child to SCA, and the majority of those deaths are attributed to detectable and treatable heart conditions that went undiagnosed due to the limited scope of standard sports physicals and well-child check-ups. This year alone, several SCA tragedies have sadly struck teenage children in my legislative district. In addition, thousands more have occurred in our State and across the country, mobilizing efforts to not only bring awareness to SCA, but to implement prevention measures.

Mr. President, in 2013, Peyton Walker, a graduate of Trinity High School in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, tragically died of sudden cardiac arrest at the age of 19. Her mother, Julie Walker, established and now heads The Peyton Walker Foundation, which advocates for the use of electrocardiogram, EKG testing, to screen for underlying electrical issues in the heart which can lead to SCA. The foundation conducts free EKG screening events at schools across Pennsylvania and have screened several thousand students, including my young teenaged boys.

In conjunction with my legislation, Senate Bill No. 836, known as Peyton's Law, I am honored to introduce this resolution recognizing October as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month as part of my ongoing effort to bring attention to this very important issue. I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

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 STREET, KILLION, MUTH, BARTOLOTTA, FONTANA, DINNIMAN, ARGALL, AUMENT, FARNESE, K. WARD, BROWNE, BLAKE, HUGHES, J. WARD and YUDICHAK, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 229**, entitled:

A Resolution designating September 25, 2019, as "Someone You Know Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise, along with my colleague, Senator Killion, to introduce this resolution designating

September 25 as "Someone You Know Day." This resolution highlights the great work of the Independence Blue Cross Foundation and its Someone You Know campaign. This campaign raises awareness about the opioid crisis and helps families, friends, and acquaintances of addicted persons learn that they are not alone, that this crisis affects people across the social and economic spectrum. Indeed, when my father was mayor of Philadelphia, when discussing addiction and recovery, I said it affects every family, from the first family of Philadelphia to yours, but, indeed, it affects families across Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania is experiencing some of the heaviest casualties of the opioid crisis. Nearly everyone in PA, particularly in the five-county region of southeastern PA, knows someone who has abused opioids, been treated, or is in treatment for opioid addiction.

Within the last 20 months, there have been approximately 16,000 emergency room visits related to opioid misuse and overdoses, according to the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. In 2018, 4,413 Pennsylvanians died from drug overdoses, with almost half of these deaths concentrated in the five counties of southeastern Pennsylvania. As a part of this campaign, Independence Blue Cross is now featuring in the main Rotunda of the Capitol today a display highlighting stories of recovery, loss of a loved one to opioid crisis, and how to support someone in recovery. Shining a light on the scope and reach of the crisis is one way we can get more Pennsylvanians help while helping to maintain their dignity.

For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to join Senator Killion and me in recognizing September 25 as Someone You Know Day in Pennsylvania, and I thank all who are out there supporting someone in recovery, offer words of hope and prayer to those who are struggling with addiction, and remind them that we have programs and that there is help out there, and I thank all those who are doing the work each and every day, like our friends at Blue Cross, to make a difference, to get the word out there, to change the lives of our friends, neighbors, and loved ones who are struggling with addiction or who are in the process of recovery.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

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

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

Senators DINNIMAN, LEACH, STREET, MARTIN, BREWSTER, BROWNE, TARTAGLIONE, BLAKE, PHILLIPS-HILL, MASTRIANO and AUMENT, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 230**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing 2019 as the "International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, I finally have an opportunity to express myself as a professor here, even though I am not a scientist. This is the 150th anniversary of the periodic table

of the elements. A number of organizations, especially the American Chemical Society and the Philadelphia section, are using this as an opportunity to educate all of us on the importance of the periodic table. The resolution we have today will proclaim 2019 as the "International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements."

What is this? The periodic table is probably the singular most important advancement in the history of science. The periodic table is a united scientific concept with broad applications, with implications from chemistry, physics, biology, astronomy, and other natural sciences. It is a unique tool which has enabled scientists to predict the appearance and properties of matter on this earth and everywhere in the universe. So, if we are going to talk about technology and advancement, we need to know the history of science. We talk much about the STEM program: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. A knowledge of science and the importance of the periodic table of elements is crucial.

Let me add one other thing to this, if I may. This was certainly a surprise to me, who has been fighting against so many of these Keystone Exams which were given, including the one in biology and science, based on the notion that we are going to test student standards. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's science standards are the oldest in the nation. They are outdated, and if we are saying we are preparing students by testing them on these standards, we need to have our heads examined. These are outdated standards. Fortunately, the science teachers of this Commonwealth, who I support and are united with, have finally forced the department to look at the new science standards that every other State has adopted. This brings into question this whole matter of how we test in science, but that is another question. What I am trying to say here is let us celebrate science, but let us make sure in Pennsylvania, just as we educate our population of students on the periodic table of elements, that we finally, and at long last, have science standards that are reflective of where we are in science today. We cannot be first in the economy and in technology if we have the oldest science standards in this country.

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 DINNIMAN, FONTANA, KILLION, MARTIN, FARNESE, J. WARD, BREWSTER, BROWNE, BLAKE, SCHWANK, MENSCH, YUDICHAK and AUMENT, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 231**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of September 2019 as "Mushroom Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, we were going to do this at the end of last Session, but we did not have an opportunity to

present. The reason this is so important to me is we produce 60 percent of the mushrooms in Chester County for this nation, and we need to recognize this. We celebrate the mushroom this month. We had a mushroom festival which grew to tens of thousands of people throughout the Kennett Square area. Most of the stuff that was made with mushrooms was excellent, but I must say, mushroom ice cream leaves a lot to be desired, and we need to spend more time trying to figure that one out.

Mushrooms are very nutritious and, as you well know, the portobello mushrooms are now used in many restaurants as a substitute for meat. We have now taken mushrooms and created a new type of hamburger, which is half-mushroom, half-meat, which is more nutritious. Pennsylvania growers produced more than 500 million pounds of mushrooms in the last growing season, and the estimated value of these mushrooms were over \$370 million. This is no small part of our economy, though in Chester County, we have some of the most advanced companies. Agribusiness is still number one, as it is in the Commonwealth, and, as we say in Chester County, it is farm and pharma. The two biggest business are our agriculture business and our pharmaceutical business.

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 DINNIMAN, FONTANA, HAYWOOD, HUGHES, J. WARD, TARTAGLIONE, BREWSTER, COSTA and AUMENT, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 232**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing October 2, 2019, as "Energy Efficiency Day" and October 19, 2019, as "Clean Energy/Solar Tour Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, energy efficiency, as we all know, is very important. I cannot speak for the whole Commonwealth about this particular day, but I believe it is being celebrated, certainly in the southeast, it is going to be a major event recognizing October 2, 2019, as "Energy Efficiency Day." There will be various demonstrations of how we can be more efficient in our use of energy, saving us money and saving our natural resources. On October 19, 2019, throughout the Commonwealth, but again especially in southeastern Pennsylvania, it is called "Clean Energy/Solar Tour Day," in which we will be visiting energy-efficient facilities that are using solar power in place of other fuels.

In summary, energy efficiency is important. It is one way we can prevent global warming from occurring as quickly as it is occurring, and it should be noted that there are over 5,000 residents already in Chester County who work in the field of clean and renewable energy, 3,500 of those 5,000 have been doing so locally. So, energy efficiency not only saves our natural re-

sources, not only slows down global warming, but is providing for meaningful employment and well-paying jobs.

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.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now proceed to consideration of all bills reported from committees for the first time at today's Session.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bills were as follows:

SB 398 and HB 1085.

And said bills having been considered for the first time,

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

10:00 A.M. URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING PSU Altoona
(public hearing on blight) 1431 12th Ave.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2019

1:00 P.M. SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING Moon Twp. SD
FORMULA COMMISSION (to consider Admin. Bldg.
special education funding issues)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2019

10:00 A.M. JUDICIARY (public hearing on the Hrg. Rm. 1
Statute of Limitations with respect to North Off.
claims of sexual abuse)

10:00 A.M. SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING Northwest IU.
FORMULA COMMISSION (to consider Edinboro
special education funding issues)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019

10:00 A.M. JUDICIARY (public hearing to review the Hrg. Rm. 1
recommendations and other conclusions North Off.
contained in the report prepared by the
Pennsylvania Department of Corrections
entitled "Sentinel Event Reviews of
Parolee Homicides.")

11:00 A.M. AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS Room 8E-A
(public hearing to consider Industrial East Wing
Hemp in Pennsylvania and Senate Bill
No. 335)

12:45 P.M. EDUCATION (to consider Senate Bills Rules Cmte.
No. 331 and 836; and House Bill No. 49) Conf. Rm.

Off the Floor APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Rules Cmte.
Bills No. 61, 94, 320, 332, 412, 413, 693, Conf. Rm.
750, 790 and 819; and House Bills No.
227, 375, 684, 754, 859, 947 and 1085)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019

9:00 A.M. EDUCATION (public hearing on charter Hrg. Rm. 1
school entities) North Off.

9:00 A.M. STATE GOVERNMENT (S) and STATE Room B31
GOVERNMENT (H) (joint public hearing Main Capitol
on House Resolution No. 206, Concurrent
Resolution calling for a Convention of
States)

9:30 A.M. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND Room 8E-B
ENERGY (to consider Senate Bills No. East Wing
726, 727, 891 and Senate Resolution No.
191; and a briefing to discuss the Regional
Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI))

10:00 A.M. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (to consider Room 8E-A
House Bills No. 917, 1034, 1035, 1036, East Wing
1174, 1180, 1379 and 1405)

10:30 A.M. COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND Senate Maj.
RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT Caucus Rm.
(informational meeting on the economic
development opportunities of the data
center industry)

11:30 A.M. VETERANS AFFAIRS AND Room 8E-A
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to East Wing
consider Senate Bills No. 908 and 910)

12:30 P.M. AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS Room 461
(to consider Senate Bill No. 798) Main Capitol

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019

9:30 A.M. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Hrg. Rm. 1
(public hearing on the Medical Assistance North Off.
Statewide Preferred Drug List)

9:30 A.M. LABOR AND INDUSTRY (public hearing on Room 8E-B
private changing facilities for disabled East Wing
children and adults)

9:30 A.M. URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING (to Room 461
consider Senate Bills No. 329 and 334; Main Capitol
and House Bill No. 1578)

10:00 A.M. FINANCE (to consider Senate Bill No. 74; Room 8E-A
and House Bill No. 17) East Wing

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019

9:00 A.M. COMMUNICATIONS AND Room 8E-A
TECHNOLOGY (public hearing to discuss East Wing
the consolidation of the State's IT services
and making improvements to cybersecurity
capabilities)

9:00 A.M. URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING (S) Hrg. Rm. 1
and URBAN AFFAIRS (H) (joint public North Off.
hearing on Senate Bill No. 775; and House
Bill No. 1559)

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, today marks 4,826 days since the Pennsylvania legislature last raised the minimum

wage. This is 13 years, and it is far too long. Despite overwhelming public support for a higher minimum wage, and despite the strong advocacy of many of my Senate colleagues on this issue, my minimum wage legislation was not brought to the floor in June, and it continues to await action in committee. Senate Bill No. 12 deserves consideration. The bill's contents are not obscure or ambiguous. We have had ample time to review the language. I introduced Senate Bill No. 12 more than 6 months ago, and it has been the subject of extensive public debate.

Mr. President, regardless of where any individual Senator stands on Senate Bill No. 12, or minimum wage in general, this issue is so vital to the public interest that it must be debated in this Chamber, just like it was here 13 years ago. I recently reviewed the Legislative Journal entries from that lively discourse and was astonished, but not surprised, by how much history seems to be repeating itself now. In 2006, one of my distinguished colleagues observed, and I quote, (*reading:*)

In New York, they make a lot more money. In New Jersey, they make a lot more money. In Maryland, they make a lot more money, in States all around us. States all across the country are moving on this issue. Are the workers in Pennsylvania not equal to the workers around the rest of the country?

Critics of my legislation at that time expressed their concern about the impact on businesses, particularly small businesses, by raising the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.15 an hour. Opponents of the bill said we were making too much of a leap forward, and perhaps they had a point. However, with the benefit of hindsight, we now know that a \$7.15 minimum wage, or even a subsequent Federal increase to \$7.25, would prove to be woefully insufficient to mitigate the unprecedented 13 ensuing years of inaction by this body and the entire General Assembly on this issue. Mr. President, the citizens of the Commonwealth and the voters who elect us to represent them are entitled to an explanation as to why it has taken us so long to move on this issue.

I have said it many times before and I will say it again, Senate Bill No. 12 would establish the Commonwealth as a leader on minimum wage and would grant millions of Pennsylvanians the financial independence that they have worked so long and so hard to earn. Raising the minimum wage is long overdue.

Thank you, Mr. President.

BILLS SIGNED

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor John K. Fetterman) in the presence of the Senate signed the following bills:

HB 1170 and **HB 1557**.

RECESS

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, October 21, 2019, at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 12:58 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.