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**Legislative Journal**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020

SESSION OF 2020 204TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 3

**SENATE**

TUESDAY, January 28, 2020

The Senate met at 1 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

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

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Reverend CHARLES W. QUANN, of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Spring House, offered the following prayer:

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. I ask that you take a moment, in the quietness of your heart, to pray for Kobe Bryant's family and the many other families who have been devastated by that horrible helicopter crash.

O Thou great and eternal God, Creator, Redeemer, and bountiful benefactor, the One from whom every good and perfect gift descends, we turn to You now as we open this Senate. We pray, O God, thy blessings upon these men and women who have committed to serve people. We pray, O God, that You grant them wisdom, knowledge, and they unite and work together for the common good of humanity. We ask, O God, as they travel on the highway and leave their homes and families that You protect them and watch over their families. We pray, O God, especially now that they would work together across party lines, across gender lines that ultimately, O God, Your will might be done. We thank You for their dedication and for their commitment. We pray for our country and our world, and we ask, O God, that You grant to us each day Your peace and Your love that we might work together for justice and good will, knowing the Lord requires of us that we might do the things that have been placed in our hearts. We give You Shalom, we give You peace, and we thank You for the opportunity to begin this day by giving You praise, and together we say, amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Quann, who is the guest today of Senator Collett.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVE**

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

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

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

**JOURNALS APPROVED**

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of October 29, 2019, and October 30, 2019, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of October 29, 2019, and October 30, 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, 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 majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

**GUESTS OF SENATOR RYAN P. AUMENT  
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, today I have the pleasure of introducing students from Mount Calvary Christian School in Elizabethtown, accompanied by their superintendent, Dr. Daniel Sheard. Mount Calvary Christian School is a pre-K through 12 school that serves 515 students from Lancaster, York, Lebanon, Cumberland, and Dauphin Counties. I am proud to say that my own children, Jack and June, attend Mount Calvary Christian

School, and my wife, Kate, teaches there. Today there are 60, eighth- and ninth-grade students in the gallery. They are led by Dr. Sheard as they tour and learn about our wonderful State Capitol. I am delighted to recognize Mount Calvary Christian School in the Senate today, and I commend them for their commitment to fostering high academic excellence, spiritual growth, and moral character in each student who walks through their doors.

Please join me in welcoming our visitors from Mount Calvary Christian School to the Pennsylvania Senate.

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

(Applause.)

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR MARIA COLLETT PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, I would like to extend my thanks to my constituent today, Reverend Charles W. Quann, for serving as our guest Chaplain and offering the opening prayer for Session. He is joined today by his wife, Tanya, and grandson, Jaden. Pastor Quann has served as the senior pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church, an active and thriving Christ-centered multi-cultural church in Lower Gwynedd Township, since April of 1986. A faith leader and community advocate, Pastor Quann's ministry focuses on serving people. Bethlehem Baptist gives back in so many ways: a food bank, a community closet, domestic violence resources, and prison and nursing home ministries, all focusing on assisting the most vulnerable among us. Pastor Quann also chairs the Montgomery County Advisory Council to Pennsylvania's Human Relations Commission, and serves as a board member of Abington Memorial Hospital, the Wissahickon Faith Community, the American Red Cross Penn-Jersey region, and the Montgomery County Housing Authority, just to name a few. A recurring theme in Pastor Quann's career is service to others, and he serves as an example and reminder to us all that our purpose in this Chamber, and on this earth, is to aid our fellow man. I am so incredibly grateful for the devotion Pastor Quann and his congregation have to helping others, and I am consistently inspired and humbled by the work that they do in our community.

Please join me in giving Pastor Quann and his family a warm Senate welcome.

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

(Applause.)

### **RECESS**

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a Republican caucus to be held in the Majority Caucus Room.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, Senate Democrats will meet in the rear of the Chamber for a caucus as well.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of Republican and Democratic caucuses, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

### **AFTER RECESS**

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

### **RECESS**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Columbia, Senator Gordner.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held in the Rules room in the rear of the Chamber.

The PRESIDENT. For the purpose of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held in the Rules room in the rear of the Chamber, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

### **AFTER RECESS**

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

### **LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED**

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

### **PERMISSION TO ADDRESS**

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, unfortunately, we lost a significant American a few days ago, and there are some of us who wanted to acknowledge the fact that Kobe Bryant has lost his earth and the consequence of his existence while he was here. There are those who will talk about his accolades as an athlete, and that sort of goes without saying. I do not need to repeat what many of us have watched on the news over the last several days. The reason why it was so significant to me, and I am very much appreciative of the Senate for allowing me to say these few words, is because of what he has meant to many people in my community. Kobe Bryant comes from a family, his father is Joe "Jellybean" Bryant, for those who do not know, he played for the 76ers for a number of years and also played in Europe; his mother is Pam Bryant; and his uncle, for those who know, is Chubby Cox. So, he came from significant basketball lineage.

Today, I reflect upon why I think I had to say these comments. In an era where stereotypes are what define us, there are a few areas that cut across fault lines. It happens to be entertainment and sports. Senator Jake Corman happens to be a registered Republican, and on a number of occasions, we have had a difference of opinions. But understand something, and I will say this publicly, I like Jake Corman. I like him because he and I will often come to this floor and talk about things we love. The fact that he loves Penn State, the only reason I concede that is because my parents went to Penn State as well, so I allow him the indulgence of that, and I love the Eagles. When we go on our occasional banter, we eventually get to understand each other as

people, not political parties, not parts of the Commonwealth, but human beings. His father served here, and my father served here. We have lost them both. Our children love us, most days, and our wives adore us, of course, every day. Our families are most important to us and our communities in terms of the values that we were raised with. Sports and entertainment have allowed Jake Corman and Tony Williams to understand each other in terms of ways that we would not, if we would not have had that simple moment of banter.

So to have a person of not just ample athletic ability but a person who spoke three languages, lived on two continents, came from a family of two sisters, and he was the only boy, in a constructed household where the parents still live together, I felt it had to be said on this floor that this young man at 41 years of age, with three other surviving daughters, and one who is, unfortunately, gone, and a wife, should be reflected upon in ways that we as Americans are most proud of. His two parents, Joe and Pam, coming from humble beginnings in an area that I know quite well, I played--well, I will not say that; I was on the same court with Joe Bryant playing basketball. I would not necessarily say I was playing. He was playing, and I was kind of in awe. Both coming from humble beginnings, though, and deciding to go on a path that they were not sure where it would end, and then traveling internationally and raising this child with specific gifts. And understand, all three of them spoke multiple languages. All three of them had the ability to speak English and exchange and be courteous and kind to other human beings in ways that, frankly, we do not see today. That responsibility fell to Kobe Bryant to carry his family name in a way that we do not commonly see.

Understand something, this nation is an imperfect nation, and, frankly, sometimes race, income, class, and gender will separate us. Those fault lines have been separated in places where we would distinguish ourselves around a common value of athletic prowess. In my case, as an African American, Jessie Owens. Who could not forget the moment when he stood in the face of Nazi Germany and showed the world how great we were, not just as a black person, but as an American. Jackie Robinson, when we were constructed around myths that, frankly, were not true, he faced an intolerance that most of us could not withstand, and that would include me. Joe Louis, standing up and knocking out and gaining back the title for all of us in this country. And Muhammad Ali, uniquely positioned in a time of turbulence in this country and respected. All of these are marvelous athletes, but our memories of them endure because of what they did for this country.

I submit to you, Joe and Pam's son, Kobe, when we research the history and uncover the legacy, we will understand how significant his contribution was well beyond the basketball court and the dunks and the athletic prowess. The fact that he understood that women's athletics in this country needed to be supported, that his father understood that and supported women's athletics well before the WNBA was established, carried on to his son, who believed that his child, his daughter who passed away and perished, was going to be a star in a league that he supported quietly. He trained so many at the Mamba Academy of all hues with one mentality, an American mentality. You can knock us down, but we are going to get the hell back up. As many times as you knock me down, I am going to get back up, and by the way, when you knock me down, it is going to make

me stronger. An academy dedicated not just because we want you to be better athletes, but because we want you to be better Americans and better human beings. The philanthropic contributions of this young man far exceed those that have hit the public record. Yes, quietly, the households that ran out of money in west Philadelphia, to feed those who we would describe as homeless, and to contribute to shelters, men and women, in times of tribulation. This young man, and some would say imperfect, and I would not debate it, nonetheless, was extraordinary. Extraordinary well beyond the limitations of athletic abilities. I ask those of us who understand his contribution to begin to read the stories a little bit deeper.

Obviously, when all of us go home, that we hug our loved ones a little bit more. That our children are cherished in ways beyond the limitations of our words. That our words match our deeds and our actions. That this floor does not separate on this day because we are Democrats or Republicans, that we come from rural, suburban, or urban communities, and that we embrace what this young man meant. That is, the promise of this country, the opportunity it gives us all, and the embracing of our family values that all of us talk about most frequently.

I thank the Senate for allowing me the privilege of saying these few words, and I hope it lands someplace in your heart, because it landed someplace in mine.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

## LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Baker, Senator Brooks, and Senator Yudichak.

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

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

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Baker, Senator Brooks, and Senator Yudichak.

Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Haywood.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

**The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Joseph B. Scarnati III) in the Chair.**

## CALENDAR

### BILL ON CONCURRENCE IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

#### SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

**SB 133 (Pr. No. 1185)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 133?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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. 133.

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

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

Senator ARGALL. Mr. President, briefly, this bill amends the Pennsylvania Constitution to require that after the primary election, each candidate for Governor would select a candidate for Lieutenant Governor. This bill passed the Senate in April by a vote of 46-2. It was overwhelmingly approved by the House in December. It is now back to us because of a minor amendment, the House correctly added provisions to address candidates who do not belong to a major political party.

I ask for a "yes" vote with the understanding that if we approve this today, we will need, again, to review it next Session, because it is a constitutional amendment.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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-46

Argall	Dinniman	Martin	Street
Aument	DiSanto	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Baker	Farnese	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Fontana	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Blake	Gordner	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Haywood	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

Hughes	Hutchinson	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 inform the House of Representatives accordingly.

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 30 (Pr. No. 474) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, providing for Pennsylvania Housing Tax Credit.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator KILLION. Mr. President, Senate Bill No. 30 establishes a Pennsylvania housing tax credit. As a House Member, I was proud to prime sponsor House Bill No. 792, which is now Act 58 of 2015, which was signed into law on November 5, 2015. This, for the very first time, provided a statewide funding source for the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Act, known as PHARE, and it has led to high quality affordable homes, jobs, and neighborhood transformation. The PA housing tax credit, this bill, allows us to do even more and provide for more affordable housing opportunities for senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and families with children who make low wages. It also creates construction jobs, has a major economic impact, it incentivizes financing, and gets our blighted and abandoned homes into productive uses. This tax credit mirrors the existing Federal tax credit that has been very successful. This tax credit would be administered by the PA Housing Finance Agency, and they will be awarded on a competitive basis. If this should become the law, we would be the 15th State in the nation to pass a housing tax credit.

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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 94, HB 305 and SB 309 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

**HB 330 (Pr. No. 883)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 27, 2006 (1st Sp.Sess., P.L.1873, No.1), known as the Taxpayer Relief Act, making editorial changes to incorrect references.

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

**HB 330 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 330, Printer's No. 883, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**HB 355, HB 427 and SB 462** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

**SB 485 (Pr. No. 514)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in hunting and furtaking licenses, further providing for authorized license-issuing agents.

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

Pursuant to Senate Rule 9, the bill was laid on the table.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

**SB 492 (Pr. No. 1467)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 16, 1992 (P.L.155, No.28), known as the Assessors Certification Act, further providing for definitions and for duties of board; repealing provisions relating to qualifications; further providing for certification; providing for employees of political subdivisions; further providing for disciplinary and correction measures and for unlawful practice; repealing provisions relating to nonapplicability; and providing for assessors in counties of the first class.

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	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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 494, SB 595, SB 640, SB 693, SB 798 and SB 850** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

**SB 908 (Pr. No. 1469)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Commonwealth services, further providing for scope of subchapter, for legislative findings and declaration of purpose, for definitions, for assistance to volunteer fire companies, ambulance service and rescue squads, for Volunteer Companies Loan Fund, for powers and duties of office, for disposition and use of proceeds, for Volunteer Company Loan Sinking Fund and investments, for repayment obligations for principal and interest, for temporary financing authorization, for authorization of contracts, reimbursement procedure and amount and for reimbursement procedure and amount, providing for referendum to expand loan assistance and for annual report and distribution of information and further providing for Pennsylvania Volunteer Loan Assistance Program; in volunteer firefighters, further providing for definitions, for statement of purpose, for funds and for audits and providing for fire relief formula study; in grants to fire companies and emergency medical services companies, further providing for special provisions; and making an 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 pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York, Senator Regan.

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 908, but I will submit my remarks for the record.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 York, Senator REGAN:)

Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 908. My legislation would make significant changes to both the Fire Relief and Volunteer Loan Assistance Programs, ultimately benefitting our fire and EMS providers in Pennsylvania.

First, the bill would place the administration of the fire relief program under the purview of the State Fire Commissioner, expand the allowable uses of fire relief funds (such as recruitment and retention and length of service award programs), and call for an examination of the fire relief funding formula.

The bill would also increase the loan amounts under the low-interest Volunteer Fire Loan Assistance Program for the purchase of new or used apparatus and open loans up to career fire companies. It would also formalize the structure of the loan application review committee.

This legislation encompasses a number of recommendations from the fire and EMS commission created pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 6, and I am pleased to help advance it on behalf of our first responders, who do so much for us.

Thank you, Mr. President. 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-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

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

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Corman requests a legislative leave for Senator Gordner. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 910 (Pr. No. 1470) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in grants to fire companies and emergency medical services companies, further providing for definitions, for establishment, for publication and notice, for award of grants, for consolidation incentive, for establishment, for publication and notice and for award of grants, providing for consolidation incentive, further providing for Fire Company Grant Program, for Emergency Medical Services Company Grant Program, for additional funding, for allocation of appropriated funds and for expiration of authority and providing for annual reports.

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 pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Franklin, Senator Mastriano.

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, I rise today as the prime sponsor of Senate Bill No. 910. This important legislation reauthorizes the Fire and EMS Grant Program, which expires this June. I thank the chair of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness for his leadership in drafting this bill, which provides for funding for our firefighters and emergency responders to help them continue the services that our families rely on in our communities. This bill includes recommendations made by the commission created pursuant to Senate Resolution No. 6, which were reviewed and vetted by the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness. The program provides \$14,000 in grants to fire companies and nearly \$7,000 in grants to EMS for a variety of projects. I recall several instances of touring fire departments in my district where volunteer firefighters pointed out the important role that the grant funding provides to their mission in guarding and helping our fellow citizens. It is amazing how our heroes are able to stretch these dollars and make good use of this program.

Mr. President, Pennsylvania has 2,448 fire companies and departments. This includes 2,354 all-volunteer departments. We are home to 12 percent of the nation's 20,000 all-volunteer fire companies, more than any other State in the nation. I am thankful for the men and women across the Commonwealth who serve our communities as firefighters and emergency responders. They sacrifice much to save lives, charging through the jaws of danger, and we owe them a debt of gratitude. However, rising operating costs and fundraising demands are placing serious strains on their mission, and while there is never enough that we can do here to thank them, reauthorization of this program helps them greatly.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote in support of this legislation. Thank you.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Corman requests a legislative leave for Senator Langerholc. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**HB 1045, HB 1522 and HB 1578** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 132, SB 258, SB 276, SB 284, SB 329, SB 368, SB 377, HB 422, SB 531, HB 584, SB 606, HB 617 and HB 630** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

**SB 726 (Pr. No. 904)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 13, 1988 (P.L.530, No.94), known as the Environmental Hearing Board Act, further providing for definitions and for jurisdiction.

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

Pursuant to Senate Rule 9, the bill was laid on the table.

**SB 727 (Pr. No. 905)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 13, 1988 (P.L.530, No.94), known as the Environmental Hearing Board Act, further providing for Environmental Hearing Board.

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

Pursuant to Senate Rule 9, the bill was laid on the table.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 766, SB 784, SB 809, SB 924, SB 932, SB 954, SB 987, SB 996 and SB 997** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

**HB 1035 (Pr. No. 1207)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of October 27, 1979 (P.L.241, No.78), entitled "An act authorizing political subdivisions, municipality authorities and transportation authorities to enter into contracts for the purchase of goods and the sale of real and personal property where no bids are received," further providing for title of the act; adding a short title; and providing for contracts for services.

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.

**HB 1036 (Pr. No. 1208)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 8 (Boroughs and Incorporated Towns) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in elections of officers, further providing for decrease in number of members of council.

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

**HB 1058** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

**HB 1174 (Pr. No. 1360)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act repealing the act of April 25, 1933 (P.L.74, No.49), entitled "An act relating to baseball and football on Sunday; prohibiting baseball and football on Sunday during certain hours, and also during certain other hours unless the electors of a municipality are in favor of the same and, in certain cases, a license has first been secured from the municipal authorities; providing for referendums to ascertain the will of the electors, and for the enactment and repeal of licensing ordinances and resolutions in accordance therewith; providing penalties; and repealing inconsistent laws."

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

**HB 1174 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 1174, Printer's No. 1360, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

**HB 1180 (Pr. No. 1366)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act repealing the act of July 2, 1935 (P.L.599, No.211), entitled "An act relating to motion picture exhibitions and sound motion picture exhibitions, together with orchestral or other instrumental musical or mechanical musical accompaniment, prelude, playing, or selection in connection with or incidental thereto on Sunday; prohibiting motion picture exhibitions and sound motion picture exhibitions, and orchestral or other instrumental musical or mechanical musical accompaniment, prelude, playing, or selection incidental thereto on Sunday during certain hours, and also during other hours, unless the electors of a municipality approve thereof; regulating the employment of persons in conducting such exhibitions on Sunday; providing for referendums to ascertain the will of the electors; and providing penalties; and repealing inconsistent laws."

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

Pursuant to Senate Rule 9, the bill was laid on the table.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

**HB 1325** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

**HB 1379 (Pr. No. 1670)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act repealing the act of June 22, 1935 (P.L.446, No.187), referred to as the Sunday Polo Act.

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

**HB 1379 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 1379, Printer's No. 1670, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

**HB 1405 (Pr. No. 1725)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act repealing the act of June 22, 1935 (P.L.449, No.188), referred to as the Sunday Tennis Act.

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

**HB 1405 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 1405, Printer's No. 1725, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Baker has returned, and her temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

**BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

Senator BROWNE, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the following bills:

**SB 417 (Pr. No. 436)** (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, in party organization, further providing for who shall be declared elected members of national or State committee and party offices; and, in returns of primaries and elections, further providing for manner of computing irregular ballots.

**SB 679 (Pr. No. 1395)** (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of November 26, 1978 (P.L.1375, No.325), known as the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act, further providing for definitions; and providing for programs for removing obstructions and flood-related hazards on streams.

**SB 773 (Pr. No. 1468)** (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in licensing of drivers, further providing for ignition interlock limited license; in driving after imbibing alcohol or utilizing drugs, further providing for grading, for penalties, for ignition interlock and for mandatory sentencing and providing for 24/7 sobriety monitoring program; and providing for a study of driving under the influence courts.

**SB 779 (Pr. No. 1039) (Rereported)**

An Act amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, in dates of elections and primaries and special elections, further providing for general primary and candidates to be nominated and party officers to be elected.

**HB 64 (Pr. No. 68) (Rereported)**

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 civil penalties.

**HB 775 (Pr. No. 848) (Rereported)**

An Act amending the act of August 26, 1971 (P.L.351, No.91), known as the State Lottery Law, in pharmaceutical assistance for the elderly, further providing for income verification.

**HB 1001 (Pr. No. 2884) (Rereported)**

An Act regulating milk banks that provide donor human milk in this Commonwealth.

**HB 1100 (Pr. No. 1593) (Rereported)**

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, providing for energy and fertilizer manufacturing tax credit.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS  
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1**

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION  
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

**SB 773 (Pr. No. 1468) --** The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in licensing of drivers, further providing for ignition interlock limited license; in driving after imbibing alcohol or utilizing drugs, further providing for grading, for penalties, for ignition interlock and for mandatory sentencing and providing for 24/7 sobriety monitoring program; and providing for a study of driving under the influence courts.

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 pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Killion.

Senator KILLION. Mr. President, Senate Bill No. 773, known as Deana's Law, is actually numbered in honor of her birth month and year. She was a vibrant young woman beloved by her husband, Chris Eckman, her parents, Rich and Roseann DeRosa, her family and friends, and she was a constituent in my district. On

February 16, she was killed in a car accident by a six-time DUI offender. The intent of this bill is to go after those DUI offenders who are multiple offenders, who are extremely dangerous to folks traveling on the streets. A key provision of the bill requires continuous alcohol monitoring devices that are worn on an ankle--it is new technology--so these are folks who are forbidden to drink under court order. It knows when they have been drinking and law enforcement is notified so we can get to them before they get behind the wheel. These bracelets have been used successfully in Lancaster County, and this bill would help to use them statewide. It also has some other provisions, increasing penalties for, again, repeat DUI offenders, the worst of the worst, those who we know are going to harm individuals when they continue to get behind the wheel after drinking. I ask for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise to express a number of concerns with this legislation. First, I commend the maker of the bill on his interest in dealing with a small and discreet number of offenders. However, this bill provides gradation increases for a number of offenses beyond those small limited ones that the maker describes as his purpose. Moreover, it is in those places where the additional costs come. Estimates from the Department of Corrections project 1,163 new offenders will now be serving a State sentence. The department estimates an annual increase of \$50,807,358 in the first year. The reality is that this is sweeping changes based upon what was a tragic situation where the judge could, in fact, have sentenced appropriately. We must be good fiscal stewards of the taxpayers' money. We cannot continue to pass legislation that causes significant numbers of individuals to be incarcerated based upon errors in judgment by judges. Moreover, we could probably accomplish many of the maker's goals by simply narrowing the scope of this bill to the intended population that he wishes to seek.

So I think any bill that has a nearly quarter-billion-dollar impact on a 5-year plan, any bill that makes broad sweeping changes beyond the stated scope of the maker, is a bill that we should not support, and, therefore, Mr. President, I urge a "no" vote.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes, for the second time, the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Killion.

Senator KILLION. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of the gentleman from Philadelphia, and I have been working on a bipartisan basis with him and others in this Chamber on emptying and getting those who should not be incarcerated out of our prisons. That is a noble effort, we must continue to do that. However, there are circumstances where people should not be out of prison, and I believe someone who is on their third, fourth, fifth DUI - did not learn after the first time, did not learn after the second time, continues to offend and put people at risk on our highways - those folks should be incarcerated.

I want to read through some of the stakeholders we worked with on this bill: the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association, the Pennsylvania State Police, PennDOT Legislative Affairs, PA Probation and Parole Legislative Affairs, AOPC, National Association of Drug Court Professionals, National Safety Council, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, PA DUI Association, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, PA Parents

Against Impaired Driving, PA State Troopers Association, the F.O.P., and PA Association for Justice. I have already heard that there probably will be amendments in the House, so it is not the end of the day for this piece of legislation, but I ask my colleagues to please vote "yes" on this bill so we can move it out of this Chamber and get it over to the House.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes, for the second time, the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Street.

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I will point out that I do commend the maker's interest in the CAM devices which monitor the level of blood alcohol, and I also point out that if the bill were more narrowly tailored and more focused on the CAM portions of the bill that he touts, we could probably have a positive fiscal impact. However, the broad-based gradation increases under Chapter 38 that go beyond just the people who have had the number of offenses that he discussed are too broad. I think if we were to limit the bill to people who are on the fourth or fifth offense, as he has talked about, and limit the scope to dealing with folks who need to be assigned to CAM, we could probably even come up with it either being revenue neutral or we could come up with a bill that certainly does not have such a large price tag. Again, I commend the maker's intent. However, the broad scope of this bill makes it fiscally irresponsible, and I continue to urge a "no" 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-43

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

NAY-6

Blake	Hughes	Muth	Street
Haywood	Leach		

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.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED**

Senators IOVINO, MUTH, FONTANA, STREET, COSTA, BROWNE, DINNIMAN, HUGHES, SCHWANK, SABATINA, AUMENT and TARTAGLIONE, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 286**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the week of January 20 through 26, 2020, as "Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,  
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator IOVINO. Mr. President, this past week of January 20 to January 26, Pennsylvania marked the inaugural "Community Risk Reduction Week," a grassroots initiative started by fire service professionals across the country to raise awareness of risk reduction and encourage emergency preparedness. With the goal of reducing the occurrence and impact of emergency events and keeping everyone safe, communities and first responders are launching programs that focus on the five E's of community risk reduction: education, engineering, enforcement, emergency response, and economic incentives. Studies show most fire-related calls and many medical calls for service are preventable. In 2017, an estimated 52 percent of residential building fires were cooking related, 14 percent were electrical malfunctions, and 9 percent were heating related. With property damage from fires increasing from \$23 billion in 2017 to nearly \$26 billion in 2018, it is appropriate and time to promote risk reduction. By helping members of the public apply the five E's to reduce risk of emergencies, the Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner hopes to get ahead of the calls, helping save lives, prevent property damage, and insure first responders are able to help those most in need.

Mr. President, I ask for an affirmative vote on the resolution commemorating Community Risk Reduction Week in 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 DINNIMAN, IOVINO, FONTANA, BROWNE, KILLION, J. WARD, BREWSTER, MENSCH, PHILLIPS-HILL, BARTOLOTTA, HUGHES, SCHWANK, AUMENT, TARTAGLIONE and COSTA, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 287**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of January 26 through February 1, 2020, as "Physician Anesthesiologist Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,  
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, let me briefly say that we sometimes underestimate the importance of physician anesthesiologists. When we go in for procedures, we think of the doctors who are the surgeons, or the doctor who is going to take care of a particular procedure, but anesthesia is a very tricky business, for those of us who have been under it at one time or another. It can be very risky, and the fact that we have physicians who are trained in this area, physicians who have vast experience

as to possibilities of reactions to that anesthesia, is important. So I wanted to make sure that as we recognize the family doctor, we recognize the surgeon, that we also recognize the anesthesiologist, who essentially works through the hospitals, or a type of surgery center, that they be given some recognition for the lives that they save by being well prepared and well trained.

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.

Senator CORMAN, on behalf of Senator GORDNER, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 288**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the week of January 19 through 25, 2020, as "Nurse Anesthetists Week" in Pennsylvania.

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

**The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator Ryan P. Aument) in the Chair.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY**

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020

9:00 A.M.	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY and TRANSPORTATION (joint public hearing to discuss the environmental and economic impacts of Pennsylvania's participation in the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI))	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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10:30 A.M.	JUDICIARY (to consider Senate Bills No. 659, 968, 969 and 976)	Room 461 Main Capitol
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

9:45 A.M.	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (to consider Senate Bill No. 915)	Room 461 Main Capitol
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

9:30 A.M.	LAW AND JUSTICE (to consider Senate Bills No. 728, 846, 896 and 916 (with amendment); and House Bills No. 325, 763, 1048, 1617 and 1886)	Room 8E-A East Wing
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**PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES**

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

Senator SCAVELLO. Mr. President, today I again rise to urge my colleagues in this body to join me in fulfilling the will of the people, to act on and reform the Commonwealth's burdensome and ever-growing local school property tax. I will stand up here every week the Senate is in Session until we get meaningful ac-

tion on behalf of our homeowners around the State who have to make tough choices every single day as to whether they pay their school taxes or buy food or medicine. Our seniors, in particular, have become the victims of a system that does not care whether they have children in school, whether you are an elderly widow living on a \$1,200 a month Social Security, or whether your taxes have risen tenfold since you retired. As I have said standing here before, a constituent in my district who lost her husband, had her Social Security cut in half, could not pay her school taxes that had risen from \$500 to \$4,800 per year within that time period. She came to me and said, I am guilty of living too long.

Not one legislator in this Chamber would say that they are not a champion of quality education, and not one legislator would say that they do not support our seniors. Every one of us has committed ourselves to supporting our Commonwealth students, and we continually work to insure our students have opportunities to further themselves and succeed. But too often we do not talk about the price of our antiquated school tax system and the impact it has on our homeowners, especially our seniors.

My Senate district is the victim of an unfair State funding formula that drove millions of dollars away from our region, when we had the fastest-growing population in the Commonwealth. To this day, that situation has never been made right. Rather than receiving our fair share of education dollars to offset our ever-growing school population, our residents were saddled with that burden. Now my school districts in the Pocono region occupy some of the top spots in the State where residents pay the highest portion of their income in school property taxes, and now it is starting to grow in Northampton County, Lehigh County, Carbon County, and across the northeast. I would rather it be known as an area that is a beautiful place to live with schools that do not have to fight for their fair share of funding and our seniors do not have to worry about losing their homes. In the meantime, our legislative body has discussed, debated, researched, held hearings, and hosted town hall meetings for the last two decades with zero progress on any meaningful school property tax reform.

Mr. President, I will vote for any legislation out there that promises to reduce or eliminate school taxes. I am not going to be choosy, it does not have to be my way or the highway, and I am hoping that the Members of this body feel the same way as I. I am a staunch supporter of Senate Bill No. 76. Bring it up for a vote.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues who have not supported any school property tax proposals to step up to the plate and help make the hard decisions needed to get meaningful action for our citizens. If the statewide vote in 2017 was an indication, there is broad support for action on school property tax reform. It is the right thing to do. For the citizens who live in districts where their legislators have not come out in support of any meaningful school property tax reform, I urge you to make your voice heard. Ask them for their support so that they know that this is an important issue in their districts. In the meantime, we cannot continue to sit while our seniors lose their homes to increasing school property taxes.

This is why I am introducing a proposal that through just a half-percent increase in the state sales tax--not expanding the base, not taxing anything else--we would be able to reduce or eliminate school property taxes for approximately 80 percent of our senior homeowners in the Commonwealth. For someone age

65 and older whose combined income is no greater than \$60,000, and that we are only factoring half of their Social Security in that figure, they would receive up to \$5,000 off on their school property tax bill. A half-percent increase in the State sales tax avoids the pitfalls we inevitably encounter when we talk about expanding the sales tax base onto other items and services. My proposal is simply a half-percent increase of the existing sales tax. It is my hope that this is the first step to a broader reform like Senate Bill No. 76. But we cannot continue to stand up while our seniors are in crisis. This proposal is so simple and so critical that I urge my colleagues to do the right thing and join me on this bill. Show our citizens you care for our students and our seniors.

Lastly, I thank the President pro tempore for his recent public remarks in support of holding a vote on the school property tax reform proposal. Thank you for your words of support, and I look forward to working with you to bring a bill to the floor for a vote. Mr. President, the time for action was yesterday. We cannot wait any longer. I ask my colleagues to join me in this fight.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Fontana.

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, I rise to once again discuss the rising epidemic of gun violence in our society. I know I am beginning to sound like a broken record when I say this, but I must continue pushing this message until it is addressed. We cannot continue to stand by and do nothing in the face of this tidal wave of senseless violence. Solving this worsening problem will take the input, contribution, and fortitude of everyone in this Chamber. And all of us need to ignore the extremists who work to find rational, workable solutions. Let us put aside the hair-on-fire rantings of those who claim that conservatives do not care if schoolchildren get gunned down or liberals are determined to confiscate all guns, all of that is nonsense. If there is ever a need to avoid the noise of extremists and find commonsense solutions, this is that time.

One of the issues that nearly all Pennsylvanians agree on is the need to get guns away from the people who are clearly a danger to themselves and others. I have authored legislation in the last two legislative Sessions that would do just that. My legislation is modeled after domestic and sexual assault PFAs. The measure would require the person to immediately surrender their gun to the police. This person would also be temporarily banned from buying, selling, or possessing firearms during the suspension. In issuing the extreme risk protection order, the judge could also refer the person in crisis for evaluation to insure that they get the help they need. I want to make it clear that during this suspension period, this person would have every right to petition a judge to rescind the suspension.

Mr. President, I have made every effort so that this plan is structured in a way that prevents frivolous accusations or judicial overreach, and I welcome any reasonable idea that would improve my bill and help strike this balance. Extreme risk protection orders would get guns away from deranged people without violating Second Amendment rights. It is a goal that all of us should be pursuing. In fact, it was not too long ago when this very body, along with the House, overwhelmingly passed similar legislation I referred to earlier that put a similar system in place for cases of domestic violence. Like then, the bipartisan agreement to protect people from the risk of violence is the right thing to do, and we can and should do it again.

Seventeen States, Mr. President, and Washington, D.C., have extreme risk protection order systems. In three of those States, legal challenges were brought against the law, and in all three, courts held that it does not violate due process or constitutional rights. Furthermore, two States, New Hampshire and Virginia, are currently considering bills implementing extreme risk protection orders in those States as they are moving through the legislative process.

Mr. President, as other States throughout this nation admit, inaction is no longer an option. Pennsylvania can and must get on board. We need to deal with this issue responsibly, fairly, and soon. Let us get this done, Mr. President. Thank you.

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, today marks 4,951 days since the Pennsylvania legislature last raised the minimum wage. That is more than 13 1/2 years, and it is far too long. Today also happens to be a good day to take a new look at one of the main arguments that opponents of raising minimum wage make. They say we do not need a minimum wage because the labor market will dictate when wage increases are warranted and how much those raises should be. I hear that argument quite a bit from a few of the followers of my social media accounts in response to my daily posts about minimum wage. We hear the same thing quite often from some of the trickle-down theory purveyors in the Capitol, too. For instance, on January 13, the chairman of the House Committee on Labor and Industry was discussing Governor Wolf's proposed overtime regulations and my minimum wage bill, Senate Bill No. 79, with reporters when he asked rhetorically, why are we doing this in a time of economic prosperity? Let the economy work its way through. Mr. President, the answer to that question is quite simply, really? Letting the economy work is how we have ended up with an unprecedented income disparity and one in eight Pennsylvanians living in poverty.

The real question is, when will working people finally start seeing real benefits from our so-called economic prosperity? We are in the midst of the longest economic expansion in the nation's history, 127 months and counting. In 2019, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed the day at a record high 22 different times. The Dow has set four more records already this year. In December, the nation's unemployment rate remained at a 50-year low of 3.5 percent. Yet, in national surveys conducted by a New York-based financial services company, less than half of American workers said they got a raise last year or took a job with better pay. Let me repeat that. We are in the longest sustained period of economic growth in American history. Unemployment remains at a 50-year low, and on top of that, American employers have added jobs for a record 110 straight months. Yet, less than half of Americans are making more now than they were just a year ago.

Obviously, if prosperity has not trickled down to low-wage workers by now, something must be done to make it happen before the next recession arrives, and it may be too late. Most States, including all six of Pennsylvania's immediate neighbors, have adopted measures to address stagnant wages. The time is now for Pennsylvania to do the same.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AND REFERRED**

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following Senate Resolution numbered, entitled, and referred as follows, which was read by the Clerk:

January 28, 2020

Senators LEACH, DINNIMAN, IOVINO, A. WILLIAMS, BROWNE, BOSCOLA, SCARNATI, CORMAN, FONTANA, LANGERHOLC, HUGHES, J. WARD, MENSCH, TARTAGLIONE, YAW and PITTMAN presented to the Chair **SR 285**, entitled:

A Resolution honoring the life of Kobe Bryant and expressing heartfelt condolences to his family and friends in Lower Merion and around the world.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, January 28, 2020.

**BILL SIGNED**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair wishes to announce the following bill was signed by the President pro tempore (Senator Joseph B. Scarnati III) in the presence of the Senate:

**SB 133.**

**RECESS**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, January 29, 2020, at 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 5:06 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.