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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

SESSION OF 2020 204TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 7

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, February 5, 2020

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

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend CHRISTOPHER D. MASSEY, of Kinport Assembly of God, Cherry Tree, offered the following prayer:

Before I begin in prayer, I want to extend thanks to Senator Pittman for the invitation today.

Let us bow our heads in prayer.

Father in heaven, we thank You for this gracious gift of today that You have given us. We thank You for the many blessings that surround us, both as free members of this Commonwealth and of this great nation. Lord, I pray that You will continue to move Your hand upon each and make yourself known in every one of our lives. Father, I lift up the servants of this Chamber to You, Lord, and I pray that You will minister in each and every one of them to the needs and interests of this Commonwealth. God, that You will direct them with servant leadership, that You will give them Your heart and Your compassion as You lead and guide their thoughts and their footsteps. Lord, I pray that You go before them and make Your way known to them, that You will direct each of us in a way that is compassionate and compelling as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in all that we do.

I pray that You will direct us, pour out Your blessings upon us. We give You great thanks for the many blessings that we enjoy, for Your love in our lives, and for Your forgiveness. We give this time to You, and we ask for Your direction. In Jesus' name, amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Massey, who is the guest today of Senator Pittman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator YAW, from the Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy, reported the following bills:

SB 1030 (Pr. No. 1489)

An Act amending the act of January 24, 1966 (1965 P.L.1535, No.537), known as the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act, further providing for official plans.

HB 342 (Pr. No. 1818)

An Act amending the act of December 1, 2004 (P.L.1766, No.227), entitled "An act authorizing cities of the first class that have adopted a home rule charter to enforce ordinances, rules and regulations prohibiting dumping or disposal of waste, trash or debris," further providing for enforcement of trash laws.

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

HB 732 (Pr. No. 960)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in realty transfer tax, further providing for excluded transactions.

Senator LAUGHLIN, from the Committee on Game and Fisheries, reported the following bill:

HB 752 (Pr. No. 802)

An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in property and buildings, further providing for price paid for acquisitions and improvements.

Senator MARTIN, from the Committee on Local Government, reported the following bills:

SB 207 (Pr. No. 1513) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of December 20, 1967 (P.L.869, No.385), known as the Public Works Contractors' Bond Law of 1967, further providing for duty of prime contractor to provide financial security in certain contracts involving public works and public improvements.

SB 958 (Pr. No. 1514) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 8 (Boroughs and Incorporated Towns) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in manufacture and supply of electricity, further providing for specific powers.

HB 1751 (Pr. No. 3275) (Amended)

An Act amending Titles 8 (Boroughs and Incorporated Towns) and 11 (Cities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in associations and organizations relating to boroughs, further providing for authoriza-

tion and expenses; and, in city officers and employees relating to third class cities, further providing for Pennsylvania Municipal League and other municipal affairs organizations.

Senator K. WARD, from the Committee on Transportation, reported the following bills:

SB 565 (Pr. No. 1512) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in rules of the road in general, further providing for additional parking regulations.

SB 995 (Pr. No. 1460)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for definitions.

HB 1907 (Pr. No. 2674)

An Act designating the bridge carrying State Route 1025 over U.S. Route 11/15 in East Pennsboro Township, Cumberland County, as the Senator Hal Mowery Memorial Bridge.

RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator REGAN, from the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, reported the following resolution:

SR 291 (Pr. No. 1492)

A Resolution commemorating Pennsylvania's contribution to Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

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

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 Tomlinson.

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

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS asked and obtained leaves of absence for Senator DINNIMAN and Senator LEACH, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of November 21, 2019, and December 18, 2019, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of November 21, 2019, and December 18, 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 requested by Senator CORMAN and were as follows, viz:

YEA-48

Argall	Costa	Laughlin	Schwank
Arnold	DiSanto	Martin	Stefano
Aument	Farnese	Mastriano	Street
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Tartaglione
Bartolotta	Gordner	Muth	Tomlinson
Blake	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Boscola	Hughes	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

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 JAKE CORMAN
AND SENATOR JUDY WARD
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I have the great honor to introduce some guests visiting the Capitol today from Leadership Centre County. They are here as part of their Government Day program, and their visit is the first of its kind in the many years of Government Day tradition. The goal of Government Day is to learn more about the workings of State and local government, and members of this year's class have visited with several legislators this morning. Established in 1991, Leadership Centre County runs a 9-month program that educates participants about the needs, available services, strengths, opportunities, and current issues in Centre County communities.

Since its founding, the program has graduated more than 1,000 class members, including several of my staff, from its flagship Community Leadership Program, who now serve as volunteers, committee chairs, and board members of over 60 organizations in Centre County. Also part of the group is Leadership Centre County's executive director, Georgia Abbey. Georgia is retiring this June after serving in this role since 1999. Her husband, Kevin, who is also here, worked for my father and was executive director of the Senate Committee on Transportation from 1995 to 1996. Half of this year's class are here visiting with us in the Senate gallery while the other half is in the House gallery; all of them either live or work in Centre County.

I join my colleague, Senator Judy Ward, from Blair County, who also has some people involved in this program, and I ask the Senate to give Leadership Centre County our usual warm welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Corman and Senator Judy Ward please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

GUESTS OF SENATOR GENE YAW PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lycoming, Senator Yaw.

Senator YAW. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to rise today to welcome a group of outstanding young men from my senatorial district. Seated in the Senate gallery are members of the Lewisburg High School Boys' Cross Country Team, along with their athletic director, Mark Temple, and coach, Ron Hess, who I recognize on their 2019 PIAA Class AA State Title at the cross country championships in Hershey on November 2. The Green Dragons beat out York Suburban High School, represented by Senator Arnold and Senator Phillips-Hill, to bring home the team title with 82 total points. While both Lewisburg and York Suburban finished with 82 points, it was the Green Dragons' sixth runner, Thomas Hess, who broke the tie by finishing before York's sixth runner.

Under the guidance of Coach Hess, who has coached many of these young men since middle school, the team went undefeated last season, 18-0. In addition to a stellar undefeated season, the team accomplishments also include winning the Pennsylvania Heartland Athletic Conference championship, as well as the District 4 PIAA title. Members of the team are Calvin Bailey, Jacob Hess, Thomas Hess, Peter Lantz, Connor Murray, Gianluca Perrone, Bryce Ryder, Noah Shabahang, Evan Hart, and Chenchen Gu. It is encouraging to see what these young men have accomplished, and I am very excited to see what the future holds for those who will remain on the team, as well as for the seniors who are looking to participate at the collegiate level.

It is my honor to recognize and welcome all of these exceptional athletes who are here representing Lewisburg High School. I ask my colleagues to give them our usual warm Senate welcome.

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

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN T. YUDICHAK, SENATOR ELISABETH J. BAKER, AND SENATOR LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator YUDICHAK. Mr. President, I join my Senate colleague, Senator Baker, and a proud Wyoming Area High School graduate, Senator Lindsey Williams, in welcoming to the Senate the PIAA Class AAA State Football Champions, the Wyoming Area Warriors. This is the first, but certainly not the last, State championship for the Warriors. At the State championship game, the Warriors were down 14-0 to Central Valley, but they fought their way back to secure a 21-14 victory. As we recognize these fine young men, I also acknowledge the coaches who helped guide these players to a State championship and an impressive 14-1 record for the 2019 season. Thank you to head coach of the

Warriors, Randy Spencer, and his entire coaching staff. Also, a big thank you to the outstanding athletic director from Wyoming Area, Joe Pizano. I also acknowledge the family members of the players who have joined us today in the Capitol: moms and dads, siblings, and grandparents. They remind me that champions are not born, they are raised by great families. Senator Baker, Senator Lindsey Williams, and I are all extremely proud to honor this team and present them with Senate citations celebrating their remarkable season.

I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in welcoming the State champion Wyoming Area Warriors to the Pennsylvania Senate.

The PRESIDENT. Would the State champs please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Luzerne, Senator Baker.

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, we will have another round for our Wyoming Area Warriors, and there is a proud tradition of high-quality football played in what is known as a tough and competitive Wyoming Valley Conference. As you heard from Senator Yudichak, this past season, all elements of great coaching and outstanding teamwork came together for the Wyoming Area Warriors. They topped off a successful season with a hard-fought title game. As you heard, coming from behind scoring 21 unanswered points to win the PIAA Class AAA State Championship, the school's first ever. Coach Randy Spencer now joins Berwick's George Curry, Dallas' Ted Jackson, and Hanover's Al Kopacz as the only Wyoming Valley Conference coaches to win State championships.

Not only did their winning ways energize the school district and the community, but it was remarkable for me to witness competitor schools and players around the region, cheering them on as they advanced during the playoffs. It is always inspiring for us to meet young men, and a young lady, on the team to acknowledge how well they mastered the lessons of athletic performance and sportsmanship. The same is true for their coaches, school leaders, and families, who gave their time and talents to help shape these young men and young lady to prepare for the future. So congratulations to our PIAA Class AAA State Champs, the Wyoming Area Warriors.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Yudichak and Senator Baker please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Lindsey Williams.

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, thank you to Senator Yudichak and Senator Baker for including me in welcoming my alma mater to the Capitol in celebration of their State championship win. I am a proud 2001 Wyoming Area graduate. I attended every home and away football game during my high school career.

The Warrior pride runs deep in my family. My uncle, David J. Williams III, was a member of the very first graduating class of Wyoming Area in 1967. His class chose the school colors - green, gold, and white; the Warrior mascot; the school alma mater; and the motto, "I will either find or make a way." My Uncle Davey was also at the games and often gave me a new Warrior pin to wear proudly. I lost my Uncle Davey to a brain tumor

shortly after I graduated high school. He may not have been alive to see the Warriors win their very first State championship, but I am sure he was watching and cheering on quarterback Dominic DeLuca and the other players as they made their way to a fourth quarter comeback. He would have been proud of not only their actions on the field but also for their efforts off the field to give back to their community and be positive role models for younger students.

In conclusion, I am proud to currently represent the land of the black and gold in Pittsburgh, but I will always be first green and gold. Beat the Patriots, go Warriors.

(Applause.)

**GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN M. DiSANTO
AND SENATOR DAVID J. ARNOLD
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dauphin, Senator DiSanto.

Senator DiSANTO. Mr. President, I rise today along with my colleague from the 48th Senatorial District, Senator Arnold, to introduce an outstanding group of athletes from a school district we both represent. The Lower Dauphin High School Boys' Soccer Team claimed the 2019 PIAA State Class AAA Championship. This team, with head coach Gerry Lynch, and assistants Roy Gesford, Daymon Kaylor, Adam Slear, and Tyler Schlegel demonstrated superior sportsmanship and remarkable athletic skill, ending their championship season with 22 wins, 3 losses, and 1 tie. The Falcons' roster included the following players: captains, Devin Roth and Josh Koteles; Axel Grater, Grant Tredinnick, Vaughn Sarago, Bryce Hickey, Ethan Ramirez, Ryan Sanson, Travis Hershey, Casey Ahern, Buck Diacont, Arturo Megargel, Owen Shea, Ethan Peterson, Ivan Fombu, Evan Gusherowski, Mark Walsh, Daniel Fombu, Zach Felter, Nathan Helmer, Scott Felter, William Foley, Adam Fellin, and Elijah Sells.

I believe my colleague, Senator Arnold, has some remarks before we welcome them.

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

Senator ARNOLD. Mr. President, Lower Dauphin won the District 3 championship on its way to the State playoffs, where the team advanced to the championship game with victories over Franklin Towne, West Allegheny, and Franklin Regional. On November 16, 2019, at Hersheypark Stadium, Lower Dauphin claimed its third championship in 4 years with a 2-1 win over Strath Haven. It is a truly impressive accomplishment for the seniors and a high bar they set for their returning players in the next few years. Senator DiSanto and I would be pleased to welcome you back again next year for a fourth championship.

Senator DiSanto and I, as well as your entire community, are very proud of you for this impressive achievement, and to the players and coaches, we wish you all success in your future endeavors. Again, congratulations on your achievements.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator DiSanto and Senator Arnold please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

**GUESTS OF SENATOR ELDER A. VOGEL
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Beaver, Senator Vogel.

Senator VOGEL. Mr. President, today I am introducing a resolution designating the week of February 22 through 29, 2020, as "FFA Week." In light of this resolution, I welcome the State FFA officers who are here today in the gallery. Please welcome Timber Thebes and Thomas Strong from Perry County, constituents of Senator DiSanto; Michael Riggs from Adams County, a constituent of Senator Mastriano; Killiann George from Cumberland County, a constituent of Senator Regan; Arilyn Oatman from Lancaster County, a constituent of Senator Martin; and McKenzie Glass from Somerset County, a constituent of Senator Stefano.

Currently, 13,000 students are members of the Pennsylvania FFA, and by the year 2025, there will be over 1 million members nationwide. That is truly just incredible. Members must be enrolled in agricultural education and are encouraged to participate in career and leadership development events in addition to their regular school work. FFA connects members to a national network of young people who have a passion for agriculture. Leadership, problem-solving skills, personal growth, and business development are all key elements that FFA works to cultivate in its members. Also, Mr. President, they must give up a year of their life, basically, to be an officer in FFA. After they graduate from high school, they take a year off to become an officer before they continue with their college education. This is a huge commitment that they make, and I know it is pretty much an unknown fact, but it is a great commitment they make. I appreciate them doing that, and I ask you to give them a warm Senate welcome. Thank you.

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

(Applause.)

**GUESTS OF SENATOR LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS
AND SENATOR JAY COSTA
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Lindsey Williams.

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, it is my honor and great pleasure to introduce Westinghouse High School Bulldogs to the Pennsylvania Senate. They are not in the Chamber right now, they are over in the House, but they were here earlier for a photo. Today is Bulldog Day because the team won its first City League championship in 23 years. Last fall, the Bulldogs walked off Cupples Stadium on the South Side with the championship. The Bulldogs beat University Prep 12-2, avenging a loss earlier in the year. It is quite an accomplishment, but their success did not stop there. In the State playoffs, the Bulldogs defeated St. Marys before suffering a season-ending defeat at the hands of Bedford High. The team was chock-full of great players, including an outstanding player headed for the University of Pittsburgh in defensive tackles, Dayon Hayes and Troy Lanier, who are co-MVPs in the city's title game. The outstanding team is lead by

coach Donta Green. The team is a credit to the city and to our entire region. I am proud to welcome Westinghouse Bulldogs to the Senate.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I join my colleague from Allegheny County, Senator Lindsey Williams, in welcoming and congratulating the Westinghouse Bulldogs. We both have the opportunity to represent the communities and individuals who go to school there and we are really proud of the work that has been done at Westinghouse High School, not only on the football field, but also the academics as well. I would be remiss if I did not recognize that during the course of their successful season, they had to run through the Allderdice Dragons, the alma mater of Senator Schwank and I, but we are proud of the fact that they were successful in defeating Allderdice and making their way to the title. We just know that next year will be the year of the Dragons.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Lindsey Williams and Senator Costa please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS LINCOLN DAY ADDRESS

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, as a special order of business, as a tradition that we have here in the Senate every February, as we approach Presidents' Day, we have one of our newer Members of the Senate Republican Caucus give a speech on the floor honoring Abraham Lincoln, the founder of the Republican Party. At this time, Mr. President, I ask you to please recognize the Senator from Franklin County, who also represents Adams, Cumberland, and York Counties, to deliver this year's Lincoln Day Address.

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

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, it is a distinct honor to rise to commemorate the 211th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, this at a time when our nation and Commonwealth seem rocked by unprecedented division and partisan strife. Yet, this occasion provides us the opportunity to gain important historic insight and perspective. Our 16th President served during the ultimate national divide: in the midst of a civil war that cost three-quarters of a million American lives. It was the bloodiest and costliest war in the nation's history, and where the United States of America was literally torn asunder. As Lincoln said of this, during his Gettysburg Address:

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war.

In Lincoln's address, we are reminded of this pivotal moment in American history. Every day on our Senate wall is a depiction

of that moment. It is here in this moving painting we see President Lincoln in Gettysburg, in my district, on 19 November 1863 delivering this most well-known speech in American history. The painting captures the burden that Lincoln felt as the cost of the Civil War weighed heavily upon him. Lincoln went on to say in this famous address:

We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate--we cannot hallow--this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

Indeed, our nation and Commonwealth has been secured and upheld by the immense sacrifices of our patriotic men and women across the generations, and it was on the bloodstained fields of Gettysburg where men from across a nation clashed, and where, at great costs, a new birth of freedom was secured. Lincoln, at that moment, understood the strategic relevance of the Union victory here, but was also painfully aware of the costs: 34,530 Pennsylvanians fought at Gettysburg, and every single name is depicted on the Pennsylvania Monument in Gettysburg, but not all of them are on there. People such as John Burns, a resident of Gettysburg who, at 69 years old, and against the wishes of his wife, Barbara, took up arms and fought alongside the men in blue on Seminary Ridge on that first day of the battle and was wounded three times in that epic struggle. He would be the only civilian Abraham Lincoln would meet with privately in November 1863. Or people like Sergeant George Porter of the 57th Pennsylvania Regiment, who fought to blunt the attack of Barksdale's Mississippians at the Sherfy house, and who would later die at the hands of the Confederates. Or Jennie Wade, who lost her life at 20 years old and was the only civilian casualty at Gettysburg. These stories of heroism and sacrifice reached the President's ear, and that effect weighed heavily upon him when he gave his address.

In the midst of this struggle, Lincoln was asked often why the war lasted so long and why was it so costly in lives and treasure? Entire generations of men perished in this tragic struggle for freedom. Lincoln's answer to this was compelling and provides insight for us today on how we can navigate the murky waters of partisanship and how to overcome the clash of political ideologies here in our Commonwealth. Of this, Lincoln wrote on March 30, 1863:

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient...too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Lincoln penned these remarks for a nation bitterly divided in the midst of civil war. These words echo across the generations

to us today on how we can break the bonds of bitter partisanship and strife, and strive together to secure our Commonwealth and our Republic for the next generation with the same freedoms and prosperity that we enjoy today. We are Pennsylvania, where the light of liberty was lit in Philadelphia in 1776, and that light shines around the world to this very day and changed the course of history, and where in 1863 in Gettysburg, a new birth of freedom was secured at great cost. We, indeed, stand on the shoulders of giants whose legacy and example should draw us together in these days that try our souls.

Lincoln's concluding remarks of the Gettysburg Address will serve as a guide to us on what our purpose should be here in the Capitol:

It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us--that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion--that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain--that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Thank you, Mr. President.
(Applause.)

GUEST OF SENATOR JAKE CORMAN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, another tradition that we have here in the Senate is from time to time a member of our Senate family moves on, and after spending many, many years of working here we get a chance to recognize them, whether they be Republican or Democrat, and their special talents to help operate the Senate over their few years. Today I rise to recognize my chief of staff and friend, Mark Meyer.

After 25 years in the Senate, Mark is moving on to the private sector to continue his career. He began his career here in 1994, and over the years he has worked as the executive director to multiple committees like the Committee on Local Government, the Committee on Law and Justice, and the Committee on Transportation. Additionally, he has served as the chief of staff to former Senators Jim Gerlach and John Rafferty.

Mark came onboard with my office in January 2011 and quickly settled into his role and strengthened our staff by guiding its day-to-day operations of our district and Harrisburg offices. In true Mark fashion, his ability to remain calm and steadfast in any situation made him a great leader for our team. I have always prided myself as having a go-to staff, a group of individuals who work hard and are able to assist me and the entire Caucus on whatever questions they might have on legislation or budget or rules of the Senate. Mark personified and attributed for me and our team. I will miss his counsel and the steady approach in dealing with many of the challenges we face in the future, but as someone who is going to see his children go off to college here soon, when a member of the family leaves the nest, they do not leave the family. So even though Mark will be moving to other pastures, he will always remain part of the Senate family, and I

ask all of my colleagues to recognize his talents and efforts to help the Senate operate over the last 25 years.

Thank you, Mr. President.

(Applause.)

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise and echo the comments of my colleague, Senator Corman, about the fine work and great opportunity it was to work with Mark and I certainly wish him the best in the private sector. I do anticipate that our paths will continue to cross, but the manner in which he worked with my colleagues here on our side of the aisle, and particularly our senior staff members, was a very bipartisan, cooperative working environment. We want to say thank you for that. It must be noted though, as I understand his training is from the University of Pittsburgh, where I serve as a trustee, is certainly part of why he was so successful in managing a Penn State University graduate.

Thank you, Mr. President.

(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 purposes of a series of off-the-floor meetings to be held in the Rules room in the rear of the Chamber, starting with the Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development, followed by the Committee on Health and Human Services, followed by the Committee on Labor and Industry, and then followed by a brief Republican caucus.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of a series of off-the-floor meetings of the Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development, the Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Committee on Labor and Industry, to be followed by a Republican caucus, 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 Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations 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 Rules and Executive Nominations 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 LEAVES

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

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

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

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 64 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 309 (Pr. No. 286) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for the establishment of first-time home buyer savings accounts for first-time home buyers in this Commonwealth.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator MENSCH. Mr. President, since the 2009 financial crisis, the number of first-time home buyers has decreased significantly. In fact, according to the National Association of Realtors, the share of first-time home buyers in the national home sale market has fallen from 45 percent to 33 percent. While we also understand that homeownership strengthens communities and provides stability for families, a first-time home buyer's savings account will become an important tool in helping people overcome the financial obstacles to homeownership.

There are several other States that have similar legislation. It is estimated that this type of savings account in Pennsylvania can result in an annual increase of up to 4,000 home purchases within the State, and this result would be an overall positive impact on Pennsylvania's economy, spurring additional economic activity, job creation, and earnings for households. It is estimated that the economic impact could range between \$10 million to \$70 million.

So, Mr. President, I urge my colleagues for a positive vote today for Senate Bill No. 309.

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

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 309, which creates the first-time home buyers' savings account program. I want to start by thanking Senator Mensch for leading the way in getting this legislation to the floor for a vote today.

Mr. President, with the establishment of this program, the incentives would be provided for homeowners to save for such things as down payments and closing costs toward their first home. Compared to where it was more than a decade ago, homeownership among young adults is low. Nationwide, adults who are 35 years old or younger accounted for a little more than one-third of all homeownership last year, compared with 43.6 percent at the century's peak 15 years ago.

One of the biggest factors, Mr. President, contributing to this decline is an increase in personal debt, including student loan debt. As a realtor by trade myself, I know firsthand that many first-time home buyers are struggling to find the money for a down payment and closing costs. To help close the gap and allow residents to achieve homeownership, Senate Bill No. 309 will allow individuals and their families to open a first-time home buyer savings account at a financial institution to put money aside for a future purchase, all while the money saved would be eligible for an income tax deduction. A study conducted by the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors showed that this program could increase home purchases by up to 4,000 annually, while also helping to spur additional economic activity, job creation, and higher earnings for households. In fact, it is believed that the economic impact on Pennsylvania could reach as much as \$69 million. Who among us in this very room does not have fond memories of landing our first job, purchasing our first car, and, probably most of all, purchasing our first home? A vote in favor of Senate Bill No. 309 will go a long way to help individuals and families overcome the financial hurdles of purchasing their first house and fulfill that American dream themselves. So I ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator HAYWOOD. Mr. President, I also rise to support this legislation. It is a core feature of the American dream that individuals be in a position to purchase a home. A home is the greatest asset for many individuals, the source of not only a place to stay that is stable but also a place sometimes where individuals use to refinance for college or refinance for business opportunities. Two young people I mention just bought their homes, Alexis Lewis, my chief of staff's daughter, and Jordan Brunette, my district office operations officer, and they both had tremendous challenges, obviously, with saving enough for their first home. I am certain that this savings account would help others in the future so they will be able to raise a place for their families to have a strong life.

So, again, I support this legislation, and very much thank the leadership of Senator Fontana and Senator Mensch who have been leading in this area for years, and I am very glad to join them and our colleagues in moving this legislation along.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator BLAKE. Mr. President, I rise to briefly speak on this bill and certainly express my support for it. I commend Senator Mensch, the maker of the bill, and I appreciate the Majority Leadership for bringing up this bill for a vote. When I began my career in public life, I cut my teeth as a redevelopment authority director in Lackawanna County for over a decade, from 1981 through 1995. Back in 1992, this particular Chamber, along with

the House of Representatives during the Casey administration, passed Act 137, which set up the Optional County Affordable Housing Trust Fund. It allowed us to raise money in Lackawanna County to deliver not only housing rehabilitation assistance, but homeownership opportunities for the folks back home who I represent today. As you heard the statistics from Senator Mensch, I think it is important to keep in mind those statistics become more daunting in the face of a low-interest rate environment, where you think access to capital would be more readily available for home ownership, but it is not, which is why this bill is so important. I also think people need to know that home ownership is far and away the best and most influential builder of wealth for our citizens.

So, I commend the maker of the bill, and certainly look forward to an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 309.

Thank you very much, 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-48

Argall	Costa	Laughlin	Schwank
Arnold	DiSanto	Martin	Stefano
Aument	Farnese	Mastriano	Street
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Tartaglione
Bartolotta	Gordner	Muth	Tomlinson
Blake	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Boscola	Hughes	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

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 355, SB 417, SB 462 and SB 494 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 640 (Pr. No. 1345) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact; and providing for the form of the compact.

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 gentlewoman from Northampton, Senator Boscola.

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, this bill authorizes the Commonwealth to join the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact. The compact is an agreement between member States to improve access to physical therapy services for the public by increasing the mobility of eligible physical therapy providers to work in multiple States. Presently, there are 18 States that are fully vested in the compact with full licensure reciprocity. Eight States are now in the process of getting full recognition. After the National Medical Licensure Compact for doctors and the National Nurse Licensure Compact, the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact is the third-largest in the country in both size and scope.

Mr. President, this issue means a lot to me because as Minority chair of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, I have been to many conferences. I have seen reports and progress from many other States that have undertaken the adoption of these compacts. It is a growing issue. I think as a State we have to get very aggressive in licensure reciprocity. More and more States are joining up and we are being left behind. People coming out of school and finishing their advanced degree work are going to look at where to take their boards, and where they are going to get licensed. Well, they can opt to stay here in Pennsylvania, take the boards, get licensed, and practice in only one State. Or they can go across the border to New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, or West Virginia and get their license there, and then be able to practice in 20 or 30 other States. What would you do if you were a student with an advanced degree? I probably would want to get my license where I could practice in 20 other States instead of just 1.

I kindly ask for support on this bill. We have passed similar licensure bills in the past. There are more of these bills being introduced every day. Let us keep the ball rolling on this, and let us not get behind on this.

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-48

Argall	Costa	Laughlin	Schwank
Arnold	DiSanto	Martin	Stefano
Aument	Farnese	Mastriano	Street
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Tartaglione
Bartolotta	Gordner	Muth	Tomlinson
Blake	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Boscola	Hughes	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

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 679, SB 693, HB 775, SB 798, HB 1045, HB 1379, HB 1405 and HB 1522 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1578 (Pr. No. 2044) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 68 (Real and Personal Property) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in creation, alteration and termination of condominiums, further providing for contents of declaration and all condominiums and for amendment of declaration; in management of the condominium, further providing for bylaws; in protection of purchasers, further providing for public offering statement and general provisions; in creation, alteration and termination of cooperatives, further providing for contents of declaration and for amendment of declaration; in management of cooperatives, further providing for bylaws; in protection of cooperative interest purchasers, further providing for public offering statement and general provisions; in creation, alteration and termination of planned communities, further providing for contents of declaration and all planned communities and for amendment of declaration; in management of planned community, further providing for bylaws; and, in protection of purchasers, further providing for public offering statement and general provisions.

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-48

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

NAY-0

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

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

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 258 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 276 (Pr. No. 227) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in veterans' pensions and benefits, further providing for blind veteran's pension and for amputee and paralyzed veteran's pension.

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

Upon motion of Senator GORDNER, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 284, SB 368, SB 377, HB 422, SB 531, HB 584, SB 606 and SB 766 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 784 (Pr. No. 1348) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 19, 1988 (P.L.1262, No.156), known as the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in games of chance, further providing for prize limits, providing for pull-tab deal and further providing for regulations of department; and, in tavern gaming, further providing for definitions, for licenses, for application, for approval, for enforcement and for prohibitions.

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

SB 784 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 784, Printer's No. 1348, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 809 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 915 (Pr. No. 1437) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, repealing provisions relating to fertilizer; providing for fertilizer; in soil and plant amendment, further providing for disposition

of funds; in seed, further providing for disposition of funds; establishing the Agronomic Regulatory Account within the General Fund; imposing duties on the Department of Agriculture; and making conforming amendments.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

Upon motion of Senator GORDNER, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 932, SB 954, SB 987 and SB 996 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 997 (Pr. No. 1465) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in membership, credited service, classes of service and eligibility for benefits, providing for election to purchase nonintervening military service; and, in administration, funds, accounts and general provisions, further providing for construction of part.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

Upon motion of Senator GORDNER, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 1058 and HB 1174 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator CORMAN, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported the following resolutions:

SR 300 (Pr. No. 1502)

A Resolution designating the week of February 22 through 29, 2020, as "FFA Week" in Pennsylvania.

SR 301 (Pr. No. 1503)

A Resolution recognizing February 15, 2020, as "International Childhood Cancer Day" in Pennsylvania.

SR 302 (Pr. No. 1504)

A Resolution designating the month of March 2020 as "Disabilities Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

SR 303 (Pr. No. 1505)

A Resolution observing March 1, 2020, as "St. David's Day" in Pennsylvania and honoring the many Pennsylvanians of Welsh heritage.

SR 304 (Pr. No. 1506)

A Resolution designating the week of February 9 through 15, 2020, as "Cardiac Rehabilitation Week" in Pennsylvania.

SR 305 (Pr. No. 1507)

A Resolution designating February 7 through February 14, 2020, as "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week" and further designating February 14, 2020, as "Emersyn's Day" in Pennsylvania.

SR 306 (Pr. No. 1508)

A Resolution designating February 21, 2020, as "Keith Valley Challenge Day" in Pennsylvania.

SR 308 (Pr. No. 1510)

A Resolution recognizing the week of February 2 through 8, 2020, as "National Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda Week" in Pennsylvania.

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

MOTION PURSUANT TO SENATE RULE 29

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

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I move that the Senate proceed to consider the following resolutions, notwithstanding the provisions of Senate Rule 29(b):

SR 291, SR 300, SR 301, SR 302, SR 303, SR 304, SR 305, SR 306 and SR 308.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1

SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senators MASTRIANO, BROOKS, K. WARD, ARGALL, AUMENT, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER, BROWNE, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, HUTCHINSON, IOVINO, KILLION, LANGERHOLC, MARTIN, PHILLIPS-HILL, PITTMAN, SABATINA, SANTARSIERO, SCAVELLO, TARTAGLIONE and J. WARD offered **Senate Resolution No. 291**, entitled:

A Resolution commemorating Pennsylvania's contribution to Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, I rise to discuss Senate Resolution No. 291, commemorating Pennsylvania's great contribution to Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, which began 30 years ago this year. On 2 August 1990, at the end of the Cold War, and as peace was breaking out around the world, the Iraqi Army unexpectedly invaded Kuwait. President George Herbert Walker Bush responded to the invasion by deploying nearly 700,000 of our men and women to the region backed by a quarter million Allied and coalition personnel.

The first half of the deployment was called Operation Desert Shield, which was focused on the defense of Saudi Arabia. The second part of the operation, Desert Storm, encompassed offensive operations to liberate Kuwait, which began on 17 January 1991, with a great air campaign to wear down the Iraqi forces occupying Kuwait. The ground war officially began on 24 February 1991, but for my regiment, the 2nd Armored Cavalry, it actually began on the 23rd, where we began our attack into Iraq, leading the way to fight against Saddam Hussein's elite guards. Many of our armored units came out of Germany in the aftermath of the Cold War trained to fight the Soviet socialists whose empire had just collapsed. My unit, the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, deployed out of Germany and arrived with most of the 7th Corps in December 1990. The ground war commenced officially for us at 1 p.m., on 23 February 1991. I remember, as we launched air attacks and artillery raids against forward Iraqi positions in the empty quarter of the Saudi desert, that the wind was blowing in our faces, which meant Saddam Hussein would have the favorable use of chemical weapons against our men. But as our first tank in the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment entered Iraq, the wind suddenly switched, depriving the Iraqis the ability to use chemical weapons without it blowing back on their own soldiers.

The next day, we resumed our attack and the general offensive kicked off across the area of operations and resulted in the complete liberation of Kuwait within 100 hours. It was an incredible fight where the heroism of the American men and women deployed to the region brought us great pride. I remember the Battle of 73 Easting, the last great tank battle of the last century, being led by one of our own in Pennsylvania, back then Captain H.R. McMaster, former National Security Advisor, and his attack with Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles did us proud. It was an incredible time, and it is a time of special pride for the Pennsylvania Senate who thought it was a good idea to send Lt. Mastriano a State flag, carried across the battlefield there with great pride.

Operation Desert Storm was a stunning display of military operational might based upon years of study to not repeat the errors made during the Vietnam War, but the most important thing that happened was a transformation of American society at that time. The people of our State and nation rose up in prayer and in concern for the safety of our men and women, fearful of great casualties. So strong was our belief in suffering high casualties that my higher headquarters, 7th Corps based out of Germany, ordered 10,000 body bags, something that did wonders for our morale, I can tell you. But this trigger in Pennsylvania and the United States of prayer and concern resulted in a movement I do not think we have ever seen in American history, where yellow ribbons went up around the nation, on oak trees and

around houses as a reminder to pray for our troops. Care packages arrived in the tens of thousands from anonymous supporters expressing their prayer and concerns for the men and women deployed. It was an absolutely brilliant time. My squadron alone, the 4th Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, had 24 churches specifically praying for our safety, and all 500 of our men came back safely and returned to their families, despite losing several aircraft during the war.

Finally, the nation is close, after 30 years, to recognizing all the heroes of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The effort to establish a national Desert Storm and Desert Shield memorial in the nation's capital was started about a decade ago and will soon come to fruition. The memorial will be appropriately located in the shadows of the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This location on the National Mall will insure that millions from around the globe will learn about this historic event that forever changed our nation and our people and its lasting legacy for all those who served and sacrificed.

That is the key thing about this recognition here. Those whom we honor at this moment are all those who lost limb or life in this struggle. We honor the sacrifices of all Pennsylvanians who fought the good fight for freedom and who put their lives on the line for our nation at this difficult period. In particular, we remember the terrible sacrifice of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment, where so many paid the last full measure of devotion and from whose district the gentlewoman from Westmoreland County will tell the rest of the story.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator Kim Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I begin by acknowledging and thanking my colleague, Senator Mastriano, for his service to our nation. Pennsylvania sent thousands of its sons and daughters to serve in Operation Desert Storm. We suffered the highest loss in a single attack on February 25, 1991, when an Iraqi Al Hussein ballistic missile exploded at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killing 13 and wounding 43 members of the Greensburg, Pennsylvania, based 14th Quartermaster Detachment. That day the detachment had 81 percent of casualties. These great men and women of Pennsylvania gave their all in defense of liberty and freedom, and it is for these heroes that this resolution is given. May we never forget those who served during Operation Desert Storm, and especially, let us pause and remember those from Pennsylvania who paid the last full measure of devotion in the cause of freedom. 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 VOGEL, J. WARD, BARTOLOTTA, SCHWANK, DINNIMAN, BAKER, MARTIN, BROOKS, BREWSTER, DiSANTO, PHILLIPS-HILL, STREET, COSTA, LANGERHOLC, BROWNE, ARGALL, KILLION, K. WARD, PITTMAN, MENSCH, AUMENT, HUTCHINSON and BLAKE offered **Senate Resolution No. 300**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of February 22 through 29, 2020, as "FFA Week" in Pennsylvania.

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

Senator MARTIN offered **Senate Resolution No. 301**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing February 15, 2020, as "International Childhood Cancer Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, across the globe February 15 is universally recognized as "International Childhood Cancer Day". This day stands on our calendars as a day when we celebrate our successes in tackling pediatric cancer when we draw attention to the need to provide more resources in the fight against pediatric cancer and, most importantly, we remember those who have already gained their angel wings. Mr. President, while we have successfully increased the 5-year survival rate to over 80 percent, I am saddened to say that, unfortunately, this number does not tell the full story. Since the 1970s, the rate of children diagnosed with cancer has only gone up. The 5-year statistic does not reflect those who pass away after that point, nor the long-term health consequences they face for the rest of their lives. This is all because many treatments were designed decades ago and meant for adults. The consequences vary, but in some cases can even result in early death.

In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer reported that incidences of childhood cancer globally increased to 215,000, with many projections stating that number is actually closer to 300,000. We have to do more. I ask that on this upcoming February 15 that we all take a moment to reflect on support for those fighting pediatric cancer, those who have beat cancer, those who still are dealing with the side effects that cancer and cancer treatments have had on their young bodies, and, of course, those precious angels we have already lost.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

Senators TARTAGLIONE, MUTH, FONTANA, DINNIMAN, BAKER, KEARNEY, IOVINO, LEACH, COLLETT, BROOKS, BREWSTER, BARTOLOTTA, BROWNE, J. WARD, MARTIN, PHILLIPS-HILL, SANTARSIERO, KILLION, MENSCH, STREET, COSTA and HUGHES offered **Senate Resolution No. 302**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of March 2020 as "Disabilities Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise today to ask for my Senate colleagues to support this resolution to recognize the month of March as "Disabilities Awareness Month" throughout Pennsylvania. The purpose of this commemoration will be to raise public awareness about the prevalence of people with disabilities residing, working, and attending school in the Commonwealth and to raise awareness about the challenges that confront folks as they carry out their daily lives even now, 30 years after the Americans with Disabilities Act became law. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's latest American community survey, about 1 in 7 million Pennsylvanians were living with a disability between 2013 and 2017, accounting for 13.7 percent of the population, or 1 in every 7 residents in the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania's rate of persons with disability exceeds the national rate, which was 12.6 percent in the same survey, and that is about 1 in every 8 Americans. Ambulatory or movement-related disabilities are most commonly reported, but these figures also account for people with a full gamut of physical, cognitive, and emotional challenges. Disabilities affect people of all genders, ages, races, and personal backgrounds. Yet, they are more common in women than men, and are much more common in seniors than any other age group.

With disabilities being so commonplace, it is hard to imagine that the protections guaranteed to all of us under the Americans with Disabilities Act are so commonly overlooked or ignored. People with disabilities are still faced with discrimination in education, in the workforce, and public accommodations. For example, one in five Pennsylvania adults with disabilities do not have a high school diploma or equivalent. That is almost three times higher than the rate of adults without disabilities. More than one-third of adults without disabilities have earned a bachelor's degree, but only one in seven adults with disabilities have a bachelor's degree. Consequently, the median annual income for workers without disabilities was almost \$35,000 in the survey. But the median income for those with disabilities was less than \$22,000 a year.

Furthermore, public accommodations are still not meeting minimum standards codified in the ADA. If you do not believe me, just try making your way around town in a wheelchair for a while. As I noted last month when I testified before the House Democratic Policy hearing about the ADA, many public places do not have adequate handicapped parking, wheelchair ramps, or restrooms. Even familiar places sometimes present unexpected challenges, like when a local supermarket installs a new product display in the middle of an aisle. As public officials and community leaders, it is incumbent upon us to raise awareness about the needs and the rights of people who are living with disabilities. It is also our responsibility to make sure that those rights are being protected.

Therefore, once again, I ask my colleagues to join me in voting affirmatively on this resolution to recognize the month of March as Disabilities Awareness Month throughout the Commonwealth.

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 BAKER, DINNIMAN, BARTOLOTTA, STREET, PHILLIPS-HILL, LEACH, FONTANA, ARGALL, J. WARD, AUMENT, BREWSTER, KILLION, PITTMAN, COSTA, MARTIN, HUGHES, BROWNE and TARTAGLIONE offered **Senate Resolution No. 303**, entitled:

A Resolution observing March 1, 2020, as "St. David's Day" in Pennsylvania and honoring the many Pennsylvanians of Welsh heritage.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Luzerne, Senator Baker.

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Resolution No. 303 naming "St. David's Day," March 1, the feast day commemorating the death of the patron saint of Wales in 589. We celebrate it because of the cultural and economic influence of individuals of Welsh heritage that has been present from early colonial days through today. If William Penn had his way, probably our Keystone State might be known as New Wales, in appreciation of his heritage. The King held on to the naming rights and chose Pennsylvania to honor Penn's father. For a time, the Welsh, many of them Quakers, were our largest immigrant group. My ancestors, the Buckmans, were passengers with William Penn on the *Welcome*, one of 23 ships in his scattered fleet. In fact, William Buckman and his family survived the smallpox outbreak on the ship and went on to live in Lower Bucks County and build a new America. He was a carpenter. They came here to worship freely and work industriously, and as author Matthew Magda describes their distinction, "The Welsh were especially influential from 1682 to 1730 in shaping the political, economic, and social development of the colony." Many Welsh immigrants - gentry and farmers, workers in the mines and the mills - were driven by hardship at home and lured here by the wages they hoped to earn. Their economic impact was significant.

A tract of land west of Philadelphia was known as Welsh Barony. A railroad was built and it was called Main Line. So communities around there reflect this heritage, names like Bala Cynwyd, Bryn Mawr, Radnor, Gladwyne, Gwynedd, Uwchlan, and St. Davids. Today, Pennsylvania has more persons of Welsh ancestry than any other State. There are strong Welsh heritage communities in the anthracite areas of the northeast, parts of Pittsburgh, and in Cambria County. To properly celebrate, the Welsh wear daffodils and leeks, they eat cawl, which is a stew of bacon, lamb, and cabbage, and Welsh rarebit, and they have cheesecake, Caerphilly crumble.

In observing St. David's Day, we are reminded of the wonderful ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity that was here in Pennsylvania from the start. We can be proud that the diversity strengthened and enriched our Commonwealth, and so today I ask all of my colleagues to observe March 1 as St. David's Day recognizing our Welsh heritage here in the Commonwealth of 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 BAKER, J. WARD, BARTOLOTTA, DINNIMAN, COLLETT, IOVINO, FONTANA, KILLION, SABATINA, AUMENT, BREWSTER, PITTMAN, COSTA, MARTIN, BROWNE, TARTAGLIONE, MENSCH and SCAVELLO offered **Senate Resolution No. 304**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of February 9 through 15, 2020, as "Cardiac Rehabilitation Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Blair, Senator Judy Ward.

Senator J. WARD. Mr. President, I join with Senator Baker in offering Senate Resolution No. 304, which designates the week of February 9 through February 15, 2020, as "Cardiac Rehabilitation Week" in Pennsylvania. The goal of cardiac rehabilitation is to help heart disease patients learn to reduce risk factors, including smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, physical inactivity, diabetes, and obesity, which increases the chance of future heart problems. This week helps to draw attention to the cardiac rehabilitation professionals who promote the dissemination of information about coronary heart disease, its prevention, and rehabilitation. Having served as a cardiac rehab nurse for many years, this issue is very important to me. The dedicated cardiovascular professionals of this Commonwealth and the strides made to conquer coronary heart disease are deserving of great recognition.

I am pleased to join with Senator Baker in sponsoring this resolution and wish to thank all of the cardiac rehabilitation professionals for the quality of care they provide to their patients.

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 COLLETT, MUTH, PHILLIPS-HILL, FONTANA, SCAVELLO, SANTARSIERO, BROWNE, SCHWANK, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, HUGHES, MARTIN, J. WARD, BARTOLOTTA, COSTA, SABATINA, BAKER, AUMENT, TARTAGLIONE and STREET offered **Senate Resolution No. 305**, entitled:

A Resolution designating February 7 through February 14, 2020, as "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week" and further designating February 14, 2020, as "Emersyn's Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, today I offer this resolution recognizing February 7 through February 14 as "Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week" throughout the Commonwealth. Congenital heart defects, or CHDs, are the most common congenital disability. They are the leading cause of birth de-

fect-related deaths worldwide, and affect 1 in every 104 newborns in the United States. CHDs cause twice as many fatalities as childhood cancer. The impact of CHDs became personal for me after meeting the Swain and Sheeder family of Montgomery County. In 2018, Jackie Swain and Chris Sheeder were struck with the news that their infant daughter, Emersyn, had a CHD. Tragically, she passed away at just 7 months of age, after spending much of her life in the hospital. In Emersyn's memory, Jackie and Chris want to raise awareness about CHDs and early detection. Pulse oximetry, or pulse ox tests, are a simple, common, noninvasive screening test where an infrared scanner is placed on a newborn's finger which alerts health professionals to irregularities involving their heart and allows for lifesaving treatments to begin immediately following birth.

Through this resolution recognizing February 7 through February 14 as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week, I also ask that we recognize February 14, 2020, as Emersyn's Day, in recognition of Emersyn and the thousands of children whose lives were cut far too short because of CHDs.

I thank my colleagues for their support of this resolution and humbly ask for a unanimous "yes" vote as we seek to promote awareness about CHDs throughout 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 COLLETT, IOVINO, LEACH, DINNIMAN, J. WARD, SANTARSIERO, COSTA, BROWNE, STREET and HUGHES offered **Senate Resolution No. 306**, entitled:

A Resolution designating February 21, 2020, as "Keith Valley Challenge Day" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, I am honored to offer this resolution today in recognition of the dedicated efforts by the students and staff at Keith Valley Middle School in Horsham, Montgomery County. Every year since 1977, Keith Valley Middle School has held a floor hockey marathon to honor the memory of Billy Whitehead, an eighth-grade student who passed away due to a rare congenital heart defect. The 14-hour event has grown into the Keith Valley Challenge, which over the past 43 years has raised over \$1.1 million for 14 different charities. This year, students are raising money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and hope to exceed last year's fundraising total of \$51,103. I know I speak for all of my colleagues when I offer the students and staff of Keith Valley Middle School our respect and praise for finding a unique and fun way to give back to those in need. We certainly look forward to celebrating their success for years to come.

I ask my colleagues to join me in the adoption of this resolution, and thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me to speak on all the good work happening in my district and throughout our Commonwealth. 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 SCAVELLO, PHILLIPS-HILL, J. WARD, BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, PITTMAN, SABATINA, TARTAGLIONE, BAKER and AUMENT offered **Senate Resolution No. 308**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the week of February 2 through 8, 2020, as "National Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator SCAVELLO. Mr. President, I rise to speak on Senate Resolution No. 308, recognizing the week of February 2 through February 8, 2020, as "National Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda Week" in Pennsylvania. Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda, also known as FBLA-PBL, is a nonprofit educational organization whose first chapter was established in Johnson City, Tennessee, in 1942. This organization has grown to encompass over 230,000 members and advisors nationwide in middle schools, high schools, colleges, universities, career and technical schools, and private business schools.

FBLA-PBL is an inspiration to many students across the country and across the Commonwealth. It prepares students to become community-minded business leaders in the global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences. FBLA-PBL members perform community service activities and strive to build an understanding of the realities of the modern business world. This program teaches high school students basic business and leadership principles, and FBLA-PBL helps university, college, and technical and business school students to make the transition from school to work.

I ask my colleagues to join me by voting in favor of Senate Resolution No. 308, which recognizes February 2 through 8, 2020, as National Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator KILLION, from the Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development, reported the following bill:

SB 863 (Pr. No. 1224)

An Act amending Title 48 (Lodging and Housing) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in hotels, further providing for definitions, for hotelkeepers, for notice to boarders to lock rooms, for lien, warrant,

sale and right of redemption, for liability for property loss or damage, for special arrangements for safe deposit of valuables, for duty of guest, for other liability, for exemption from levy or sale, for baggage, for baggage sale requirements, for sale proceeds, providing for abandoned property and further providing for tourist camp heater safety.

Senator BROOKS, from the Committee on Health and Human Services, reported the following bill:

SB 934 (Pr. No. 1515) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in departmental powers and duties as to licensing, further providing for right to enter and inspect.

Senator BARTOLOTTA, from the Committee on Labor and Industry, reported the following bill:

SB 935 (Pr. No. 1516) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of April 27, 1927 (P.L.465, No.299), referred to as the Fire and Panic Act, further providing for standards for Class VI buildings.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator SCHWANK. 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 207, SB 565, SB 863, SB 934, SB 935, SB 958, SB 995, SB 1030, HB 342, HB 732, HB 752, HB 1751 and HB 1907.

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, FEBRUARY 6, 2020

10:00 A.M. HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING COMMISSION (public hearing on testimony by the Chancellor of the State System of Higher Education) Room 140 Main Capitol

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Independent Fiscal Office) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Revenue/Lottery) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Military and Veterans Affairs) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Corrections and the Board of Probation and Parole) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Pennsylvania Board of Pardons) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - PA State System of Higher Education) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of State) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Office of Attorney General) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Labor & Industry) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Auditor General) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Aging) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - PA Liquor Control Board) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Transportation) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Pennsylvania Treasury Department) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Human Services) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Health) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Education) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Community & Economic Development) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Agriculture) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Penn State University Ag. Research & Ag. Extension) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020

10:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - State-Related Universities)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Conservation & Natural Resources)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Penn College of Technology, Thaddeus Stevens College & Community Colleges)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020

10:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Department of Environmental Protection)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
1:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - PA Professional Liability Joint Underwriting Association)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
3:00 P.M.	APPROPRIATIONS (Budget Hearing - Budget Secretary/Governor's Executive Office)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020

Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 201, 530, 647, 927, 968, 969, 976, 997, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064 and 1093; and House Bills No. 68, 280, 752, 1210 and 1232)	Room 461 Main Capitol
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TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

10:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS Subcommittee on Education, Workforce, Community and Economic Development (public hearing on PAsmart Initiative) CANCELLED	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
11:00 A.M.	AGING AND YOUTH (informational meeting on Caregiver Support Program) CANCELLED	Room 461 Main Capitol
12:30 p.m.	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (to consider Senate Bills No. 881 and 1089) CANCELLED	Room 461 Main Capitol
Off the Floor	STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bill No. 1027; and House Bill No. 2018)	Room 461 Main Capitol

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020

10:00 A.M.	COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY (to consider Senate Bill No. 487) CANCELLED	Room 8E-A East Wing
10:30 A.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to consider Senate Bills No. 1076 and 1088; Senate Resolutions No. 316 and 317; and House Bill No. 1869)	Room 461 Main Capitol

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020

9:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS Subcommittee on Infrastructure, Environment and Government Operation (public hearing on Pipeline Investment Program (PIPE))	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
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MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2020

10:00 A.M.	INTERGOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS (public hearing on Red Tape Reduction) CANCELLED	2906 Copperleaf Dr., Erie
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PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Santarsiero.

Senator SANTARSIERO. Mr. President, it is tough being a teenager. The transition from childhood to being an adult brings with it many pitfalls, which we have all been through. I think for today's youth, it is even harder with the presence of social media and being connected almost on a 24/7 basis. It is even harder for LGBTQ youth going through that journey of life. Issues of acceptance, dealing with discrimination, and, indeed, in many cases, unfortunately, dealing with bullying make it a particularly difficult, if not even dangerous, time in life. Indeed, a national survey on the mental health of LGBTQ youth in the United States found that over the course of a year, 39 percent of them seriously considered committing suicide, 18 percent actually attempted suicide, and 71 percent reported experiencing discrimination because of who they are.

February can be a particularly difficult time for our LGBTQ youth. It is a time when most of our society celebrates love, February 14, Valentine's Day. But for LGBTQ youth, they often feel sidelined on that day because of a feeling of lack of acceptance, a lack of understanding, and a lack of empathy. Thankfully, there are programs, not as prevalent as they probably should be, but there are programs that help our LGBTQ youth with the day-to-day struggles that they have in making that journey through being a teenager. One such program I am very proud to say is located in my district, the 10th Senatorial District, in Doylestown. It is called the Rainbow Room. It is a program that began many years ago with the help of Planned Parenthood. The Rainbow Room provides a place, every Wednesday night from 6 to 8 p.m., for kids to come be with their friends, feel a complete atmosphere of acceptance and love. It is, indeed, for many of these children, a lifesaver.

The Rainbow Room this year, on February 15, is going to be holding a prom for all of its members. I am very happy to say, and I am grateful to the Michener Art Museum in Doylestown for providing the museum as a space for the prom this year. The Rainbow Room is expecting as many as 150 children to come to the prom this year. As part of the preparation for that, they asked me and my counterpart in the State House of Representatives, Wendy Ullman, to do a few things for them, and Mr. President, I am grateful for your participation in that when we appeared on your balcony a couple days ago with the rainbow flag. One of the things they asked us to do was to pass resolutions in both the House and the Senate acknowledging February 15 as "Love is Love Day" here in Pennsylvania. So, Representative Ullman and I put together companion resolutions to do just that. The resolutions talked about the challenges that our LGBTQ youth face, the need for programs like the one that is provided by the Rainbow Room, and about this day, February 15, as a day where these kids can feel like they are part of our society and valued like everyone else. Sadly, we were not able to bring that resolution to the floor, and I acknowledge and thank the Majority Leader be-

cause I know that he made a real effort to make that happen, along with our Leader, Senator Costa. But despite that effort, we could not get unanimous consent for that resolution.

Now, Mr. President, the truth of the matter is that every Member of this Senate, and, indeed, every Member of the General Assembly, has someone in their life who is part of the LGBTQ community, whether it is a friend, an uncle, an aunt, a cousin, a father, a mother, a sister, a brother, and, indeed, a child. We can disagree in this Chamber on a host of issues and come at those who disagree with genuine concern and from a place of genuine belief, whether it is education, the environment, or even gun violence prevention. But one thing we can never disagree on, and we should not ever disagree on, is that every Pennsylvanian, every Pennsylvanian, deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Every Pennsylvanian deserves to feel that they are valued and loved in our State. It is not okay that today, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it is perfectly legal for members of the LGBTQ community to be discriminated against. Every one of us should be embarrassed by that fact. Every one of us should demand action to overturn that. Indeed, there are efforts to do just that. I acknowledge and thank my friend, Senator Farnese, for once again offering Senate Bill No. 614. I thank you, Mr. President, for your support of that legislation. I thank Governor Wolf, who yesterday in his Budget Address eloquently spoke about the importance of that legislation and why we need to pass it. I acknowledge and thank Senator Bartolotta, who has pledged that she will bring that bill up for a hearing and a vote in her committee. We hope that happens, and it happens soon.

Mr. President, I am a person of faith. I do not often talk about my faith in public. It is a personal thing to me, and as an elected official, I particularly feel that it is a responsibility for all of us when we talk about such matters to do so with a sense of understanding about the importance of the separation of church and State that is enshrined in the United States Constitution. But, I am going to make an exception today, Mr. President, because faith cannot be the excuse for why we do not treat everyone in our society equally under the law and with dignity and with respect. It is a perversion of faith when it is used toward that end. The God to whom I pray is a God of love, is a God of understanding, and is a God who urges us not to judge one another.

Mr. President, we have a moral responsibility, as well as a constitutional obligation, to make sure that the rights of all Pennsylvanians are protected, including the rights of our fellow citizens in the LGBTQ community. It is, indeed, a sad day when we cannot pass or even hear a simple resolution of the kind that I have offered, and it is a sad day when we continue to allow discrimination against the LGBTQ community. I would not be here serving in this Chamber, and I would not be standing up here today, if I did not have faith that change is coming, if I did not have faith that the day is coming when we will right this wrong, when all of those kids in the Rainbow Room in Doylestown, and in other places throughout Pennsylvania and throughout our country, can hold their heads high and not have any fear of retaliation, discrimination, or bullying; and if I did not have faith that we in this Chamber, and our colleagues on the other side of the building, would not have the ability to go forward and make this change, if for nobody else then for those kids.

Mr. President, that day is coming, and I pray that the day is not far off. I will say to all of my colleagues, and I will say to every Pennsylvanian in the LGBTQ community, but particularly

those teenagers who are facing so much with courage and with their own dignity intact, despite what others may believe or how others may treat them, that I will not rest, and I know my colleagues standing with me today will not rest, until we achieve that goal. Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, today marks 4,959 days since the Pennsylvania legislature last raised the minimum wage. Mr. President, that is more than 13 1/2 years, and it is far too long. I report some good news and some bad news today regarding the minimum wage. First, the good news. Within the last few days, lawmakers in Wisconsin and Mississippi have introduced new bills to raise their minimum wage. This is notable because, like Pennsylvania, low-wage workers in both States have been toiling for more than a decade with a \$7.25 minimum wage. Meanwhile, in Virginia, where the sponsors of current minimum wage legislation are in the Majority party in both legislative Chambers, there is a real hope that the State will set its own minimum wage for the first time in history rather than continuing to rely on the Federal government to set its rates. Two bills - one in the Senate, one in the House - chart a course for a \$15 minimum wage in Virginia, where the current legislative Session is scheduled to conclude on March 7.

The bad news for Pennsylvania, of course, is that with the absence of advancement of our current minimum wage legislation, my Senate Bill No. 12, we will be doomed to fall further behind our neighbors and the rest of the country on this issue. Please, let us be clear about something. Our stagnant minimum wage is not just hurting the hundreds of thousands of low-wage workers in Pennsylvania, it is hurting all of us in a multitude of ways. Recently, the U.S. Census Bureau released a report on estimated State-by-State populations for 2019. Pennsylvania had a small net gain of about 7,000 residents for the year, and it has gained about 100,000 residents since the last census in 2010.

On the surface, that may seem like good news because the Commonwealth is growing. However, we are not growing fast enough compared to many southern and western States. As a result, Pennsylvania is expected to lose a congressional seat in the post-2020 reapportionment. Part of the problem confronting the Commonwealth is State-to-State migration. Frankly, too many Pennsylvanians are seeking greener pastures elsewhere. According to the Census Bureau, we had a net loss of almost 20,000 residents last year as a result of this phenomenon. The same issue confronts many of our neighboring States, but the difference is lawmakers there are trying to do something about it. They are trying to give people an incentive to stay. They all have raised their minimum wage above \$7.25, and some of them continue to do so.

Mr. President, it is time for Pennsylvania to follow suit and it is time for Pennsylvania to once again become a national leader on this issue. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Senate Bill No. 12 to raise the minimum wage to \$12 this year and set a course toward a \$15 minimum wage in the future.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator SCAVELLO. Mr. President, taking something from the previous speaker, it has been 30 years since this legislature

has tried to do something seriously about property taxes, and we are still not there. I have in front of me 11 pages, and they are not small pages, 11 pages of foreclosures in one county, 11 pages, because they could not pay their taxes. And I keep going back to a story that one of my seniors told me. She retired with her husband in 1984, debt free, with a \$500 school property tax bill. In 2010, that school property tax bill was \$4,800. So when you retire in 1984 and you had about \$3,000, a little bit of Social Security, you are fine. You do not own any debt, but 2010, she is in a different position because the taxes are that much more higher. She tells me she is guilty of living too long.

How many times do we see a senior with a 100th birthday, a 90th birthday, and realize when she retired 30 years earlier, 35 years earlier, and where she or he is today? There is not one day that I do not continually get calls from seniors in my district saying, I do not know what I am going to do next year. I am not sure what is going to happen next year. It is not just the seniors, it is everyone who is hurting, but I am going to tell you, if we cannot do it for everyone, let us do it for seniors. Let us help keep them in their homes. If we can do that, first, we are doing the right thing, but secondly, we are not impacting the school, because if a senior has to move out, into that house can move an average of two, two and a half students, average, which now impacts the school about \$50,000 in costs of educating the kids, whereas when the senior is in that house, there is no cost at all to the school district. A half-percent sales tax, Mr. President, a half-percent sales tax does not expand the base, you are not taxing anything else, generates close to a billion dollars, and can give a senior, 65 and older, with an income of \$60,000—that is only using half the Social Security—up to a \$5,000 credit in her taxes.

Yesterday, the Governor gave his Budget Address, and I have to tell you, I was disappointed. He did not mention school property tax at all. I hope he might hear this, and please, Governor, you know, it has to start at the top and you have to kick our butts down here and in the House, we need to do something. It is not getting any better out there for our seniors.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, last evening during the State of the Union Address, our President spoke about healthcare, but not in a way we want to hear. Not to provide it to more Americans or to make it more accessible or more affordable, but rather taking the time to accuse Congress of a socialist takeover of healthcare. Mr. President, nothing can be further from the truth. During the course of his administration, he has worked tirelessly to undermine the Affordable Care Act, and we know that it is also being challenged at the Federal level in our courts. If, in fact, it is undermined and no longer the law of the land, I think it is important for my colleagues, and those who are able to watch what we are doing here in Harrisburg, really what that means.

Mr. President, gone will be the ban on insurance companies having a lifetime cap. So we no longer have the ability to remove those caps. They would be able to cap coverage for individuals. Gone would be the requirements that insurance companies cover prescription drugs and maternity care. And gone would be limited financial support for 9 million Americans to assist them in purchasing modest healthcare insurance. Mr. President, gone will be 2.3 million adult children who will be kicked off their parents'

health insurance plans after they reach the age of 26. Insurance companies would be able to charge women 50 percent more than men. And 12 million seniors would pay more, as I mentioned, for their prescription drugs, and there would be 17 million individuals, working men and women who are laboring, many who are laboring at \$7.25 an hour, the minimum wage here in Pennsylvania, 700,000 of them would lose modest healthcare coverage. In that 700,000, as we know, about 125,000 Pennsylvanians who pay for this health insurance receive behavioral health benefits. That would be gone.

So, Mr. President, there is little that we here in Harrisburg can do as it relates to what is taking place through the Federal court systems, but also what is taking place in Washington. But our Senate Democratic Caucus has been at the forefront, in particular with the Medicaid expansion program, for a number of years, we have been at the forefront of trying to protect Pennsylvania residents, protecting them as it relates to the benefits that they enjoy today under the Affordable Care Act. But, Mr. President, after President Trump reduced significantly the marketing budget for the signups of the Affordable Care Act and restricted or limited the timeline that folks would have the opportunity to apply, Senate Democrats embarked upon a plan over the course of the past several years that during that enrollment period, we set out in our communities, working with Democrats and Republicans, providing them the opportunity to enroll in these programs, programs that are best suited for them and their families.

Mr. President, there are a number of other things that we have done, quite frankly, one in particular last year, and in a very bipartisan way related to how we provide access through a State insurance exchange in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania took the bold step to be able to do that after relying upon the Federal program as we have transitioned to that. The end result is we are going to be saving individuals 5 percent to 10 percent on their insurance premiums. But, Mr. President, there is a lot more we need to do and what we should do. We are sent here to protect our Pennsylvania residents as it relates to a number of areas, a number of issues. One of the top priorities for us here, in our Caucus, is healthcare and preserving access to healthcare going forward. That is why we have introduced a series of bills that would put us in a position to maintain the benefits I spoke of if, in fact, the President is successful in undermining the Affordable Care Act.

By way of example, Senate Democrats, through Senator Iovino, have introduced legislation prohibiting, as I mentioned, selling insurance policies that have an annual or a lifetime limit on that coverage. My colleague, Senator Hughes, has introduced a measure prohibiting the denial of coverage based on a preexisting condition. Regardless of what we may have heard last evening, the fact of the matter is there is no faith that folks in Washington, D.C., if, in fact, affordable care is stricken, there is no faith that they will be able to reach a resolution. We know that, Mr. President, because there are measures pending there today that could address this. Senate Bill No. 51, again by Senator Hughes, providing for mental health and essential health benefits such as mental health and addiction treatment, comparable to what folks are receiving as we speak today through the Medicaid expansion program. Our colleague, Senator Santarsiero, has introduced Senate Bill No. 982 that allows all young adults to stay on their parents' insurance until they have reached the age of 26.

Mr. President, we believe that we have an obligation to address these measures as we did last year related to the State

health exchange. We have an obligation to our constituents to make certain that we protect them from the changes that may be coming as we go forward. We cannot wait for the Federal government to act, and we do not know whether they will act at all, as has been obvious, but we have an obligation to make certain that we protect our Pennsylvania residents. These measures, as well as a few others, will be the priority of the Senate Democratic Caucus as we go forward, and we are going to do everything we can to advance these measures to protect our Pennsylvania residents so they have access to quality, affordable, and accessible healthcare to the men, women, and children in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator BROWNE. Mr. President, as far as I know, I am the final speaker on Petitions and Remonstrances today, so I thought it might be worthwhile to end this week's discussion on the most important component of this week, and that is the Governor's Budget Address, an opportunity for us to get together as an Assembly with the Governor and consider his proposals for future spending priorities of the State. It is an important moment for us to gather for that purpose. I have always found some value in that. Obviously, after we close today, there is a group of us who will break in about a week to get together to do some due diligence on the Governor's plan, and that is a traditional part of our process and we look forward to that hopefully coming to an arrangement with the Governor within the fiscal cycle to set those priorities. But in the meantime, I thought I would take just a little bit today to give some context, at least from our perspective, as to some of the things we are thinking about, in relation to not only the plans but some of the arguments that have been made to advance the Governor's proposal over the past 24 hours.

To get back to, for a little bit, the conversation yesterday, and as tends to be on budget day, broad strokes. We continue to be concerned about the overall proposals for spending growth, particularly in the spending in our General Fund. That is mainly a concern about sustainability. The Governor's proposals over the years, if you look at his averages as opposed to the ones under Governor Rendell and Governor Ridge, it really is not that much out of line with the things we were doing then, but the problem is our State is very different than it was. Our demographics are very different than it was, and our revenue capacity is not growing the same way that it used to. So when you try to match that spending growth against what we are seeing as increased revenue capacity, it is not matching up, and we continue to have growth beyond our ability to afford it. That being the case right now, it is important to reflect on where we were over the last 10 years, and that it was a struggle, a struggle over 10 years to achieve fiscal balance. We have made progress, and the keynote to that progress is the fact that we have been able to reduce the IFO's projection as a cumulative deficit from \$12 billion to \$6 billion over that period of time, and that is something we did in a bipartisan fashion.

We have to keep in mind we still have a cumulative projected deficit, and it is \$6 billion. That is because our revenue is not keeping up with our projected spending. We are not in a fiscal condition to effectively respond to what we know is coming. We essentially had 10 years, it was sluggish in the beginning, and, obviously, a lot better in the last couple of years of economic

growth, but a recessionary period is going to be coming, and during that period of time, States have done a lot better than us in securing our position given that fiscal downturn with reserves that will accommodate that type of experience. We are not there. Last year we did a very important thing, we put all of our projected surplus into the Rainy Day Fund to give us a stronger position, understanding that was coming, but it is not enough. Not even close to enough. So right now, that is something we need to at least discuss from a general financial position perspective. Consider those things that tend to be the keynotes and the barometers as to what is driving that, particularly those things that we invest in that associate with recurring costs when we are investing in people, things that are occurring over time.

Programming is a little less difficult to change over time because a lot of times we are sending money out the door, it does not involve actually hiring people. But if we look at the Governor's budget in relation to the general operations of State government, the proposals he is making for this year, I believe, should be concerning about our abilities to sustain them. Anything that is above our recurring revenue capacity, 3.5 percent growth, should be something that we should at least have a thorough conversation with the Governor as to whether it is sustainable. The Department of Agriculture proposal of the general operations are going up 5.25 percent; Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 12.73 percent; Department of Education, 25.8 percent; Department of Environmental Protection, 23.75 percent; Human Services up 10.66 percent; and the Department of State, 36.35 percent. Those are just in general operations. Our ability to sustain them should be part of our overall conversation.

Very briefly, Mr. President, on the department that drives the bus, the one that we are most invested in where the people whom we serve are the most vulnerable, the people we care about, our senior citizens, people with disabilities, families on healthcare, child care, the Human Services Department, the projections for this year are that the total expenditures are growing by 8.89 percent in State funds, \$1 billion plus in new spending, which is about as high as our growth in revenue capacity. We obviously understand the value of this spending. However, we have to be diligent to make sure that we can work together with the administration, as we have, community health choices, more senior citizens in communities, more effective models for healthcare, that even though spending might not go down, and understanding the caseloads are going up, that we control that number to the greatest degree we can and try to get it to a place where it is more sustainable. Because given the size of that number, \$14 billion on an 8.89 percent growth, considering that against the revenue we have available to it if it grows over time, that cumulative deficit will grow. So our ability to make sure we stay committed to the folks we are taking care of will be more difficult over time if we maintain that level of growth.

On the Governor's budget relative to things that have been done in the past year, Governor Wolf has, like other governors, presented legislative issues as part of his budget. One thing I believe Governor Wolf is doing a little more of than other governors have is, a lot of times the legislative suggestions he has are directly tied to the budget in terms of additional revenue that are needed to support the spending. They are not just separate legislative priorities, but unless we pass them, there is a revenue issue in his proposal, and I wanted to take a little time to give a little context of the ones that he has as part of his proposal this year.

First, the minimum wage. One of the things we had done when we closed the Session before the Christmas break was to advance a proposal to increase the minimum wage in Pennsylvania. The Senate, as a bipartisan body, did that. That corresponded to a significant reform in the overtime rules in the Commonwealth. The Governor, unlike Governor Rendell, the last time we raised the minimum wage, did not use this proposal as a revenue item. We have always been concerned about whether that is probable or realistic, and that has to be the standard under which we advance our budgeting decisions, that has to be probable. We cannot estimate the number within a range of probability. It is something we should be concerned about considering. But not only that, there is a reason for us to act that corresponds with the actions we have here that only happened a month and a half ago. If we are going to book a revenue number, it should correspond to something that we know this body joined together and acted on. So to book a revenue number based on another proposal, rather than the one that we agreed to, I think sets us up for partial imbalance in our conversation that we will need to correct.

In the Department of Education, the Governor is advancing some important initiatives that we collectively support - increases in spending, and investment in basic education, special education, and early education. The one thing that needs to be clarified though, I believe, in regard to the Governor's presentation, he packaged a component of his proposal as a \$380 million new investment in education. Now, in the past, that would be something that would be packaged in line with recurring revenue that we have available within our current revenue capacity to pay for. This requires us, in order to get there, some very significant reform in the formulas and the funding for the other public component of primary and secondary education in Pennsylvania, and that is our charter system, our transfer of dollars from the charter system to the traditional system of \$280 million. That is a separate proposal that raises money. We cannot confuse the fact that in order to get there, the Assembly, like we have been doing, has to achieve a goal that the Governor wants us to do in terms of charter funding formula reform.

Some of us were around in 1998 when this passed. It is a shrinking group, but some of us were. I know myself and my colleague, Senator Hughes, were here for that. A lot of us believe that the formula that was put in place in 1998 needs to be reformed. It has been 22 years now. But to anticipate a certain amount of spending, not having clarity as to what the Assembly can actually advance as part of a budget proposal, would arguably be something tough to defend as probable. I think it is highly probable that we will make an advancement on this issue, but can we achieve that level? Can we conform with the Governor's proposal? That is unclear at this point. Just to be clear, what is available in the Governor's budget now, the General Appropriation Act, is \$100 million for basic education, the rest we would have to accommodate with the reforms he is talking about.

The Governor has presented to us, which is an appealing proposal that I think a lot of us will see a lot of merit on based on the fact that we support PHEAA, we support the continued use of scholarships for students, especially given our ongoing conversation with the Higher Education Funding Commission to affordability of higher education to our students, and that is a new scholarship program, a \$200 million scholarship program that is tied to award education affordability. Given our history, something that by itself is something that I believe a lot of us

would see a lot of merit in, he is proposing to pay for that, the \$200 million, out of the Race Horse Development Trust Fund. We will have the opportunity to talk about that proposal in detail.

The only thing I want to mention now, and hopefully we can reconsider this, is how we are defending it. What I have heard from the administration, and from others over the past day, one of the reasons we should advance this is because as policymakers, we should always put the needs of our children before the needs of horses, and I think that confuses the conversation. Horses, as a component of racehorse development, are as relevant as cows are to farmers. They are something that allows for an activity and supports families and livelihoods. There are 10,000 families who have their livelihoods in the racehorse development industry. If we use that logic, based on what we do in the Department of Agriculture, we would transfer all the money, given the tremendous needs of our children, from the Department of Agriculture to the needs of kids, because of course we are going to care about children more than we care about cows and chickens. I can clearly stand here and be very confident, even though I cannot say that I know personally all 253 members of this Assembly, that the 253 will advance the needs of our children before they would advance the needs of horses. We have to understand what this fund is about and what it is being used for.

The possible unfortunate irony that could result of tying that proposal together with the argument, a family's livelihood that is affected by that revenue proposal loses their employment in the racehorse development industry as a result of it, has young men and women in the family who want to advance their higher education experience. They want to advance their hopes and dreams. But now, because that family no longer can sustain employment at that same level, that student has to take on more debt than he otherwise would go to school and has to come back to us to get money out of the program that is being funded by the program that was sustaining his employment. Just think about the conversation we would have with someone like that in our communities, even though it might be sarcastic. You know, thank God that State government started caring more about me than it was caring about horses. We have to be careful how we defend what we are doing. So I am asking the administration to understand what our priorities are, what we stand for here, and the context of the funding model we are using and advance the appropriate arguments to defend it.

Lastly, Mr. President, there is one revenue proposal that the Governor is bringing up again as part of this, and that is a fee for the utilization of State Police. There was, in past conversations, some concerns about this because in our opinion, the best types of revenue models are the ones that tie the revenue to the use. If you are using a service, the expectation that you would pay for it is something that is more direct and more predictable. The past proposals were only a per capita fee of \$25 on people who live in places who utilize State Police service and do not have their own police force. It was not directly tied to use because we know there are communities throughout the State that have police and utilize State Police services. So we asked the State Police to consider an alternative model, to go back and look at all the data they have and come back to us with an alternative model, and they did. They worked throughout the year and came back to us with an alternative approach. We are going to decide as a Senate body whether this is something we want to advance. But I give the State Police a lot of credit for going back and looking

through 10,000 pages of data and coming up with an alternative model based on our suggestion. That is collaboration. Regardless of the differences we have, and we will have many throughout the process, we will work through those, but if we collaborate in the end on the things we can agree to, I know we can come to an agreement which is in the best interest of the financial affairs and the future of the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I thank the gentleman, the good Senator Browne, my counterpart on the Committee on Appropriations, for his conversations. Always coming at the issue of the numbers and the process of a State budget in a substantive way, and I appreciate the opportunity to have a dialogue with him based on real facts, real figures, real true, honest analysis about what math works, what math does not work, and what is achievable. While we go through that process, I am reminded by a good friend, Reverend Jackson, that budget documents at every level - State government, local government, Federal government, businesses - but especially on the government side, are moral documents as well as they are documents on how dollars should be counted and how dollars should be spent. As is the case, I think it is very clear, where and how you spend your money indicates what is important to you.

So the idea in Governor Wolf's proposal to add significant new dollars to the basic education system, albeit in a different way, but new dollars would be achieved by our schools across the Commonwealth, represents a moral perspective and also represents a math that if we do the work, we can achieve. His perspective in the Governor's Budget Address, he talks about providing significant financial assistance to over 25,000 students, college-going students in Pennsylvania by providing them some additional resources so they can afford Last Dollar Scholarships, so they can afford to go to college here in Pennsylvania. Getting them the support in grant form if they stay in Pennsylvania and, should they leave Pennsylvania, it likely would morph into a loan that they would receive. That is a good policy to have. It also shows a priority. Education is always a priority, and it has, given the fact that so many are doing without, this has a way to provide for so many, and we should do that. We will have to figure out a way to do the appropriate math to make the numbers come together to support a program like that.

The issue that I have spent a significant amount of time over the years, and, unfortunately, have had to spend a very significant amount of time the last several months, is the Governor's proposal to put about a billion dollars into fixing broken and toxic schools. It is untenable that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania allows or requires students to attend public school, which is a State law, 180 days out of the year, State law, you must go to school 180 days out of the year, it is untenable that we would require those students to go to school in buildings that are broken, that are falling apart, that are crumbling, that are filled with lead, asbestos, and all kinds of mold and all kinds of other issues. That is not moral, and it is our responsibility to provide clean and safe environments, 21st century schools, if you will, to every child in Pennsylvania so that they do not have to go to a school that has lead and has lead cracking and falling apart all throughout the school building and, consequently, has a significant opportunity to impair the cognitive abilities of the children, the

teachers, and everyone in that school building. I have been to public schools all across Pennsylvania. Northeast and southwest, of course, in my own hometown, in surrounding southeastern Pennsylvania, here in Harrisburg, all across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This issue of crumbling school buildings is a statewide problem, and this is a statewide solution that the Governor has put on the table. It is our moral responsibility to provide clean and safe environments for everyone who occupies those buildings to perform at their best in clean and safe conditions.

So, that being said, as the Senator has indicated, we begin our process on February 17 or February 18, as the calendar goes, February 17 being Presidents' Day, we begin our process on February 18, analyzing department by department in a very public fashion what their proposed spending is in that particular area and then we have the opportunity to have the appropriate conversations, ask the appropriate questions and have the real conversations about how those numbers work, what the policy is in those particular departments, how that juxtaposes with the dollars that we have available and how that juxtaposes to the goal that we want to achieve. We want clean and safe communities, we want college to be accessible and affordable, we want our schools to be free of poison and easily on their path to be all 21st century schools. Those are the things that we want. We want an economy that works, an economy that is fair, and, needless to say, we want, as this body has indicated by its vote, we want to raise the wage of every low-income, working Pennsylvanian.

So we will have that opportunity to have that conversation. I encourage folks to come to our respective Web sites. Of course, senatorhughes.com is the best Web site that you can come to, and I encourage everybody to come to senatorhughes.com, notwithstanding Senator Browne's Web site, but I like mine better, and you will be able to watch the hearings live as they are in action. You will be able to send us questions and our staff will work with you to get those questions asked of the department leaders and have a serious public conversation about what it is that is happening and how we spend the dollars here in Pennsylvania. We are reminded that this is not just a simple mathematic balance sheet conversation. This is a conversation as a government that represents the goals of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and that the budget document must align itself with those goals to achieve the best that we want for our citizens.

So, Mr. President, I look forward to beginning the process with my friend, Senator Browne, and we look forward to public input and we ask everyone to not turn away from their televisions or smart phones or whatever device they want to utilize to turn toward them so they can see real conversations and real work that is being done by a significant percentage of the Members of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the Senate to House amendments to **SB 432**.

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

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the Senate to **HB 427** and **HB 1001**.

BILLS SIGNED

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

SB 432, HB 427 and **HB 1001**.

RECESS

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

Senator BROWNE. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, March 16, 2020, at 1 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 2:30 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.