

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020

SESSION OF 2020 204TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 11

SENATE

TUESDAY, April 7, 2020

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

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

PRAYER

The following prayer was offered by Hon. MEGAN MARTIN, Secretary of the Senate:

An old friend shared this prayer with me yesterday and it is beautiful and it is timely, so I am going to share it with all of you today.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, please walk through our houses, we give You the keys to every room. Take away all our worries, any illnesses, anything that may have been entered that does not belong. Please watch over and assign Your warrior angels to stand guard and heal our families from any disease, pain, fatigue, or discomfort. Also, comfort our friends, neighbors, and relatives, wrap them in Your love and protect us from the COVID-19 virus. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BILL INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following Senate Bill numbered, entitled, and referred as follows, which was read by the Clerk:

April 7, 2020

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate Senate Bill entitled, numbered, and referred as follows:

Senator BROWNE presented to the Chair **SB 1108**, entitled:

A Supplement to the act of June 28, 2019 (P.L. , No. 1A), known as the General Appropriation Act of 2019, adding Federal appropriations to the Executive Department of the Commonwealth for the fiscal year July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020.

Which was committed to the Committee on APPROPRIATIONS, April 7, 2020.

BILL SIGNED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Joseph B. Scarnati III) in the presence of the Senate signed the following bill:

HB 775.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

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

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journal of the Session of January 29, 2020, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of January 29, 2020.

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

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

YEA-50

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journal is approved.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Center, 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 Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness to be held immediately here on the Senate floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For the purpose of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

CALENDAR**BILL ON CONCURRENCE IN
HOUSE AMENDMENTS AS AMENDED****SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE
AMENDMENTS AS AMENDED**

SB 841 (Pr. No. 1623) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 35 (Health and Safety) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the Health Care Cost Containment Council, for its powers and duties, for health care cost containment through the collection and dissemination of data, for public accountability of health care costs and for health care for the indigent; providing for COVID-19 disaster emergency; in local organizations and services, further providing for general authority of political subdivisions; and, in Uniform Unsworn Foreign Declarations Act, further providing for heading of chapter, for short title of chapter, for definitions, for applicability and for form of unsworn declaration.

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House, as further amended by the Senate, to Senate Bill No. 841?

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House, as further amended by the Senate, to Senate Bill No. 841.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, Senate Bill No. 841 reauthorizes the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council for 10 years. In addition, it requires a study of the impact

of COVID-19 on medical facilities within the Commonwealth. In addition, Senate Bill No. 841 will allow any municipality, including counties, to adopt a resolution to extend their discount period for property tax collection and/or waive any fees and penalties until the end of the year. It is completely optional, but they have to make the decision within 30 days of the bill being signed into law.

Next, Senate Bill No. 841 also expressly permits any local government or affiliated entity, like a zoning board or planning agency, to meet remotely via telecommunications, which requires a minimum of audio communication, without the need to have a quorum physically present. They just need to have a quorum of members participating on the actual telecommunications device. In addition, for permit applications and other related matters, there is a 30-day suspension of any required timeline for pending or new applications and appeals. Next, Senate Bill No. 841 extends the deadline and waives some of the requirements for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. Finally, Senate Bill No. 841 adds e-notary services to become available and permitted in the Commonwealth. I urge my colleagues to please support the bill.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognize the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I thank the gentleman for providing the elements of the latest version of Senate Bill No. 841, and I would like to take a moment to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. This is another example of where, during this crisis, we have worked together to compromise, understand, and work with the stakeholders to come to a place where we move legislation to allow us to be able to operate our local governments, and other folks as well, through this time as we go forward through this crisis. It is another example of our working together to address these issues, and I appreciate the work that has been done, largely by the staff of our respective Caucuses, and thank them for the work they have done to bring us to this point in time, and, hopefully, the House will concur in this measure very, very soon.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I submit my remarks for the record.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The remarks will be spread upon the record.

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

Mr. President, today I submit the following remarks for the Journal regarding Senate Bill No. 841 and the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, the Senate voted unanimously for an important piece of legislation that empowers local governments, expands provisions for those workers contracted by school districts and provides for necessary extensions to ease the burden every Pennsylvanian is carrying during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This bill, in its current form, allows for school districts to renegotiate with contracted providers to make sure school contractors are paid during the period of school closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It also allows for remote notarization abilities and for county and local governments to extend or delay the collection of certain property

taxes. These aspects of the bill are clearly aligned with the legislature's goal of keeping as many people employed as possible, allowing for an increase of various tele-work, and providing flexibility for local entities so that taxpayers aren't burdened more so than they already are.

In addition, I applaud the provisions in the bill that allows local governments to establish a virtual quorum, to maintain transparency through sunshining meetings five days in advance, and to extend time limits to review applications and plans. These important provisions will give local governments the ability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in a flexible manner. However, these measures are only the first of many steps that need to be taken in order to accommodate the needs of our local municipalities across the State. If the House concurs Senate Bill No. 841 in the form the Senate passed, then the day the Governor signs the bill, a 30-day clock begins for local governments before they will need to review applications and plans. That same 30-day clock cannot be applied to the COVID-19 pandemic. So I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to not forget that we must be sensitive to the COVID-19 mitigation needs, as they may fluctuate in the coming months. We must act legislatively to support our local governments as they are on the front lines supporting our local districts, constituents and industry. Furthermore, Mr. President, I think it is disgraceful for the Leadership in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to not consider Senate Bill No. 841 today. As of today, it has been 32 days since the Governor declared a state of disaster/emergency. That means for 32 days our local governments have not had legal clarity on how they are able to operate and support their citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic. For the House to not consider this bill today, they leave local governments to continue facing legal questions with no legislative support or answers. Those questions and concerns will only get more complicated as time progresses, increasing wasted tax dollars on backtracking when we could have passed the solution they need today.

Every Member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly should be working together, in a collaborative and urgent manner, to protect our State and our constituents from further harm caused by this pandemic. Going home without passing a single bill that would provide any sort of relief during this public health crisis is simply unacceptable. The majority party in both chambers failed to use their legislative power to help so many people in need.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

YEA-50

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

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate inform the House of Representatives accordingly.

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 64 and HB 280 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 355 (Pr. No. 2110) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in preliminary provisions, providing for advertising; and, in charter schools, further providing for definitions, for charter school requirements and for powers of board of trustees and providing for fund balance limits.

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

HB 355 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 355, Printer's No. 2110, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 417, SB 462, SB 494, SB 679, SB 693, HB 716, SB 798, HB 1045, HB 1210, HB 1379, HB 1405, HB 1522 and HB 1907 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

PREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMITTED

SB 1050 (Pr. No. 1522) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act to provide appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020; to provide appropriations from special funds and accounts to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020; and to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

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

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

SB 1051 (Pr. No. 1523) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the State Employees' Retirement Fund and from the SERS Defined Contribution Fund to provide for expenses of the State Employees' Retirement Board for the fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

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

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

SB 1052 (Pr. No. 1524) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Public School Employees' Retirement Fund and from the PSERS Defined Contribution Fund to provide for expenses of the Public School Employees' Retirement Board for the fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

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

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

SB 1053 (Pr. No. 1525) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Professional Licensure Augmentation Account and from restricted revenue accounts within the General Fund to the Department of State for use by the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs in support of the professional licensure boards assigned thereto.

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

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

SB 1054 (Pr. No. 1526) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Workmen's Compensation Administration Fund to the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Community and Economic Development to provide for

the expenses of administering the Workers' Compensation Act, The Pennsylvania Occupational Disease Act and the Office of Small Business Advocate for the fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

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

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

SB 1055 (Pr. No. 1527) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund and from Federal augmentation funds to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for the fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

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

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

SB 1056 (Pr. No. 1528) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making an appropriation from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Consumer Advocate in the Office of Attorney General.

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

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

SB 1057 (Pr. No. 1529) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making an appropriation from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Small Business Advocate in the Department of Community and Economic Development.

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

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

SB 1058 (Pr. No. 1530) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the restricted revenue accounts within the State Gaming Fund and from the restricted revenue accounts within the Fantasy Contest Fund and Video Gaming Fund to the Attorney General, the Department of Revenue, the Pennsylvania State Police

and the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

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

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

SB 1059 (Pr. No. 1531) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Philadelphia Taxicab and Limousine Regulatory Fund and the Philadelphia Taxicab Medallion Fund to the Philadelphia Parking Authority for the fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

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

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

NONPREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMITTED

SB 1060 (Pr. No. 1532) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Supplement to the act of April 1, 1863 (P.L.213, No.227), entitled "An act to accept the grant of Public Lands, by the United States, to the several states, for the endowment of Agricultural Colleges," making appropriations for carrying the same into effect; providing for a basis for payments of such appropriations, for a method of accounting for the funds appropriated and for certain fiscal information disclosure; and making an appropriation from a restricted account within the Agricultural College Land Scrip Fund.

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

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

SB 1061 (Pr. No. 1533) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Supplement to the act of July 28, 1966 (3rd Sp.Sess., P.L.87, No.3), entitled "An act providing for the establishment and operation of the University of Pittsburgh as an instrumentality of the Commonwealth to serve as a State-related university in the higher education system of the Commonwealth; providing for change of name; providing for the composition of the board of trustees; terms of trustees, and the power and duties of such trustees; authorizing appropriations in amounts to be fixed annually by the General Assembly; providing for the auditing of accounts of expenditures from said appropriations; providing for public support and capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of bonds exempt from taxation within the Commonwealth; requiring the chancellor to make an annual report of the operations of the University of Pittsburgh," making appropriations for carrying the same into effect; and

providing for a basis for payments of such appropriations, for a method of accounting for the funds appropriated and for certain fiscal information disclosure.

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

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

SB 1062 (Pr. No. 1534) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Supplement to the act of November 30, 1965 (P.L.843, No.355), entitled "An act providing for the establishment and operation of Temple University as an instrumentality of the Commonwealth to serve as a State-related university in the higher education system of the Commonwealth; providing for change of name; providing for the composition of the board of trustees; terms of trustees, and the power and duties of such trustees; providing for preference to Pennsylvania residents in tuition; providing for public support and capital improvements; authorizing appropriations in amounts to be fixed annually by the General Assembly; providing for the auditing of accounts of expenditures from said appropriations; authorizing the issuance of bonds exempt from taxation within the Commonwealth; requiring the President to make an annual report of the operations of Temple University," making an appropriation for carrying the same into effect; providing for a basis for payments of such appropriation; and providing a method of accounting for the funds appropriated and for certain fiscal information disclosure.

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

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

SB 1063 (Pr. No. 1535) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Supplement to the act of July 7, 1972 (P.L.743, No.176), entitled "An act providing for the establishment and operation of Lincoln University as an instrumentality of the Commonwealth to serve as a State-related institution in the higher education system of the Commonwealth; providing for change of name; providing for the composition of the board of trustees; terms of trustees, and the power and duties of such trustees; providing for preference to Pennsylvania residents in tuition; authorizing appropriations in amounts to be fixed annually by the General Assembly; providing for the auditing of accounts of expenditures from said appropriations; providing for public support and capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of bonds exempt from taxation within the Commonwealth; requiring the President to make an annual report of the operations of Lincoln University," making an appropriation for carrying the same into effect; providing for a basis for payments of the appropriation; providing for a method of accounting for the funds appropriated; and providing for certain fiscal information disclosure.

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

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

SB 1064 (Pr. No. 1536) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 207, SB 258, SB 284 and HB 342 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 377 (Pr. No. 1401) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in enforcement, further providing for jurisdiction and penalties; and, in game or wildlife protection, further providing for the offense of unlawful taking and possession of protected birds and for endangered or threatened species.

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 531 and SB 565 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

HB 584 (Pr. No. 591) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in fishing licenses, further providing for exemptions from license requirements.

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 766, SB 784, SB 809, SB 954 and SB 995 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 1027 (Pr. No. 1621) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in organization of departmental administrative boards and commissions and of advisory boards and commissions, further providing for State Geospatial Coordinating Board.

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

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

HB 1083 (Pr. No. 1256) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, repealing provisions relating to capital stock and franchise tax reports and payment of tax.

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

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND RECOMMITTED

SB 1093 (Pr. No. 1593) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for the capital budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021.

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

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 1097 (Pr. No. 1622) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 57 (Notaries Public) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Uniform Unsworn Foreign Declarations Act, further providing for heading of chapter, for short title of chapter, for definitions, for applicability and for form of unsworn declaration, and, in revised uniform law on notarial acts, further providing for authority to perform notarial act, providing for notarial act performed by remotely located individual and further providing for notification regarding performance of notarial act on electronic record and selection of technology.

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 1174 and **HB 1796** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

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

SB 1106 (Pr. No. 1626)

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

HB 1869 (Pr. No. 3537) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in emergency medical services system, further providing for basic life support ambulances.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.
The bills were as follows:

SB 1106 and **HB 1869**.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
COMMITTEE MEETINGS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020

Off the Floor APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 1027, 1097, 1106 and 1108; and House Bills No. 752 and 1869) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

Off the Floor RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 327 and 613; and certain Executive Nominations) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator MENSCH. Mr. President, I made a comment for which I would like to apologize. It was an offhanded comment to another person in the office. I cautioned everyone that the microphones were opened, I looked, I thought it was closed, but it was a personal comment, a personal observation, and I apologize. Thank you.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, as you can see, I am wearing a mask here today, under the guidance of the Governor and the Secretary of Health during this crisis, and I want to point out, of course, there is a little logo of my alma mater, Penn State, on the mask. It was actually made by Anita Powell, who is the mother of Ashley Albert, who works in my office, and Ruthann Shoenfelt, her aunt. They made over 150 masks to give to different people in the community. I know a lot of different members of our community are doing such a thing. Senator Scavello mentioned to me last night that his wife is making a bunch of masks that they are giving out to the community and his neighborhood, and it is another example of all of us pulling together during a very, very difficult time to try to help members of our communities. I thank Ms. Powell and Ms. Shoenfelt for their efforts. Go Penn State, and I appreciate their interest in keeping us all healthy.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, first, I acknowledge, again, that Senator Tartaglione would like to submit her comments for the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator COSTA, on behalf of the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator TARTAGLIONE:)

Mr. President, today marks 5,021 days since the Pennsylvania legislature last raised the minimum wage. That is more than 13 1/2 years, and it is far too long.

It has been barely one month since Governor Wolf made the difficult but necessary decision to declare a statewide emergency due to the coronavirus pandemic. This public health crisis has already had a devastating effect on Pennsylvania's workforce, particularly its low-wage workers.

More than 1.1 million Pennsylvanians have filed new unemployment claims since March 15. The Department of Labor and Industry has been working hard to make sure these displaced workers receive the benefits they deserve as soon as possible. We are all looking forward to the day when those folks can return to their jobs. But today, I would like to highlight the valuable contributions of a group of workers who are still on the job. These workers provide essential goods and services to the people of this Commonwealth. Tragically, many of them do not get paid like essential workers. I am referring to the workers who staff our grocery stores and restaurants, those who serve as vital links in our food distribution chain.

Mr. President, I have spent many years--decades, in fact--fighting to raise Pennsylvania's minimum wage to a family-sustaining level. Our current minimum wage, just \$7.25 an hour, is not a living wage. Opponents of the minimum wage do not even dispute that. Instead, opponents often argue that jobs such as grocery store clerks and fast food cashiers do not warrant \$15 an hour, or even \$12 an hour. They argue that these are "entry-level" jobs for people who lack the training or skills, or maybe even the motivation, to do better for themselves. I find this logic to be disrespectful and insulting, and so is our minimum wage.

Amid a public health emergency, when communities need them most, grocery store and food service workers are on the front lines. They are risking their own health to ensure that the job gets done. They do this because they want to provide for their families. And they do it because they are dedicated to their communities. Their work ethic is not limited to the current public health crisis. It is something they do week after week, month after month, and year after year. They are just like low-wage workers in many other industries. They deserve to make a living wage all the time, not just when there is a coronavirus pandemic. They deserve a raise in Pennsylvania's minimum wage. We in the General Assembly should grant it to them.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, secondly, I concur in the comments made by my colleague, the Majority Leader, Senator Corman, regarding thanking folks who are making masks. Now, while I am not wearing a University of Pittsburgh, or an IUP, or even a Community College of Allegheny County mask, I am proudly wearing one that was made by my wife, who has been home working and creating masks for the community. My hat is off certainly to her and so many other folks across our Commonwealth who are pitching in whatever way they can to be able to help all of us address this crisis as we move forward trying to combat this coronavirus. So thanks to all of those folks for what they are doing, all of those individuals who are working and trying to help our community, the businesses that are converting their equipment into other things going forward. All of those things are important to this cause.

So thank you, Mr. President, for the chance to be able to thank those folks.

RECESS

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, before we adjourn, I will let all of the Members of the Senate Republican Caucus know that we are going to begin our caucus at 12 noon. You have all been emailed the address to do it remotely. So in 10 minutes, at 12 noon, we will begin the Senate Republican caucus.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I will communicate with our Members as well. They understand what the process is today, and I will double back with them to insure that we all know what is going on with respect to the remainder of today's Session.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

AFTER RECESS

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

HOUSE MESSAGE

SENATE BILL RETURNED WITH AMENDMENTS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 327**, with the information the House has passed the same with amendments in which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to Senate Rule 13(c)(2)(i), the bill will be referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations.

RECESS

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate to the call of the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate stands in recess to the call of the President pro tempore.

AFTER RECESS

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

RECESS

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, April 15, at 11:41 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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