

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020

SESSION OF 2020 204TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 13

SENATE

MONDAY, April 20, 2020

The Senate met at 1:26 p.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:

Let us pray.

Lord, in these trying times, please show us the way. Let those who are sick be healed, let those who suffer find comfort. Guide us as we work together here, today, to help all of our fellow Pennsylvanians who are in need. In Your name we pray, amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

RECALL OF REGULAR SESSION

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

April 19, 2020

TO: President and All Members of the Senate

FROM: Senator JOE SCARNATI
President Pro Tempore

RE: Recall to Session
Monday, April 20, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

Consistent with the recess motion made on April 15, 2020, the Senate is recalled for voting Session on Monday, April 20, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

April 16, 2020

Senators MASTRIANO, ARGALL, BOSCOLA, DINNIMAN and PHILLIPS-HILL presented to the Chair **SB 1117**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sports wagering, further providing for sports wagering authorization fee.

Which was committed to the Committee on COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, April 16, 2020.

April 17, 2020

Senators ARNOLD, BARTOLOTTA, DiSANTO, LAUGHLIN, SCAVELLO, LANGERHOLC, K. WARD, ARGALL, J. WARD, MARTIN, BAKER, MENSCH, STEFANO, MASTRIANO, PHILLIPS-HILL, REGAN and YAW presented to the Chair **SB 1105**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, providing for emergency COVID-19 provisions.

Which was committed to the Committee on LABOR AND INDUSTRY, April 17, 2020.

Senators KILLION, AUMENT, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER, COLLETT, DINNIMAN, FARNESE, FONTANA, MENSCH, MUTH, SCHWANK, STEFANO, TOMLINSON, VOGEL and A. WILLIAMS presented to the Chair **SB 1116**, entitled:

An Act prohibiting foreclosure and eviction of business owners during the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor.

Which was committed to the Committee on COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, April 17, 2020.

Senators BAKER, FARNESE, KILLION, K. WARD, ARNOLD, J. WARD, REGAN, STEFANO and SCAVELLO presented to the Chair **SB 1119**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in limitation of time, providing for declaration of judicial emergencies.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, April 17, 2020.

Senators BAKER, FARNESE, KILLION, K. WARD, J. WARD, REGAN, STEFANO, ARNOLD and SCAVELLO presented to the Chair **SB 1120**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sentencing, further providing for payment of court costs, restitution and fines.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, April 17, 2020.

Senators DINNIMAN, COSTA, FARNESE and MUTH presented to the Chair **SB 1121**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 4, 1996 (P.L.911, No.147), known as the Telemarketer Registration Act, further providing for the offense of violations.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, April 17, 2020.

Senators PITTMAN, PHILLIPS-HILL, DiSANTO, KILLION, ARGALL, ARNOLD, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA, LANGERHOLC, MENSCH, A. WILLIAMS, J. WARD, BREWSTER, MASTRIANO, MARTIN, K. WARD, SCHWANK, YAW, VOGEL, SCAVELLO, STEFANO, GORDNER, COSTA, REGAN, BROOKS and BLAKE presented to the Chair **SB 1122**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in grants to fire companies and emergency medical services companies, providing for COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program.

Which was committed to the Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, April 17, 2020.

April 20, 2020

Senator DINNIMAN and KILLION presented to the Chair **SB 1123**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, providing for COVID-19 emergency provisions.

Which was committed to the Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, April 20, 2020.

Senators MASTRIANO, ARGALL, PHILLIPS-HILL, PITTMAN and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SB 1124**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 23, 1956 (1955 P.L.1510, No.500), known as the Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955, further providing for confidentiality of reports and records; and abrogating a regulation.

Which was committed to the Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, April 20, 2020.

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

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

April 20, 2020

HB 1189 -- Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness.

HB 2233 -- Committee on Transportation.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The President pro tempore has made the following appointments:

Mr. Scott Sikorski to the Governing Board of the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority.

Mr. Donald R. Wagner as a member of the Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator BAKER, from the Committee on Judiciary, reported the following bills:

SB 1119 (Pr. No. 1643)

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in limitation of time, providing for declaration of judicial emergencies.

SB 1120 (Pr. No. 1644)

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sentencing, further providing for payment of court costs, restitution and fines.

HB 360 (Pr. No. 3583) (Amended)

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

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

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journal of the Session of February 4, 2020, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of February 4, 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.

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, first for purposes of a set of off-the-floor committee meetings to be held here on the Senate floor, starting with the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, followed by the Committee on Health and Human Services, then followed by a Republican caucus to be held on ZOOM.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For purposes of a set of off-the-floor committee meetings to be held here on the Senate floor, starting with the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, followed by the Committee on Health and Human Services, then followed by a Republican caucus, 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.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Mastriano has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 64, HB 280 and HB 355 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL AMENDED

SB 417 (Pr. No. 436) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

Senator MARTIN offered the following amendment No. A4626:

Amend Bill, page 1, lines 18 through 20, by striking out all of said lines and inserting:

Section 1. Section 810 of the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is amended to read:

Amend Bill, page 2, lines 10 through 30; page 3, lines 1 through 5; by striking out all of said lines on said pages and inserting:

Section 2. Section 1405 of the act, amended October 31, 2019 (P.L.552, No.77), is amended to read:

Section 1405. Manner of Computing Irregular Ballots.--The county board, in computing the votes cast at any primary or election, shall compute and certify votes cast on irregular ballots exactly as such names were written, stamped or deposited in or on receptacles for that purpose, and as they have been so returned by the election officers. In districts in which paper ballots or ballot cards are electronically tabulated, stickers or labels may not be used to mark ballots. A vote cast by means of a sticker or label affixed to a ballot or ballot card shall be void and may not be counted. In the primary or election the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall not certify the votes cast on irregular ballots for any person for a National office including that of the President of the United States, United States Senator and Representative in Congress; or for any State office including that of Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Auditor General, State Treasurer, Senator and Representative in the General Assembly, justices and judges of courts of record or for any party office including that of delegate or alternate delegate to National conventions and member of State committee unless the total number of votes cast for said person is equal to or greater than the number of signatures required on a nomination petition for the particular office. In the primary or election the county board shall not certify the votes cast on irregular ballots for any person for a [justice of the peace] magisterial district judge, constable, National, State, county, city, borough, town, township, ward, school district, election or local party office unless the total number of votes cast for said person is equal to or greater than the number of signatures required on a nomination petition for the particular office.

Amend Bill, page 3, line 6, by striking out "2" and inserting:
3

Amend Bill, page 3, line 7, by striking out "2019" and inserting:
2020

Amend Bill, page 3, line 8, by striking out "3" and inserting:
4

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

It was agreed to.

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

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 462 (Pr. No. 858) -- 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, repealing provisions relating to report of racial and ethnic groupings and to study of public schools that provide Internet instruction; in school districts, repealing provisions relating to corporate seal, to submission

of plans, to disapproval of plans, to Department of Public Instruction to prepare plans, to establishment of reorganized school districts and to advance establishment; in duties and powers of boards of school directors, repealing provisions relating to special school watchmen-school districts in townships of the second class, to copies of school laws and to educational broadcasting; in grounds and buildings, repealing provisions relating to residences for teachers and janitors, to heating stoves to be shielded, to ventilation and thermometer, to fireproof construction, to doors to open outward and fire escapes, etc., to completion of abandoned WPA projects in districts of the third and fourth class and to condition of grounds and shade trees; in certification of teachers, repealing provisions relating to summer schools, etc.; in pupils and attendance, repealing provisions relating to possession of telephone pagers prohibited, to nonprofit school food program, to antitrust programs and to medical care for children under six with defective hearing; in safe schools, repealing provisions relating to report; in school health services, repealing provisions relating to care and treatment of pupils and to local wellness policy; in terms and courses of study, repealing provisions relating to foreign language academies, to monthly reports to school directors of the districts second, third and fourth class, to Read to Succeed Program and to department duties and powers; in vocational education, repealing provisions relating to schools or classes, supervisors, principals, instructors, etc., to estimate of expenses and reimbursements and appropriations and to teachers of evening schools; in transfers of credits between institutions of higher education, repealing provisions relating to duties of public institutions of higher education; repealing provisions relating to medical education loan assistance; and, in reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts, repealing provisions relating to special study on the revenue impact of out-of-State tax credits.

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?

RECONSIDERATION OF SB 462

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which Senate Bill No. 462 was agreed to on third consideration.

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

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

L. WILLIAMS AMENDMENT A4837 OFFERED

Senator L. WILLIAMS offered the following amendment No. A4837:

Amend Bill, page 2, lines 13 and 14, by striking out "repealing provisions relating to medical education loan assistance;"

Amend Bill, page 2, line 30, by striking out the comma after "XV-B" and inserting:
and

Amend Bill, page 2, line 30, by striking out "AND" and inserting a comma

Amend Bill, page 2, line 31, by striking out ", ARTICLE XXII-A AND SECTION" and inserting:
and

Amend Bill, page 23, lines 8 through 30; pages 24 through 32, lines 1 through 30; page 33, lines 1 through 11; by striking out all of said lines on said pages

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

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

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, this amendment would prevent the Medical Education Loan Assistance Program from being repealed from the School Code. The Medical Education Loan Assistance Program specifically provides for a loan forgiveness program for nurses. Nursing applicants statewide are eligible for the State to forgive 50 percent of their student loan, not to exceed \$50,000, if a student enters into a contract that upon successful completion of an approved nursing program and licensure as a registered nurse to practice nursing in this Commonwealth for a period of not less than 3 consecutive years, the student's loans will then be forgiven over a period of 3 years.

The Medical Education Loan Assistance Program was originally passed to address a growing nursing shortage that was negatively affecting our healthcare delivery system here in Pennsylvania. A number of my colleagues who are here today, on both sides of the aisle, voted in favor of this program originally. Current law states that PHEAA is required to administer this program. However, it was discontinued in 2007 due to a lack of funding and a survey conducted by the PHEAA board amongst hospitals that indicated they did not have a nursing shortage at the time. However, that is no longer true. We have nursing shortages across Pennsylvania at hospitals, nursing homes, and home healthcare. This program still has a purpose; in fact, one of my first activities as a new Senator in January 2019 was cutting the ribbon at a brand-new nursing school, the Citizens' School of Nursing, in my district. Chancellor Greenstein testified at the Higher Education Funding Commission meeting on February 6 that, by 2025, Pennsylvania is looking at a shortage of 34,000 nurses. I was referred to a program called the Primary Care Practitioners' Loan Repayment Program as an additional reason why we did not need the Medical Education Loan Assistance Program. The primary care repayment program is a good program, but it only covers nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and physician assistants in medically underserved areas. It does not cover registered nurses, it is not statewide, and it forgives only \$40,000 over 4 years.

We are in the middle of a pandemic, where countless Pennsylvania nurses are putting their lives on the line to keep us safe. We should be working to fund the Medical Education Loan Assistance Program, not repeal it. I have yet to hear a good enough reason to cut this program right now. This loan assistance program should be part of the budget discussion this year. We need to make it easier for Pennsylvanians to become nurses so they can take care of all of us. I ask that my colleagues vote in favor of this amendment.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from York, Senator Phillips-Hill.

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, yes, the Medical Education Loan Assistance Program was terminated in 2007, and the program still exists as the Primary Care Loan Repayment Program under the Department of Health. The line item in the Department of Health is the primary health care practitioner program, which is funded at \$4.5 million, \$2.5 million of that funding goes to the Primary Care Loan Repayment Program that of-

fers funding for education loan payments to primary care clinicians practicing in underserved communities. The program acts as a financial incentive for the recruitment and retention of physicians, dentists, behavioral health professionals, and other primary care clinicians in areas that lack access to primary care.

For a few years, PHEAA transferred funding to the Department of Health for the program from their earnings. However, that no longer occurs. The program, as of the current budget, is now funded solely through the General Fund, as PHEAA's earnings have significantly decreased. I would respectfully submit to the gentlewoman from Allegheny County that a better course of action would be to work with the Department of Health to include nurses, who are very essential in providing healthcare to the Commonwealth, in their existing and already-funded program, and I would respectfully ask my colleagues for a negative vote on the amendment.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

The yeas and nays were required by Senator L. WILLIAMS and were as follows, viz:

YEA-22

Blake	Farnese	Leach	Tartaglione
Boscola	Fontana	Muth	Williams, Anthony H.
Brewster	Haywood	Sabatina	Williams, Lindsey
Collett	Hughes	Santarsiero	Yudichak
Costa	Iovino	Schwank	
Dinniman	Kearney	Street	

NAY-28

Argall	Corman	Martin	Scavello
Arnold	DiSanto	Mastriano	Stefano
Aument	Gordner	Mensch	Tomlinson
Baker	Hutchinson	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Bartolotta	Killion	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Brooks	Langerholc	Regan	Ward, Kim
Browne	Laughlin	Scarnati	Yaw

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

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

It was agreed to.

And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-43

Argall	Dinniman	Laughlin	Scavello
Arnold	DiSanto	Leach	Schwank
Aument	Fontana	Martin	Stefano
Baker	Gordner	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Bartolotta	Haywood	Mensch	Tomlinson

Boscola	Hughes	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Brewster	Hutchinson	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Brooks	Iovino	Regan	Ward, Kim
Browne	Kearney	Sabatina	Yaw
Collett	Killion	Santarsiero	Yudichak
Corman	Langerholc	Scarnati	

NAY-7

Blake	Farnese	Street	Williams, Lindsey
Costa	Muth	Williams, Anthony H.	

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

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

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 494 (Pr. No. 528) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

SB 494 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 494, Printer's No. 528, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 679 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 693 (Pr. No. 838) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, in ballots, further providing for form of ballots, printing ballots, stubs and numbers; in voting machines, further providing for form of ballot labels on voting machines; and, in electronic voting systems, further providing for forms.

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

SB 693 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 693, Printer's No. 838, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

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

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 752 (Pr. No. 802) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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-50

Table with 4 columns of names: Argall, Arnold, Aument, Baker, Bartolotta, Blake, Boscola, Brewster, Brooks, Browne, Collett, Corman, Costa, Dinniman, DiSanto, Farnese, Fontana, Gordner, Haywood, Hughes, Hutchinson, Iovino, Kearney, Killion, Langerholc, Laughlin, Leach, Martin, Mastriano, Mensch, Muth, Phillips-Hill, Pittman, Regan, Sabatina, Santarsiero, Scarnati, Scavello, Schwank, Stefano, Street, Tartaglione, Tomlinson, Vogel, Ward, Judy, Ward, Kim, Williams, Anthony H., Williams, Lindsey, Yaw, 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.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 798 (Pr. No. 1409) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225), known as the Dog Law, in short title and definitions, further providing for definitions; in dangerous dogs, further providing for court proceedings, certificate of registration and disposition and for requirements; and making an editorial change.

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

SB 798 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 798, Printer's No. 1409, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

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 third time and agreed to,

And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-50

Table with 4 columns of names: Argall, Arnold, Aument, Baker, Bartolotta, Blake, Boscola, Brewster, Brooks, Browne, Collett, Corman, Costa, Dinniman, DiSanto, Farnese, Fontana, Gordner, Haywood, Hughes, Hutchinson, Iovino, Kearney, Killion, Langerholc, Laughlin, Leach, Martin, Mastriano, Mensch, Muth, Phillips-Hill, Pittman, Regan, Sabatina, Santarsiero, Scarnati, Scavello, Schwank, Stefano, Street, Tartaglione, Tomlinson, Vogel, Ward, Judy, Ward, Kim, Williams, Anthony H., Williams, Lindsey, Yaw, Yudichak.

NAY-0

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 1045, SB 1097, SB 1106, HB 1210, HB 1379, HB 1405 and HB 1522 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL OVER IN ORDER TEMPORARILY

HB 1869 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order temporarily at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 1907 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 207, SB 258, SB 284, HB 342, SB 531, SB 565, 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.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND RECOMMITTED

SB 1108 (Pr. No. 1628) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, 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.

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 OVER IN ORDER

HB 1174 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

RECESS

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, due to some lengthier negotiations and drafting issues that we are still working through, I request a recess until 5:30 p.m. to allow the Members, particularly those who are on ZOOM and those here in the Chamber, to go back to their offices and do what they can and then come back at 5:30 p.m. and we should have this all ironed out and ready to go.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the Senate stands in recess until 5:30 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

HB 1869 CALLED UP

HB 1869 (Pr. No. 3569) -- Without objection, the bill, which previously went over in its order temporarily, was called up, from page 5 of the Third Consideration Calendar, by Senator CORMAN.

BILL AMENDED

HB 1869 (Pr. No. 3569) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

REGAN AMENDMENT A5124

Senator REGAN offered the following amendment No. A5124:

Amend Bill, page 1, line 2, by inserting after "Statutes," providing for COVID-19 enforcement officer disability benefits; and, Amend Bill, page 1, lines 6 and 7, by striking out all of said lines and inserting:

Section 1. Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

CHAPTER 57

COVID-19 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER DISABILITY BENEFITS

Sec.

5701. Scope of chapter.

5702. Enforcement officer disability benefits.

§ 5701. Scope of chapter.

This chapter relates to enforcement officer disability benefits relating to COVID-19.

§ 5702. Enforcement officer disability benefits.

(a) General rule.--A person covered under section 1(a) of the act of June 28, 1935 (P.L.477, No.193), referred to as the Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits Law, who contracts or is diagnosed with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), as identified in the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), or is subject to quarantine resulting from exposure to COVID-19, and by reason thereof is temporarily incapacitated from performing his duties, shall be compensated in accordance with section 1(a) of the the Enforcement Officer Disability Benefits Law.

(b) Limitation.--A benefit received under subsection (a) shall be limited to 60 days for each incident.

Section 2. Section 8133 of Title 35 is amended by adding a subsection to read:

Amend Bill, page 2, line 7, by striking out all of said line and inserting:

Section 3. This act shall take effect as follows:

(1) The addition of 35 Pa.C.S. § 8133(c) shall take effect in 60 days.

(2) The remainder of this act shall take effect immediately.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

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

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, this amendment mirrors the Heart and Lung Act provisions which the House unanimously passed as part of House Bill No. 1189 and is similar to Senate Bill No. 1106, which the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness and the Committee on Appropriations unanimously reported the last 2 weeks. Simply put, this legislation would insure that all law enforcement officers, along with other first responders, are covered under the Pennsylvania Heart and Lung Act, should they have to take time off due to either

contracting, being tested for, or quarantined due to COVID-19. The language provides a sense of protection for those who are protecting us amidst this chaos. I ask for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

It was agreed to.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration, as amended?

MUTH AMENDMENT A5178

Senator MUTH offered the following amendment No. A5178:

Amend Bill, page 1, line 2, by inserting after "Statutes," providing for COVID-19 benefits for members of Pennsylvania National Guard; and,

Amend Bill, page 1, lines 6 and 7, by striking out all of said lines and inserting:

Section 1. Title 35 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

CHAPTER 58
COVID-19 BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF
PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD

Sec.

5801. Scope of chapter.

5802. Benefit.

§ 5801. Scope of chapter.

This chapter relates to COVID-19 benefits for members of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

§ 5802. Benefit.

(a) Benefit.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard shall receive from the department a benefit computed under subsection (b)(2) if the member:

(1) is ordered to State Active Duty for Emergency or Special State Duty by the Adjutant General or by the Governor; and

(2) sustains an injury while participating in duty under paragraph (1) from the period of notification to report for duty until officially released.

(b) Claim submission, calculation and funding.--

(1) A member of the Pennsylvania National Guard who sustains an injury and is not compensated for the injury by the Federal Government, must submit a claim to receive the benefit as prescribed by the Adjutant General.

(2) For purposes of computing the average weekly wage of a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard or dependent thereof, weekly wages shall be calculated using the daily base pay table under Title 37 of the United States Code (relating to pay and allowances of the uniformed services) to determine the Pennsylvania National Guard member's daily wage at the time of the injury. The average weekly wage shall equal the member's daily base pay multiplied by five.

(3) A benefit received under this section shall be limited to 60 days for each incident.

(4) The General Assembly shall appropriate the money necessary to be deposited into a nonlapsing restricted interest-bearing account to provide for the benefit established in subsection (a).

(c) No Commonwealth employee status.--In no event shall any member of the Pennsylvania National Guard while performing the activities described in subsection (a) be deemed an employee of the Commonwealth for any purpose or benefit. Nothing in this section shall be construed to entitle a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard to any benefit or emolument provided to an employee of the Commonwealth.

(d) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Department." The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

of the Commonwealth.

"Injury." Contracts or is diagnosed with coronavirus disease 2019, known as COVID-19, as identified in the proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020, published at 50 Pa.B. 1644 (March 21, 2020), or is subject to quarantine resulting from exposure to COVID-19, and, by reason of the exposure, is temporarily incapacitated from performing duties.

"Participating." The term includes activities ordered by the Adjutant General or by the Governor such as training, an exercise or related official functions.

"Special State Duty." State military duty by the Pennsylvania National Guard under this section. The term shall not include State Active Duty for Emergency under this section or duty authorized and funded under 10 U.S.C. or 32 U.S.C.

"State Active Duty for Emergency." State military duty by the Pennsylvania National Guard under 51 Pa.C.S. § 508 (relating to active duty for emergency) that is not active duty authorized and funded under 10 U.S.C. (relating to Armed Forces) or 32 U.S.C. (relating to National Guard).

Section 2. Section 8133 of Title 35 is amended by adding a subsection to read:

Amend Bill, page 2, line 7, by striking out "2" and inserting:
3

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

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

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, this amendment applies to National Guard members who went on active duty because of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting March 6 disaster declaration. This amendment provides emergency benefits for the Pennsylvania National Guard members who are impacted by COVID-19 and are on in-State or non-Federal deployment missions. In a domestic emergency, the Pennsylvania National Guard acts as the supporting entity to PEMA, and at least 532 members are on active duty as of April 8, with 15 National Guard members and 6 family members testing positive for COVID-19. The Montgomery County testing facility, as of April 8, was fully staffed by Pennsylvania Guard members. The Pennsylvania Guard members have also taken over food distribution and delivery for the Pittsburgh Food Bank. Members of the Pennsylvania Guard have also started providing support to long-term care facilities that are suffering from staff shortages due to the spread of COVID-19. Currently, members are on duty in the 44th Senatorial District, my district, at the Southeastern Veterans' Center in East Vincent Township, Chester County.

The Southeastern Veterans' Center is one of six veterans homes in our Commonwealth. As of today, the Southeastern Veterans' Center has 19 veterans who have tested positive, 12 veteran residents who have died from COVID-19, and 25 staff members who have tested positive as well. The PA Guard has been helping to fill the gaps in staffing shortages and assist veteran residents with their needs. Currently, there are no State medical benefits or workers compensation to cover Guardsmen who get sick while on State active duty.

During this pandemic, we must protect our frontline workers. My amendment provides support to those in the National Guard that we are offering to other first responders working on the front lines. I also want to take a moment to thank and acknowledge Senator Iovino, the Democratic chair of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, for her help and guidance with this effort. I also want to thank Chairman Regan for

his efforts in expanding the Heart and Lung Act, and I ask for his support on this amendment and hope the same support is given by my colleagues from across the aisle in the House when the bill returns there for a vote on concurrence. I ask for an affirmative vote on this amendment.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the amendment?
It was agreed to.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

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

SB 273 (Pr. No. 224)

An Act amending the act of May 21, 2013 (P.L.32, No.10), known as the Community-Based Health Care Act, in health care assistance, further providing for Community-Based Health Care Program.

SB 959 (Pr. No. 1650) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in public assistance, further providing for medical assistance payments for institutional care.

SB 1110 (Pr. No. 1651) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of April 23, 1956 (1955 P.L.1510, No.500), known at the Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955, further providing for definitions and for confidentiality of reports and records.

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

SB 1076 (Pr. No. 1560)

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in military leave of absence, further providing for military family relief assistance.

SB 1122 (Pr. No. 1647)

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in grants to fire companies and emergency medical services companies, providing for COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program.

HB 1838 (Pr. No. 3590) (Amended)

An Act amending Titles 35 (Health and Safety) and 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in emergency medical services system, further providing for support of emergency medical services; in general provisions, further providing for EMS costs; and, in driving after imbibing alcohol or utilizing drugs, further providing for Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator KILLION. 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 273, SB 959, SB 1076, SB 1110, SB 1119, SB 1120, SB 1122, HB 360 and HB 1838.

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
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020

Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 368, 530, 532, 606, 647, 927, 935, 968, 969, 976, 997, 1030 and 1108; and House Bills No. 102 and 1050)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider Senate Bill No. 857)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator J. WARD. Mr. President, I rise today to thank those individuals who attended the rally at the Capitol in Harrisburg today to have their voices heard. Thousands of people were in attendance to voice their support to get business back open and stop government overreach. I have so many people calling my office, as we all do, unable to file for unemployment, unable to pay their bills, and struggling to buy food. These folks want to go to work, they want to collect a paycheck, and they want to take care of their families. The Governor announced today that on May 8 he would allow some industries to reopen. That is simply too late. We need to get Pennsylvania back open, and that is why I have voted for legislation that would do just that and will continue to stand in support of my constituents and their efforts to be heard.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair notes that Senator Tartaglione has submitted remarks for the record. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

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

Mr. President, today marks 5,034 days since the Pennsylvania legislature last raised the minimum wage. That is more than 13 1/2 years, and it is far too long.

Mr. President, I am pleased to report that many of the Commonwealth's displaced workers received some very good news 2 days ago. On Saturday morning, the Department of Labor and Industry launched a new Web page that will allow independent contractors, gig economy workers, and other self-employed individuals to apply for unemployment benefits. This is not traditional unemployment compensation. As you know, self-employed workers do not qualify for traditional UC benefits, but in response to the COVID-19 emergency, the Federal government has enacted the CARES Act, which grants Pandemic Unemployment Assistance to individuals who are not eligible for regular UC. I applaud Congress for adopting this emergency measure, but I deplore the fact that it took a devastating national pandemic for so many hardworking folks to finally get some job-loss protection.

On a national level, our self-employed workforce has been growing rapidly for years, faster than our total workforce was growing prior to the pandemic. The expansion of gig economy platforms like Uber, Lyft, Grubhub, DoorDash, and Airbnb has contributed to the growth. So has administrative policy on worker classification. Perhaps the greatest example of this anti-worker trend occurred last September when the National Labor Relations Board determined, by majority opinion, that businesses do not violate the National Labor Relations Act by misclassifying employees as independent contractors. The board's three Republican appointees concurred, while the lone Democratic appointee dissented. (Incidentally, the five-member NLRB has just three sitting members now because the Trump administration has not nominated anyone to fill the two seats traditionally reserved for minority-party appointees.) Workers suffer tremendously when their employers get to misclassify them as independent contractors. These workers do not have access to employer-subsidized pensions or health insurance. They do not qualify for unemployment benefits or workers compensation, and they are excluded from overtime and minimum wage protections. Conversely, employers stand to benefit financially from these policies. They do not pay pension, health insurance, workers comp, or unemployment premiums. They do not have to worry about wage tax or Social Security withholdings. They have no commitment to the worker.

The great tragedy here, of course, is that many of the companies that have been taking full advantage of no-strings-attached labor are now pleading for government bailouts. They very much like the idea of a safety net now, although they were not inclined to provide the same protection for their workers when times were good, but I digress. My primary objective with these remarks is to advocate once again for the Senate and the full General Assembly to raise Pennsylvania's minimum wage. At just \$7.25 an hour, our current rate is woeful and pitiful. It is a poverty wage, and it is an insult to all hardworking Pennsylvanians who continue to drive our economy forward through prosperous times and through desperate times, like those that confront us today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNOR

SENATE BILL RETURNED WITHOUT APPROVAL

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following veto communication in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, advising that the following Senate Bill had been returned without approval:

SB 613, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in administrative organization, repealing provisions relating to employees with access to Federal tax information and reenacting provisions relating to criminal history background checks of employees and contractors with access to Federal tax information; and providing for COVID-19 emergency mitigation plan for businesses.

The Clerk read the veto message as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR HARRISBURG

April 20, 2020

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 613, Printer's Number 1636.

These are unprecedented times, with no easy choices. My highest priority remains protecting the health and safety of all Pennsylvanians during this emergency. Because of our critical steps and sacrifices over the past month, we have slowed the spread of COVID-19, but we continue to have between 1,000 and 2,000 new cases a day.

This is not an easy decision, but it is the right course for Pennsylvania. Reopening tens of thousands of businesses too early will only increase the spread of the virus, place more lives at risk, increase the death tolls, and extend the length of the economic hardships created by the pandemic.

Instead, we need a measured and staggered approach to reopening the economy. This approach needs to include not only a decline in the spread of the virus, but also an integrated approach for how and when to open businesses and what additional measures are needed to ensure our businesses are safe and our health care system can support us. Although we are no longer seeing exponential growth in the new cases of the virus, the peak of COVID-19 cases has likely not been reached.

The next few weeks will be difficult for all Pennsylvanians - for health care workers, for families, for essential employees, for older Pennsylvanians and for business owners. We need to continue to bend the curve; we need to stay home. If we let go of this strategy too soon, all of our progress could be lost.

While we continue to take the difficult and critical steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, I recognize that we must look ahead. That is why I recently announced a set of standards we will use as part of a comprehensive strategy that first focuses on our public health, but also addresses the need to restore our economy.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from Senate Bill 613, Printer's Number 1636.

Sincerely,

TOM WOLF
Governor

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill and veto message will be laid on the table.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

(Continued)

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, thank you for this opportunity. I am obligated to comment on what occurred at the State Capitol today with respect to the demonstrators who were outside. We fully support everyone's right to demonstrate. The most important right that we have is the right of free speech. People should observe that, people should encourage that, people should recognize that, and people should embrace that. What occurred today, Mr. President, was one of the worst, most irresponsible examples of what can happen in this State, in this nation, with respect to the issue of public health. Two hundred and fifty to 300 people gathered today, Mr. President, in front of our Capitol, 95 percent of them had no masks on, 95 percent of them did not display social distancing that has been recommended not just by the Governor, not just by Secretary Levine, but has been recom-

mended by the President of the United States of America. More than likely, Mr. President, these individuals infected one another with the coronavirus disease. More than likely, Mr. President, these individuals will go back to their communities, I expect, I assume, most of them in rural communities, many of those individuals will wind up in rural hospitals with the disease, with an illness, and many of these individuals will wind up infecting other people.

We all want the State to open up. We all want the State's economy to open up, and you can bring back an economy, but you cannot bring back someone who is sick or someone who dies from this disease or any other illness. You cannot bring them back. We must lead with public health, we must create our policies around the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. That must be the driving decisionmaker, protecting lives and protecting the people who save those lives, but the irresponsible gathering today will only wind up hurting those individuals who the folks demonstrating claim they care for and love.

Mr. President, it was a good day, in some respects: To allow people to speak their minds, their issues, and their concerns, but it was a bad day for the public health of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and it was a bad day for the public health of the people of this nation. These individuals who gathered in Harrisburg today, defying the wishes of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, defying the wishes of the President of the United States with respect to maintaining social distancing, not having gloves, not having masks, will only wind up hurting themselves and will likely wind up hurting countless thousands of other individuals unsuspecting and unknowing, because that is how this disease works. Mr. President, we are admonished by leaders up and down, local, State, and national levels, to follow certain rules and regulations. In fact, Mr. President, individuals walking around this Chamber right now have masks and gloves on. We require that. Testing should be available to everyone. We make the right and best decisions for all of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, very briefly, when people gather to protest and to voice their opinions and their displeasure, at times, with their elected officials, it comes in all forms. It comes at all risks and it comes in different fashions, and today people's frustrations, at some point or other through this process, rightfully or wrongly, at every protest everyone has an opinion. Sometimes people believe it is right to protest, some people believe it is wrong, but whether you disagree or agree, the thing we all agree on is the people's right to assemble and to voice their concerns to their elected leaders and to shout out why they think the governing body, the ruling body, is incorrect in whatever the issue of the day is. I know my colleague from Philadelphia knows that very well, and he has been a leader in areas of injustice and fighting wrongs, and this was a different day. I say that at some point it is about personal responsibility, at some point people want to come out and voice their opinion, and they did that today, and whether they were told to do this or that, that is a beautiful freedom. Freedom allows you to come and assemble, and hundreds of people came, if not thousands, I am not sure of the count, came and assembled today and spoke their mind. And

whether they listened to all the admonishments of the current governing body as far as health standards, it is their right, their right to come and have their voices heard. They did that today. Hopefully, we all not only heard that, but we heard all of the voices, and then we in this Chamber and the Chamber on the other side of the building come together and bring all of those voices together to come up with some sort of path to move forward. We had some constructive conversations with the Governor today. I think we passed some good bipartisan legislation today. It took us a few hours to get it all drawn up, but we came to agreement on a very, very important issue here today.

Protests usually do not come in pretty packages, they come in sort of nasty, ugly, difficult packages, but that is the American democracy. That is the democracy that allows us to come and voice our opinion. Sometimes I agree with protests and sometimes I do not, but what I always agree with is their right to do it, and the people of Pennsylvania exercised that right today. Hopefully, they did so in a way that will not spread the virus, because that is obviously something we are all concerned about, but I will certainly always applaud people's right to be heard, and that is what we saw out front today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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 Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at 11 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 6:40 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.