

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020

SESSION OF 2020 204TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 19

SENATE

TUESDAY, May 12, 2020

The Senate met at 2 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:

I am truly privileged to lead all of you in prayer each Session day. The book of Proverbs says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Lord, these are difficult days. Help us to continue to trust in You with all our hearts. May our thoughts, our words, and our actions this day and all days honor You. Direct our paths so that we can come together for all the citizens of this great Commonwealth. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

**RECALL COMMUNICATIONS
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following communications in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which were read as follows and referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations:

**MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF BARBER EXAMINERS**

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated April 6, 2020, of Moriah Hathaway, 1009 Roman Knoll Court, Harrisburg 17109, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Barber Examiners, to serve until January 22, 2021, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Joseph Ferruzza, Pittsburgh, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 13, 2020, of Rebecca Dombrowsky, 669 Rockwood Drive, Elizabethtown 17022, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Chiropractic, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice George Khoury, Bridgeville, whose term expired.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated March 13, 2020, of Rebecca Dombrowsky, 669 Rockwood Drive, Elizabethtown 17022, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Medicine, to serve until April 17, 2022, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Joseph Losee, Pittsburgh, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated

April 6, 2020, of Moriah Hathaway, 1009 Roman Knoll Court, Harrisburg 17109, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Medicine, to serve until June 19, 2021, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Nirmal Joshi, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
OF NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated April 6, 2020, of Rebecca Dombrowsky, 669 Rockwood Drive, Elizabethtown 17022, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice William Tunke, Wescosville, removed.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 13, 2020, of Rebecca Dombrowsky, 669 Rockwood Drive, Elizabethtown 17022, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Optometry, to serve until February 5, 2022, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Davis Haire, Meshoppen, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE REAL ESTATE COMMISSION

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 28, 2020, of Rebecca Dombrowsky, 669 Rockwood Drive, Elizabethtown 17022, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Real Estate Commission, to serve for a term of five years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Annie Cestra, Pittsburgh, whose term expired.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL
WORKERS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS
AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated April 6, 2020, of Rebecca Dombrowsky, 669 Rockwood Drive, Elizabethtown 17022, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice David Gallick, Forty Fort, whose term expired.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated April 6, 2020, of Moriah Hathaway, 1009 Roman Knoll Court, Harrisburg 17109, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, to serve until June 18, 2021, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Brian McKinnon, Philadelphia, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated April 6, 2020, of Moriah Hathaway, 1009 Roman Knoll Court, Harrisburg 17109, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Veterinary Medicine, to serve for a term of four years, [data missing] until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Juanita Monteiro, Harleysville, whose term expired.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

TOM WOLF
Governor

NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following communications in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which were read as follows and referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations:

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Keri Ellis, 190 Carriage Lane, Pittsburgh 15241, Allegheny County, Thirty-seventh Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Accountancy, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Charles O'Brien, 908 Saratoga Drive, West Chester 19380, Chester County, Ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Accountancy, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Barry Berkowitz, Huntingdon Valley, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE ARCHITECTS LICENSURE BOARD

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Jennifer Bee, 4978 Lakewood Road, Gibsonsia 15044, Allegheny County, Thirty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Architects Licensure Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice John Hill, Allentown, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE ARCHITECTS LICENSURE BOARD

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Aram Piligian, 1081 Kingscote Drive, Harleysville 19438, Montgomery County, Twelfth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Architects Licensure Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Douglas Carney, Springfield, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF AUCTIONEER EXAMINERS

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Daniel Trace, 13348 Calvin Street, Meadville 16335, Crawford County, Fiftieth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Auctioneer Examiners, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF BARBER EXAMINERS

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Michael McAndrew, 326 Pine Street, Jermyn 18433, Lackawanna County, Twenty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Barber Examiners, to serve until January 22, 2021, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Joseph Ferruzza, Pittsburgh, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Kenneth Pennell, 951 Northridge Drive, Mars 16046, Butler County, Twenty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Chiropractic, to serve

for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice George Khoury, Bridgeville, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Elisa Gonzalez, 7222 Guyer Avenue, Philadelphia 19153, Philadelphia County, Eighth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Cosmetology, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Stephen Szabo, 2599 Rossmoor Drive, Pittsburgh 15241, Allegheny County, Thirty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Cosmetology, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Stephen Wallin, Southampton, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF CRANE OPERATORS

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Andrew Goulet, 957 Macclesfield Road, Furlong 18925, Bucks County, Tenth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Crane Operators, to serve until December 8, 2023, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF CRANE OPERATORS

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, F. Allan Mauger (Public Member), 679 Kurtz Mill Road, Mohnton 19540, Berks County, Eleventh Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Crane Operators, to serve until December 8, 2023, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Brice Arndt, 83 Greenwood Circle, Wormleysburg 17043, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Dentistry, to serve for a term of six years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice John Erhard, Moosic, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Joel Jaspan, 14 Hawthorne Circle, Lafayette Hill 19444, Montgomery County, Seventh Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Dentistry, to serve for a term of six years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Kenneth Dupree, 2809 West Diamond Street, Philadelphia 19121, Philadelphia County, Third Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Funeral Directors, to serve for a term of five years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Robert Neely, Glenshaw, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Thomas Kukuchka, 10 Eaton Terrace, Tunkhannock 18657, Wyoming County, Twentieth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Funeral Directors, to serve for a term of five years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Dina Klavon, 46 South Fifteenth Street, Pittsburgh 15203, Allegheny County, Forty-third Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Landscape Architects, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, David Morgan, 2319 Addison Court, York 17404, York County, Twenty-eighth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Landscape Architects, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Gerard Dillon (Public Member), 101 Hunt Club Lane, Newtown Square 19073, Delaware County, Twenty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Medicine, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Evon Sutton, Philadelphia, removed.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Umar Farooq, 1204 Crespo Lane, Bensalem 19020, Bucks County, Sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Medicine, to serve until June 19, 2021, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Nirmal Joshi, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Donald Yealy, 1348 High Oak Court, Pittsburgh 15241, Allegheny County, Thirty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Medicine, to serve until April 17, 2022, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Joseph Losee, Pittsburgh, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
OF NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Diane Baldi, 821 Columbia Street, Scranton 18509, Lackawanna County, Twenty-second Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
OF NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Ilene Warner-Maron, 307 Arthur Court, Newtown Square 19073, Delaware County, Twenty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice William Tunke, Wescosville, removed.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Lori Kovach, 1568 Shelburne Place, Johnstown 15905, Cambria County, Thirty-fifth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Nursing, to serve until May 22, 2023, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice John O'Donnell, Pittsburgh, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Denise Wilcox, 3990 South Mallard Lane, Doylestown 18902, Bucks County, Tenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Optometry, to serve until February 5, 2022, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Davis Haire, Meshoppen, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Janet Getzey Hart, 2273 Ionoff Road, Harrisburg 17110, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Pharmacy, to serve for a term of six years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Christine Roussel, 4205 Minnie Lane, Hatboro 19040, Montgomery County, Twelfth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Pharmacy, to serve until May 23, 2024, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Gayle Cotchen, Gibsonia, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Cynthia Potter, 10069 Grubbs Road, Wexford 15090, Allegheny County, Thirty-eighth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Physical Therapy, to serve until October 2, 2023, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE REGISTRATION BOARD
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND
SURVEYORS AND GEOLOGISTS

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Jonathan Tabas, 52 Woodbridge Court North, Feasterville 19053, Bucks County, Sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists, to serve until October 1, 2024, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice David Pennoni, Havertown, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF
CERTIFIED REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, David Matthews, 322 Windsor Park Lane, Havertown 19083, Delaware County, Seventeenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice William Rothman, Lemoyne, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE REAL ESTATE COMMISSION

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Jeffrey Johnson, 404 West Tenth Street, Erie 16502, Erie County, Forty-ninth Senatorial District, for

appointment as a member of the State Real Estate Commission, to serve for a term of five years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Annie Cestra, Pittsburgh, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL
WORKERS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS
AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Erika Evans, 218 East Durham Street, Philadelphia 19119, Philadelphia County, Fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice David Gallick, Forty Fort, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Lisa Butler, 2704 Neonlight Drive, York 17402, York County, Twenty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Ann Roman, Shavertown, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Andrew McCall, 403 Jamesborough Drive, Pittsburgh 15238, Allegheny County, Thirty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, to serve until June 18, 2021, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Brian McKinnon, Philadelphia, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF VEHICLE
MANUFACTURERS, DEALERS AND [sic]
SALESPERSONS

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Kirk Davis, 1709 Crestline Street, Pittsburgh 15221, Allegheny County, Forty-third Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Vehicle Manufacturers, Dealers and Salespersons, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

May 12, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Joseph Bender, 500 Holly Ann Drive, Landisville 17538, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Veterinary Medicine, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Juanita Monteiro, Harleysville, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Tartaglione and Senator Anthony Williams.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Costa requests legislative leaves for Senator Tartaglione and Senator Anthony Williams. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Senator COSTA asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator BREWSTER, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journal of the Session of April 7, 2020, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of April 7, 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-49

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journal is approved.

CALENDAR

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OUT OF ORDER

Without objection, the following bills on today's Calendar were called out of order by Senator CORMAN, as Special Orders of Business.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

HB 327 (Pr. No. 3678) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in licenses and regulations, liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, providing for prepared beverages and mixed drinks for off-premises consumption during disaster emergency and reenacting provisions relating to local option.

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 1048 (Pr. No. 3721) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations for liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, further providing for renewal of licenses and temporary provisions for licensees in armed service.

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.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

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 for the purpose of a Republican caucus to be held in your offices on ZOOM immediately.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For the purpose of 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.

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 for the purpose of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held here on the floor of the Senate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For the purpose of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Appropriations, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The meeting of the Committee on Appropriations has been delayed.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 64, HB 102, SB 107, SB 276, HB 280, SB 331, HB 355, SB 377, HB 422, SB 494, SB 530, SB 532, SB 594, SB 606, SB 679, SB 693, HB 716, SB 763, SB 798, SB 915, SB 927, SB 952, SB 957, SB 968 and SB 969 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 976 (Pr. No. 1481) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in organization and jurisdiction of courts of common pleas, further providing for problem-solving courts.

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

HUGHES AMENDMENT A5557 OFFERED

Senator HUGHES offered the following amendment No. A5557:

Amend Bill, page 1, line 4, by striking out the period after "courts" and inserting:

; and, in limitation of time, providing for action in judicial emergency.
Amend Bill, page 3, line 2, by striking out all of said line and inserting:

Section 2. Chapter 55 of Title 42 is amended by adding a subchapter to read:

SUBCHAPTER E
ACTION IN JUDICIAL EMERGENCY

Sec.

5591. (Reserved).

5592. Real property and tenancy-related actions related to COVID-19 outbreak.

§ 5591. (Reserved).

§ 5592. Real property and tenancy-related actions related to COVID-19 outbreak.

(a) General rule.--Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the following shall apply relating to the COVID-19 outbreak:

(1) No court in this Commonwealth may accept any filing or pleading instituting a new action arising under the act of April 6, 1951 (P.L.69, No.20), known as The Landlord and Tenant Act of 1951, until 60 days after the expiration of judicial emergency by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court or president judge of a judicial district under Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952 (relating to emergency actions, duties and authorities), whichever is later. During the period of judicial emergency or delay under this paragraph, a landlord may not charge fees or penalties under The Landlord and Tenant Act of 1951. No fees or penalties that would have otherwise accrued but for a judicial emergency or the delay under this paragraph may be assessed.

(2) If an action arising under The Landlord and Tenant Act of 1951 was filed or a judgment by agreement has been executed within 30 days prior to the declaration of a judicial emergency by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court or president judge of a judicial district under Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952, a landlord may not proceed with the action until 60 days after the expiration of judicial emergency by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court or president judge of a judicial district under Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952, whichever is later. It shall not be a breach of a covered judgment by agreement if the tenant complies with all applicable conditions of the agreement within 60 days after the expiration of a judicial emergency by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court or president judge of a judicial district under Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952, whichever is later. No writ may be executed until 60 days after the expiration of a judicial emergency by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court or president judge of a judicial district, whichever is later. A landlord, during a judicial emergency under this paragraph, otherwise eligible to charge fees or penalties under The Landlord and Tenant Act of 1951, may not charge fees or penalties during the time of judicial emergency or delay under this paragraph. No fees or penalties that would have otherwise accrued but for a judicial emergency or delay under this paragraph may be assessed.

(3) No court in this Commonwealth may accept any filing or pleading instituting a new eviction action against a business, until 60 days after the expiration of judicial emergency by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court or president judge of a judicial district under Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952, whichever is later. During the period of judicial emergency or delay under this paragraph, a landlord may not charge fees or penalties. No fees or penalties that would have otherwise accrued but for a judicial emergency or the delay under this paragraph may be assessed.

(4) If an action arising to eviction of a business was filed within 30 days prior to the declaration of a judicial emergency by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court or president judge of a judicial district under Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952, a landlord may not proceed with the action until 60 days after the expiration of judicial emergency by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court or president judge of a judicial district under Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952, whichever is later. No writ may be executed until

60 days after the expiration of a judicial emergency by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court or president judge of a judicial district, whichever is later. A landlord, during a judicial emergency under this paragraph may not charge fees or penalties during the time of judicial emergency or delay under this paragraph. No fees or penalties that would have otherwise accrued but for a judicial emergency or delay under this paragraph may be assessed.

(5) No court may accept a new action relating to the foreclosure on a residential property or business until 60 days after the expiration of a judicial emergency by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court or president judge of a judicial district under Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952, whichever is later. During a period of judicial emergency under this paragraph, a petitioner, otherwise eligible to charge fees or penalties, may not charge fees or penalties during the time of judicial emergency or delay under this paragraph. No fees or penalties that would have otherwise accrued but for the judicial emergency or delay under this paragraph may be assessed.

(6) If an action relating to the foreclosure of a residential property or business was commenced prior to the issuance of declaration of a judicial emergency by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court or president judge of a judicial district under Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952, a petitioner may not proceed with an action until 60 days after the expiration of a judicial emergency by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court or president judge of a judicial district under Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952, whichever is later. During a period of a judicial emergency under this paragraph, a petitioner, otherwise eligible to charge fees or penalties, may not charge fees or penalties during the time of judicial emergency or delay under this paragraph. No fees or penalties that would have otherwise accrued but for a judicial emergency or delay under this paragraph may be assessed.

(b) Definition--As used in this section, the term "foreclosure" shall include:

(1) An action of mortgage foreclosure under Pa.R.C.P. Ch. 1000 Subch. I (relating to action of mortgage foreclosure).

(2) An action in ejectment under Pa.R.C.P. Ch. 1000 Subch. C (relating to action in ejectment).

(3) An action to sell property to recover delinquent real estate taxes under:

(i) the act of May 16, 1923 (P.L.207, No.153), referred to as the Municipal Claim and Tax Lien Law; and

(ii) the act of July 7, 1947 (P.L.1368, No.542), known as the Real Estate Tax Sale Law.

(4) An action under the act of November 24, 1976 (P.L.1176, No.261), known as the Manufactured Home Community Rights Act.

(5) An action under 13 Pa.C.S. (relating to commercial code).

Section 3. This act shall take effect as follows:

(1) The amendment of section 916 of the act 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 Philadelphia, Senator Hughes.

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, this amendment places a freeze on evictions. I want to underscore that, Mr. President, it places a freeze on evictions filed 30 days prior to the declaration of a statewide judicial emergency or county judicial emergency until 60 days after the latter of the end of the statewide judicial emergency or a county judicial emergency. The amendment also freezes the filing of new evictions until 60 days after the latter of the end of the statewide judicial emergency or a county judicial emergency. I want to emphasize that, Mr. President. The amendment also freezes the filing of new evictions until 60 days after the latter of the end of the statewide judicial emergency or a county judicial emergency. These provisions apply to both residential and business evictions. To be clear, again, Mr. President, these provisions apply to both residential and business evictions. The amendment places a freeze on foreclosures on residential

owner-occupied properties and businesses that are currently pending in court until 60 days after the latter of the end of the statewide judicial emergency or a county judicial emergency.

Again, we need to emphasize that so we are very clear on what it is that we are attempting to do here, Mr. President. The amendment places a freeze on foreclosures for residential owner-occupied properties and businesses that are currently pending in court until 60 days after the latter of the end of the statewide judicial emergency or a county judicial emergency. New foreclosure actions under this amendment cannot be filed until 60 days after the end of a statewide judicial emergency or a county judicial emergency. I need to repeat that last part, Mr. President, because the Members need to understand exactly what we are attempting to do here. New foreclosure actions under this amendment cannot be filed until 60 days after the latter of the end of the statewide judicial emergency or a county judicial emergency.

Mr. President, it is clear that the economic crisis that we are all confronting requires extraordinary actions by all bodies. To be clear, Mr. President, although a number of bodies have stepped up to take those extraordinary actions, we, the representatives of the people, must make sure that the best of us comes out in this conversation. The best of us comes out in this process. The best of us comes out as we go forward to make sure that we are putting the people first, their economic situation first, and their housing and business residency issues first. Individuals nor these businesses caused this problem that we are in right now. They did not cause this pandemic. We need to be the ones, as we represent the people, to stand up for them and go beyond the call of duty, beyond the pale, if you will, Mr. President, and step in and provide additional time for folks to gather their lives, get themselves together, and then proceed. I am not saying that foreclosure and eviction preventions should go on forever. We are, however, Mr. President, saying that even after the courts make the decision to begin their process, that another 60 days be provided to individuals and business owners so that they can get themselves together.

It will be a long time, in spite of the efforts at all levels of government, before we come out of this crisis that we are in. The Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Speaker Pelosi, introduced a new provision today of several trillion dollars to get engaged in helping out the economy of individuals and small business owners first as we go forward. That should be an indication, Mr. President, of the level of the crisis that we are in which requires extraordinary action by all of us to step up into the breach for the people whom we are elected to represent.

In short, Mr. President, what this amendment does is, it adds another 60 days of help, of security, of support, and prevention of evictions and foreclosures to allow individuals, family members, small business owners, the people whom we represent, who sent us here to Harrisburg, it gives them an opportunity to get their circumstances together, get their lives in order, so that they can become whole in this process. Mr. President, I ask, quite honestly, for unanimous support of this amendment. This is worthy of the best sense of ourselves coming out to support those individuals who have sent us to Harrisburg to represent their interests and their needs, especially in this pandemic, in a crisis they did not create but was vested upon them by other actions or inactions in other places.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator SANTARSIERO. Mr. President, I rise in support of the amendment offered by my friend, the gentleman from Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties, for all of the reasons he just stated. We are in extraordinary times right now, and extraordinary times often require extraordinary measures to provide both families and businesses with relief. What we can do with this amendment is make sure, particularly in those counties that are still in the red phase, that both families and businesses who are struggling to be able to make the rent or pay a mortgage have the time they need to try to get back on their feet so that they can do exactly that and not lose their homes or their stores or offices. One of the things that we have to be focused on right now, beyond obviously making sure, first and foremost, that every Pennsylvanian is protected to the greatest extent from this virus and protected from a terrible fate at the end of the day of having to be hospitalized and potentially at risk of life, is making sure that all the people in our State are kept in their homes, kept in their apartments, and our businesses are not thrown out of their places of business. If we are going to have a rebound of our economy when things start to open up throughout the entire State, then we have to make sure that is the case, just like we have to make sure that people have some income, that they have the ability to start buying goods and services again, that will be the engine for re-opening the economy. So this is critical.

If we truly are about getting Pennsylvania back to work and doing it safely and making sure that people are secure and businesses are secure and have the ability to start up again and realize a profit, then we have to be for this amendment. We absolutely have to be. Again, I applaud the gentleman for offering it and I will be voting in favor, and I urge all the Members of the Senate to do the same.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I thank the gentleman for his offering of the amendment. This issue, I think we all saw, was the subject of an executive order last week by the Governor and the Attorney General in their news conference where they talked about this issue. Clearly, I would rather do it legislatively than an executive order, and this particular amendment is obviously broader than what the Governor issued in his executive order of last week. The chairman from Delaware County, who chairs the Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development, has introduced a bill similar to, I think, the amendment that is being offered before us here today. He is in the process and he has engaged all the stakeholders on this issue to try to drive a public policy that can be supported around not only the Senate, but also around all the industries that deal with the process of foreclosures, evictions, and so forth.

So, I ask that we allow the chairman to finish his work. He has already engaged in it. The fact that he has introduced the bill himself shows his interest and desire to get it out of the committee, and this amendment, while certainly well-intended, I think, is a little premature to the process as we legislate here. So I ask for a negative vote at this point in time.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

YEA-20

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

NAY-29

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

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

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 976, legislation that would enhance our veterans courts in Pennsylvania and ultimately help save the lives of more and more servicemen and women. As chairman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, I held six roundtable discussions this year on the very serious issue of veteran suicide. I thank all the Senators who participated in those hearings. At one of these roundtables, we heard from Lackawanna Judge Michael Barrasse about the veterans courts, the first in Pennsylvania, and how successful it was and others around the Commonwealth have been. Not just in preventing repeat offenders, but getting veterans back on their feet again with proper treatment, veterans mentorship, and accountability. These problem-solving courts assist veterans who find themselves in trouble with the law as a result of service-related issues such as post-traumatic stress injury, or PTSI, a main contributor to veteran suicide. As a result of these roundtable discussions, I introduced Senate Bill No. 976, which would codify veterans courts into the law, encourage counties to partner on regional veterans courts, and provide an option for a veterans track within a county's problem-solving courts. Of our 67 counties, Mr. President, only 25 currently have veterans courts. As many of you know, they have had an incredible track record, with recidivism rates as low as 10 percent. With this legislation, we hope to en-

courage more counties to join them, without a mandate, all in an effort to do right by our veterans and ultimately save the lives of our veterans.

I am pleased that the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Pennsylvania Veterans Commission, and the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council are all in support of this important legislation, and I also thank my colleague, Senator Mastriano, who is a retired U.S. Army Colonel, for partnering with me on Senate Bill No. 976. Furthermore, I thank the AOPC, which is the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, for their assistance on the language. With this, I ask for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, I thank my esteemed colleague from York County for leading the way on this very important piece of legislation that I think will really help our veterans directly and change and save lives. So, thank you, sir, for your leadership on this, and it comes from my heart, having served for 30 years in active duty in the United States Army. I rise obviously in support of Senate Bill No. 976 and the 800,000 veterans we have across our State, and it is going to make a big difference here, and it has proven results. As my colleague from York County said, 42 of our 67 counties are yet to have one, and this makes it an option for veterans in need to have access to a veterans court, and I do not think there is a better idea to approach this whole situation.

Obviously, having served in numerous assignments in Afghanistan, as well as in Iraq, the Balkans, and elsewhere around the world, not a day goes by when I do not remember my brothers and sisters in arms who have come home and had difficulty acclimating to the world and civilian life. Veterans courts have a proven record of helping our brave men and women of navigating the adjustments of coming home or to overcoming the odds they face when they come back into our society. All this bill does is really modernize and update our system and make it easier for veterans to get the help and support that is available to them. They have sacrificed so much for our freedoms, and this legislation shows that we really do appreciate their sacrifice and are reaching out to them to help them overcome the ghosts of the past.

Thank you, Mr. President, and I request, as well, an affirmative vote.

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

Senator ARNOLD. Mr. President, I want to say a few words also in support of this bill. Having been the district attorney for 14 years, having participated in treatment courts in Lebanon County, including the veterans court, I can speak to the fact that veterans courts have been an amazing opportunity for our veterans who find themselves in some trouble with the law. They have an opportunity to receive treatment, to receive counseling, and, perhaps the best part is, they are placed into a situation where they are there with their colleagues, their fellow servicemen and women, and they all work through the program together. It is incredibly beneficial to them and the success of veterans courts, I really think, has been probably unmatched in terms of how we resolve the criminal cases, the criminal matters, and move these

men and women forward in their lives in a positive fashion. So I could not be more supportive of this, and I hope that it has universal support going forward. Thank you.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEAS-49

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

NAY-0

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 1036, HB 1045 and HB 1050 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL AMENDED

SB 1128 (Pr. No. 1657) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in licensing of drivers, providing for declaration of judicial emergencies.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?
Senator BAKER offered the following amendment No. A5320:

Amend Bill, page 1, line 10, by striking out "upon the" and inserting:

in the event of a
Amend Bill, page 2, lines 5 and 6, by striking out "during the declared judicial emergency" and inserting:
prior to the expiration of the earlier to occur of the additional 30-day periods specified subsection (b)(1)(i), (ii) or (iii)

Amend Bill, page 2, lines 7 through 20, by striking out "Upon the expiration of a" in line 7 and all of lines 8 through 20 and inserting:

(1) A person shall have an additional 30 days to take the action or make the payment required under section 1533(a) or (b) after either of the following, whichever occurs first:

(i) The expiration of the declared judicial emergency

under subsection (a).

(ii) The judicial district establishes a method by which the action or payment may be commenced by rule of court or other judicial order during the declared judicial emergency.

(iii) The effective date of the judicial emergency if the judicial district has established a method by which the action or payment may be commenced by rule of court or other judicial order prior to such effective date.

(2) If a person takes the action or makes the payment required under section 1533(a) or (b) within the additional 30-day periods specified under paragraph (1)(i), (ii) or (iii), the person shall be deemed in compliance with section 1533(a) or (b).

(c) Applicability.--

(1) This section shall apply to any judicial district for which a judicial emergency is declared. If a Statewide judicial emergency is declared, this section shall apply to all judicial districts.

(2) This section shall be retroactive to March 18, 2020.

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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

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 LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 1907 (Pr. No. 2674) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

HB 1907 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 1907, Printer's No. 2674, 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.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

PREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMENDED

SB 1148 (Pr. No. 1685) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Supplement to the act of June 28, 2019 (P.L.839, 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 was recommitted to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 207 (Pr. No. 1513) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

SB 207 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 207, Printer's No. 1513, 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 258 and **SB 284** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 342 (Pr. No. 1818) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 531 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 565 (Pr. No. 1512) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 766 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

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

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

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

SB 784 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

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

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 1041 (Pr. No. 1696) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in sales and use tax, further providing for exclusions from 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.

SB 1100 (Pr. No. 1697) -- 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, in emergency finance and tax provisions, providing for exemption from income.

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 1123, HB 1174 and HB 1538 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

HB 2388 (Pr. No. 3719) -- 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, providing for emergency COVID-19 provisions.

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 2408 (Pr. No. 3676) -- 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, in emergency finance and tax provisions, providing for exemption from taxation and for nonprofit corporations and charitable trusts.

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 2412 (Pr. No. 3720) -- 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, providing for emergency COVID-19 provisions.

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.

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 for the purpose of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held immediately here on the floor of the Senate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For the purpose of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Appropriations, 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.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 932 (Pr. No. 1358) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in volunteer firefighters, further providing for definitions.

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

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

SB 1122 (Pr. No. 1699) (Amended) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in COVID-19 Disaster Emergency, providing for Emergency Appropriations for Institutional and Home-based Care; in volunteer firefighters, further providing for funds; and, in grants to fire companies and emergency medical services companies, providing for COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program.

HB 327 (Pr. No. 3678) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in licenses and regulations, liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, providing for prepared beverages and mixed drinks for off-premises consumption during disaster emergency and reenacting provisions relating to local option.

HB 1048 (Pr. No. 3721) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations for liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, further providing for renewal of licenses and temporary provisions for licensees in armed service.

HB 1076 (Pr. No. 3594) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of June 27, 2006 (1st Sp.Sess., P.L.1873 No.1), known as the Taxpayer Relief Act, in senior citizens property tax and rent rebate assistance, further providing for filing of claim; and authorizing public school districts to implement a senior tax reduction incentive volunteer exchange program.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Tartaglione has returned, and her legislative leave is cancelled.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

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

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 Corman requests a legislative leave for Senator Brooks.

Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Leach. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 2**

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

HB 1076 (Pr. No. 3594) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 27, 2006 (1st Sp.Sess., P.L.1873 No.1), known as the Taxpayer Relief Act, in senior citizens property tax and rent rebate assistance, further providing for filing of claim; and authorizing public school districts to implement a senior tax reduction incentive volunteer exchange program.

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-49

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

NAY-0

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

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

MOTION PURSUANT TO SENATE RULE 12

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate proceed to consider Senate Bill No. 1128, notwithstanding the provisions of Senate Rule 12(m)(2).

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

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

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

SB 1128 (Pr. No. 1698) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in licensing of drivers, providing for declaration of judicial emergencies.

Considered the third time and agreed to,
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, I have no remarks on the bill. I appreciate consideration of the legislation which provides for a process and a procedure for failure to pay citations and fines during a judicial emergency.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

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

NAY-0

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

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

MOTION PURSUANT TO SENATE RULE 12

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, as a special order of business, I call up Senate Supplemental Calendar No. 1, Senate Bill No. 1122, and move the Senate proceed to consider Senate Bill No. 1122, notwithstanding the provisions of Senate Rule 12(m)(2).

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

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

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

SB 1122 (Pr. No. 1699) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in COVID-19 Disaster Emergency, providing for Emergency Appropriations for Institutional and Home-based Care; in volunteer firefighters, further providing for funds; and, in grants to fire companies and emergency medical services companies, providing for COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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

On the question,

Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator BROWNE. Mr. President, I rise to ask the Members to support the very important and timely provisions of Senate Bill No. 1122. As the Members are aware, in its wisdom, the Federal government had provided some needed substantial relief in relation to the coronavirus epidemic for many different purposes. One of the components of it, though, is a general relief component. The stipulation of that significant component for the Commonwealth, \$3.9 billion, is for us to make sure that it goes to the most significant impacts of the crisis. If we had to target, based on our experience, the impacts that are most severe, it is for our people on the front lines, our firefighters and emergency services people, and, of course, our nursing homes, our long-term care facilities, the good workers there and our residents there. No doubt that the need for the funding for those systems is important. This is a substantial commitment of \$537 million, which will provide needed resources to allow long-term care facilities to appropriately care for their residents, for firefighters and emergency services personnel to appropriately respond, and so that they can be secure in their operations in the future.

It is also imperative, Mr. President, that we realize, and I know all of the Members do, that there is a very heavily-invested and diverse network of long-term care living resources in the Commonwealth. Our seniors are offered a variety of different options that change and grow, but get stronger over time. This package needs to recognize that, to insure that all those who are cared for in those different components of that network and all the workers are provided a safe and secure environment not only now during this crisis, but in times ahead.

Mr. President, of course, in an emergency, the most important obligation of this Senate and of the Commonwealth is to provide for those most at risk. I am always proud to say that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a tremendous national legacy as it relates to investing and providing security for our senior citizen population. The only State in the nation that dedicates all its resources from its Lottery to senior needs. One of the few States that has a separate, longstanding Department of Aging. This \$507 million commitment for a long-term care living system and, of course, the \$31 million commitment for our emergency responders, is a substantial commitment to insure we are meeting that obligation and an important legacy for the years ahead. I ask the Members to support the important provisions of Senate Bill No. 1122.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to ask for an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 1122. When Senator Bartolotta and I joined together to introduce this legislation earlier this year, it was designed to make the best use of Federal stimulus funding by providing an important investment in our volunteer fire and EMS services. That remains unchanged, but now this bill, which is before us, will also support our nursing homes, our long-term care facilities, and other services our senior citizens across this Commonwealth so desperately need. When the statewide shutdown order hit our communities in mid-March, our first responders lost their ability to fundraise, through no fault of their own. In response to that need, Senate Bill No. 1122 replicates the existing firefighter and EMS grant program and opens a new round of funding. For years, our existing grant program has benefitted these first responders while giving them significant flexibility in determining how best to use the funds to support their critical mission. Senate Bill No. 1122 was also amended in the Committee on Appropriations to add \$507 million in critical funding for Pennsylvania's nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

The plight of our nursing homes and those who reside and work in them is well documented. According to the Department of Health, there have been 2,611 deaths of nursing home patients associated with COVID-19. Mr. President, that equates to 68 percent of all COVID-19 deaths in the Commonwealth. Additionally, of the 57,991 cases reported statewide, 13,854 of them, 24 percent, are attributed to nursing home residents and/or their employees. Mr. President, what has occurred in our nursing homes is tragic, and while this funding cannot undo the damage already done, it is imperative we move forward to address this ongoing crisis. I ask for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, today I rise to support Senate Bill No. 1122, legislation that I am very proud to have championed with Senator Pittman to help our volunteer fire and EMS companies that are struggling due to this global pandemic. COVID-19 has severely restricted many of the ways that our volunteer first responders traditionally raise money, like boot drives, bingo, cash bashes, and chicken barbecues. The needs of these organizations are even greater now as they respond to the statewide public health emergency that this virus has caused. This program will help to insure that the brave men and women on the front lines fighting this battle against the coronavirus will continue to have the training, supplies, and the equipment they need to keep our communities and themselves safe.

As amended today, this legislation also helps our communities by providing a critical layer of support for our nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Tragically, our long-term living facilities have been a hotbed for COVID-19 cases in Pennsylvania due to the fact that the Wolf administration has not prioritized them for testing and personal protective equipment. Beaver County, in my district, is the only county in western Pennsylvania that remains in the red phase of reopening due, almost entirely, to cases in a small number of nursing homes. As of Monday, 347 of the county's 491 total cases are residents or employees of nursing homes and personal care homes. A Senate hearing just last week brought to light numerous failures by the Wolf administration to protect and provide support to our most vulnerable population. We need to take immediate action to make sure our long-term living facilities can climb out of the hole that the Wolf administration and our Department of Health has dug for them. This legislation goes a long way in doing just that.

For these reasons, I urge an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 1122 today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator YUDICHAK. Mr. President, I, too, rise in support of Senate Bill No. 1122 and encourage an affirmative vote. I am going to offer a few brief remarks and allow the balance of my remarks to be submitted for the record, but I thought it was very appropriate that I extend some measure of gratitude to two local organizations back in Luzerne County - the Earth Conservancy and the AllOne Foundation - who, several weeks ago, stepped up to help northeastern Pennsylvania nursing homes with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Nursing Home SOS program. Our nursing homes in Pennsylvania were sending out a distress signal. There was no statewide plan from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the most vulnerable citizens in this pandemic were dying at alarming rates in nursing homes all across Pennsylvania. Two-thirds of all COVID-19 related deaths across the State, and in northeastern Pennsylvania, 70 to 80 percent of all COVID-19 deaths, were in our nursing homes.

So I am very grateful for those local organizations that stepped up and worked with statewide organizations like the Pennsylvania Health Care Association and LeadingAge PA, who have taken this issue statewide, and I am grateful to the Leaders here in the Senate, Senator Ward and Senator Collett on the Committee on Aging and Youth, Senator Brooks and Senator Haywood on the Committee on Health and Human Services, and, of course, Senator Browne on the Committee on Appropriations, who has shown great stewardship in bringing \$500 million in

appropriations to our long-term care facilities. That bipartisanship, that is what is needed in this pandemic to help our most vulnerable citizens. I thank those Members and I thank this Chamber for working together in a bipartisan fashion to help the most vulnerable citizens in this pandemic - those living in our long-term care facilities.

Thank you, Mr. President. I will submit the balance of my remarks for the record.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentleman from Luzerne, Senator YUDICHAK.)

Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 1122 and encourage an affirmative vote. Over the past 9 weeks, the people of our great Commonwealth have responded to the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis with dignity and a fierce community spirit. We have stayed home. We have practiced social distancing. We embraced the idea that our collective efforts could mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus and prevent our hospital systems from being overwhelmed. Together, we have flattened the curve and spared our hospitals, but people are still dying in Pennsylvania. Yes, Mr. President, people are still dying in this battle against COVID-19.

The most vulnerable citizens in this pandemic, Pennsylvania's nursing home residents, continue to die at alarming rates, over two-thirds of all COVID-19 deaths in Pennsylvania are residents in nursing homes. In NEPA, 75 to 80 percent of all COVID-19 deaths are in our nursing homes. It is a tragedy of epic proportions that could have been prevented, a tragedy that must be addressed now. Local healthcare professionals in our nursing homes and leading statewide nursing home advocates, like PHCA and LeadingAge PA, called on the Governor in early March to learn from the horror story of the Life Care Center in Kirkland, Washington, and urged the Department of Health to prevent it from happening in Pennsylvania. According to media reports, a nursing home response plan was developed by the Department of Health, but never implemented. Why? Why were PA nursing homes forgotten in the war against COVID-19?

Yesterday, the Governor conjured up war rhetoric and told Pennsylvanians we cannot retreat from the battlefield because we are still combating the virus. If indeed the battle against COVID-19 is a war, there is one front that has been ignored in Pennsylvania's war plan--the defense of our most vulnerable citizens--the residents living in our long-term care facilities. Pennsylvania nursing home residents and staff in March, April, and into May have been left behind, forgotten, and left out of Pennsylvania's war plan against COVID-19. The horror stories I have heard from families and nursing home staff are startling and painful to hear. One nursing home administrator told me of the painful indignity of running out of body bags and using garbage bags to transfer the dead. Another frontline healthcare worker told me of waiting weeks to get a shipment of personal protective equipment from the Department of Health, only to have masks and gowns tear apart and crumple to shreds because they were old and out of date. Families have pleaded with me for answers about loved ones, only to be told the Department of Health will not disclose nursing home information.

Statewide advocates, like PHCA and LeadingAge PA, have sounded the distress signal noting that operating costs for long-term care during the COVID-19 crisis has increased by over 400 percent for PA nursing homes. Other States have ramped up mandatory testing, developed nursing home response teams, and were transparent in granting access to the public about the COVID-19 deaths occurring in their nursing homes. In the battle against COVID-19, Pennsylvania nursing homes have not been given the resources to win the war against the looming financial crisis in the nursing home industry and to stop the tragic loss of human life. In the absence of a statewide plan from the Department of Health, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Nursing Home SOS program was established to answer the distress call from our nursing homes. The mission of the NEPA Nursing Home SOS program is simple: get nursing homes the COVID-19 safety supplies they need to protect and save the lives of nursing home residents and the staff who

care for them. I am proud of organizations like the Earth Conservancy and the AllOne Foundation who spearheaded the NEPA Nursing Home SOS program with a \$500,000 donation. According to Zach Shamberg, at PHCA, there is not another public-private sector partnership like it in the State or in the country. We understood, however, that our small local effort, while important to NEPA nursing homes, would have its greatest impact if it leveraged more State and Federal resources for Pennsylvania nursing homes.

With the passage of Senate Bill No. 1122, the Senate answers the desperate pleas of families, staff, and residents of Pennsylvania nursing homes with over \$500 million in much-needed lifesaving, leave no nursing home resident behind, resources to protect Pennsylvania's most vulnerable citizens living in long-term care facilities. I applaud Senator Browne, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, for his stewardship in bringing this legislation to the Senate floor today and for garnering the necessary support of the administration and the Department of Health for this bipartisan bill that will deliver much-needed resources to PA nursing homes. It is encouraging that, despite our partisan differences, the Governor and the General Assembly can come together and work in a collaborative and united fashion to help win the war against COVID-19 in Pennsylvania nursing homes.

Mr. President, I urge an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 1122.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I echo the remarks of my colleague from Luzerne County with respect to the bipartisan nature of this conversation regarding our nursing homes. This is the second time in a matter of a couple of weeks where we have come together and figured out what needed to be done in order to help our nursing homes. Mr. President, I would be remiss if I did not again talk about and build upon the conversation yesterday, the talk about assigning fault. Today is not a day about assigning fault and blaming Governor Wolf and Secretary Levine for what is occurring in our nursing homes. It is quite tragic what has taken place there, and it is unfortunate that not only here in Pennsylvania but across the country that is an issue being dealt with in many, many ways. I applaud my colleagues who have worked hard - Senator Collett, Senator Haywood, Senator Browne, Senator Hughes, and Senator Brooks, and so many others - who have worked to fashion something together for our long-term living facilities, because they need it now. They need us to come together and figure out what needs to be done.

I would stress, not only to my colleagues here today, but, more importantly, to the folks across the other side of this building, how important it is for us to work together to get this measure to the Governor's desk as soon as possible. We do not have the luxury of waiting for many, many more weeks to allow that to happen. So, as this bill leaves this Chamber, my hope is that it goes to the House and it quickly and expeditiously moves through their Calendar and moves on to the Governor's desk so these resources can be driven out to nursing facilities and long-term care facilities across Pennsylvania.

At the end of the day, Mr. President, this is what needs to be done, and it was mentioned earlier by my colleague, Senator Browne from Lehigh County, that this is something that we need to do and it is our obligation to do it, but by no means, Mr. President, is today the day to assign blame to the Governor and Secretary Levine. They are trying to do and implement what is in the best interests of all of our Pennsylvania residents. Earlier today, we learned that they are implementing significant changes along the lines of what is going to take place in our nursing homes, the expansion of the testing that will be done there, with individuals and patients and staff workers, and many other things that are

going to take place with regard to how we are going to work to improve the things being done in our nursing homes across Pennsylvania and the care that we need to provide through the Department of Health.

Finally, Mr. President, I want to comment on the need for resources that were put in, increasing it to \$31 million. We would have liked to have seen more, as was recognized in the amendment offered by Senator Lindsey Williams, but, at the end of the day, \$31 million is significant resources from the Federal CARES program to allow our first responders, our frontline individuals, to be able to take those resources and use them to offset some of the expenses they have been dealing with in respect to the manner in which they have been addressing COVID-19. So, Mr. President, we, too, share in the support of those individuals.

Finally, the clarity that was provided to our volunteer fire companies with respect to the use of the relief associations that was put into the measure by Senator Iovino and Senator Kearney, it is a bipartisan effort working together here today. Let us keep it that way and let us refrain from blaming and finding blame. There is enough blame to go around for a lot of things, but frankly, the blame should not be focused here, it should be focused in Washington, D.C. I do not want to go into the litany of things that could be said about who is responsible for what has taken place, but at the end of the day, let us work together as we have done. Let us continue to do that as we move forward on this measure, and other measures throughout this process, as we continue to work together to drive out the CARES money.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, briefly, as I said yesterday in our Petitions and Remonstrances comments, I am not really interested in pointing fingers, I am interested in accomplishing results, and that is what today is about. It does not matter how we got to this point. It was important for us to understand it, and that is why we had our public hearings. And I congratulate our committees, both the Committee on Health and Human Services and the Committee on Aging and Youth, for holding those hearings so we could get a better understanding of the problem. Clearly, when three-quarters of the Pennsylvanians who passed away during this crisis were in our nursing homes, that is a problem. So understanding that problem after our hearings, instead of pointing fingers, we acted. We did it in a bipartisan way, we did it with the administration, we did it with our friends in the House, and we crafted this piece of legislation that we are all here to vote for today. So, today is a good day.

We certainly have had our share of difficult debates around here lately, but today is the day we are probably, I assume, going to vote 50-0 to fashion a piece of legislation and get it to the House so that we can help the people who are the most vulnerable in this Commonwealth, our senior citizens, who are not only aging, but also the most vulnerable to this virus. So I am not worried about pointing fingers at D.C. or the administration, I am worried about getting results done. Today, a half-billion dollars is going to our long-term care facilities, and that is results. That is what we are here for; that is what we are judged by. We are judged by results. We can spend moments talking about who is to blame, but at the end of the day, we are judged by the results we accomplish here today, and today is a good day. Today is a

day that we are accomplishing a lot for the citizens of Pennsylvania who are the most vulnerable, and I ask for an "aye" vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I rise in support of this legislation. This Federal money is desperately needed for our nursing homes and long-term care facilities and, as prior speakers have pointed out, for our volunteer fire who have lost the ability to fundraise in person and are out a lot in costs. What I am still struggling with in the legislation, where my amendment was introduced in the Committee on Appropriations today, is the amount going to our EMS. I thank A.J. from LRB for her quick work in updating my amendment so that Senator Hughes could introduce it on my behalf in the Committee on Appropriations, but this bill was introduced with \$3 million going to EMS. With about 1,200 EMS agencies across our Commonwealth, that breaks up to about \$2,500 per EMS agency. If increased to \$4.6 million, that works out to be about \$3,800 per EMS agency. That is not enough. I understand that there was a compromise in terms of this number, but I do not know why we are compromising on a number for our EMS, who are on the front lines. They are seeing dramatic impacts because of COVID-19, not only in terms of their resources, but in terms of their own health and safety.

I have talked to EMS agencies, I had an EMS roundtable prior to COVID-19, and I learned from these EMS agencies how much they are struggling to make the costs, to pay their EMS, to recruit and retain their EMTs, and this pandemic has only increased that challenge for them. I have spoken to all of my EMS agencies since this has happened, repeatedly. They are having to clean their rigs between each and every call. They are seeing dramatic decreases in their call volume, but the call volume that they are seeing are very critically ill patients, and these costs are things that may cause EMS companies across this Commonwealth to go under. What my amendment was doing was increasing that number, probably not even enough of what we need, but was a recognition of what these workers are doing on the front lines. It is May 12, and we still, in this Chamber and in the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, have not heard from an EMS person on the front lines. We have not heard from an EMS director about what they are struggling with. So I appreciate that we may come back to them and give them more money later, but they need this money now.

I say on the record that I support this bill and I am glad they are getting \$4.6 million, but I think that we have to stop undercounting the impact that our EMS agencies have on our communities and we need to invest in them accordingly. I do not want to take away from our volunteer fire, they deserve every dollar they get, but we need to make sure that we do not leave our EMS behind, that we give them the resources they need to keep us all safe. Thank you very much.

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

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, I, too, want to acknowledge the work of Senator Pittman and Senator Bartolotta on the base bill and the work that they did to help our fire and EMS and pay tribute and acknowledge their efforts. We have heard about the work of Senator Browne, Senator Ward, Senator Collett, Senator Brooks, and Senator Haywood with the hearings last week, and I acknowledge their good work in bringing forward this issue. I

think everybody realizes that dealing with fear, uncertainty, and risk of the coronavirus requires decisive action, and I am so pleased that we are taking decisive action today. We know the virus has no respect for laws, procedure, process, boundaries, projections, assumptions, or beliefs. There are tragic situations across our Commonwealth where the actions of State government during this crisis have, unfortunately, been beyond insufficient, and that does apply to what I hope to speak about today, our nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

The numbers, as you have heard from other speakers, tell a distressing tale: too many cases, too many deaths, too much risk for the courageous and heroic care providers, too little protective and preventative supplies available for patients and providers, too little insight, and too little oversight. Those shortcomings and consequences have gone well beyond the walls of the facilities. The tragic numbers inside complicate the outside efforts to attempt to resume lives and livelihoods. While each of us have heard heartbreaking and fearful stories from constituents, I would like to relate, today, some of those that have deeply impacted me on the scope and severity of the situation in our region and why the remedy we are taking today is so crucial.

My office received a call from Ginny Jorda, frantic to obtain details about her elderly father who was in his 90s and admitted to a Luzerne county nursing facility. Ginny was distressed about the number of deaths that were occurring at this particular facility. She was asking for a special contact from the Department of Health to help answer her questions to allay her concerns. Instead, she was advised to have a conversation with the facility administrator and check for guidance on the department's Web site. Unfortunately, Ginny never got the answers she sought, and her father passed away a short time later. To top it off, she has a sister who is a resident at White Haven Center who will be displaced with that closure. Two tragic circumstances for that family.

Coronavirus claimed the life of 88-year-old Delores Shershen, a feisty, unforgettable fan of Bishop O'Reilly and Holy Redeemer boys' basketball teams. What started when her grandson, Jared, played on the State championship team continued for many years. This super fan was unlike other grandmothers. Delores quickly became the team's official towel lady, attending every game, providing snacks, drinks, and becoming one of their biggest supporters. I knew Delores for more than 30 years. She owned a craft and floral shop located next to our office. She was an unforgettable force and a wonderful lady, and she worked side by side with her only daughter, Joanie, for those 30 years. Delores was in a Luzerne County rehab recovering after a broken hip and planning to return home. Unfortunately, in April, she tested positive, and while her positive attitude led her to initially believe she would beat COVID-19, she died a week later. Like many families, Joanie could only speak to her mom by phone. It was Delores's last words that broke Joanie's heart, because she never got to hold her hand again. She said to her daughter, I am so scared. Please, please help me. Like many COVID-19 patients in our nursing facilities, Delores passed without her beloved family by her side.

Just yesterday, the retired Dallas police chief, Carl Miers, called after a frustrating round-and-round conversation with the Department of Health trying to gather information on the status of nursing facilities in our region and whether they had a COVID-19 exposure. His wife of 53 years had been hospitalized,

and he was told she needed to go to a facility for short-term care. Frustrated by the lack of transparency and details, he relayed, quote, I cannot send and I will not send my wife with an underlying medical condition to a setting that could put her at risk. I want answers, why will they not release the data?

So these are just a few of the many calls and questions from families and constituents throughout the region. We cannot bring back what has been lost in precious lives and critical time, but what we do today, we can make a concerted effort to improve conditions in facilities going forward. This legislation is more than warranted. It is our obligation for families and healthcare professionals who are starting to doubt the wisdom and commitment of State government. This is a recognition that we are talking to people about their fears and hopes and that we are acting on them, as well.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity. I am so thankful for the comments from Leader Corman and the sobering comments from Senator Baker that has us focused, as my Leader, Senator Costa, said, on getting the job done and not spending time placing blame, because assuredly blame could be spread, and you know, blame needs to start at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, if we are going to deal with blame. We would not be in this situation if there had not been a complete ignoring of the potentials of a pandemic way back when informed in December 2019. So I will stop right there and leave it right there. If you want to go down the blame path, we can go down there and I will happily engage in that conversation. Tragically, but happily engage in that conversation so that the people of Pennsylvania can be completely assured about where this thing started and who dropped the ball, maybe purposely, to allow us to be in the situation that we are in right now.

To that end, in the spirit of bipartisanship and in the spirit of trying to get results done, we are moving together a piece of important funding that drives over a half-billion dollars to nursing facilities, personal assistance services for long-term care, assisted living centers, personal care home support, adult day service support, residential rehabilitation support, areas that need it, areas that deserve it, for people who are so worth the investment, the residents and the people who work in these facilities. So I am glad that we could work together. I am glad my Leader, Senator Costa, Leader Corman, and the sobering comments from Senator Baker have put us back into the right direction of how we need to be viewing this effort right here. Not a conversation about blame, but a conversation about results for the people who deserve, at the very least, a half-billion dollar investment in their lives and in their circumstances, and definitely for those individuals who run into the fire on a daily basis, the workers in these facilities who run into the fire, not away from the fire, to help address and provide care for individuals who are deserving of this kind of bipartisan support and this kind of half-billion dollar investment. Let us learn from this, let us move on from this, let us drive the financial resources that have been provided to us to invest and put the people first and deal with what it is that we have to deal with.

Mr. President, I urge quick and swift passage. Let us get this ball moving, let us get this job done, and let this be the beginning

of a significant investment and, hopefully, we can return back to those individuals who Senator Lindsey Williams called us out to step up for and pick them up in this process as well and get them the additional help that they deserve to have.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise to support the legislation and to thank my colleagues. There are, and there have been, too many people dying in nursing homes and senior care facilities. I had the mother of one of my close friends and the mothers of several constituents who are close to me die in nursing home facilities in the past 2 weeks alone. This is a tragic situation, and today, working in a bipartisan way, Democrats and Republicans will advance legislation that puts \$500 million of support into nursing homes, personal care, and other services that primarily serve our senior population, people who are most vulnerable. It is a good thing we are doing today. It is something that the people of Pennsylvania desperately need us to do. I am pleased that we are taking seriously what has happened, and what is happening, to seniors throughout the Commonwealth. I am pleased that we are providing some aid to the people who work in these nursing facilities and try to care for people, putting their own selves at risk. I am pleased that folks will have a little bit better chance of surviving, and I am pleased that we are doing the right thing by providing support for folks who are living in nursing and long-term care facilities. I am pleased that there is support in this bill for firefighters and EMS agencies. This is not the end of the support that we are providing, but today we take a significant step in the right direction, and I am glad that we are doing it together.

Mr. President, I urge a "yes" vote on this bill, and I encourage us to continue to work in this fashion.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

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

NAY-0

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

10:00 A.M.	JUDICIARY (public hearing to consider the confirmation of Khadija Diggs, Esquire, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole and Charles James Fox, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
10:30 A.M.	AGING AND YOUTH and LOCAL GOVERNMENT (joint public hearing on COVID-19: safety of vulnerable populations and counties' ability to open safely)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider House Bills No. 2388 and 2412)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider Senate Bill No. 327; and certain Executive Nominations)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 5,056 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 would like to briefly discuss a social media meme that recently caught my attention. For those among us, myself included, who may not be fully versed in the convergence of cutting-edge technology and pop culture, a meme is defined as a cultural item in the form of an image, video, phrase, etc., that is spread via the Internet and often altered in a creative or humorous way. Not all memes are meant to be funny. Often, memes take the form of serious social commentary on a trending issue of the day, such as the economy. Today, I want to discuss a current meme that asserts, "We never had a 'booming economy' if 80 percent of the population cannot afford to miss two paychecks." Maybe some of my colleagues have also seen it on their social media feeds. This message immediately piqued my curiosity. Knowing that the accuracy of unattributed statements posted on the Internet can be suspect, at best, I decided to investigate. A quick Google search turned up numerous articles posted in recent years by well-known media organizations such as *Forbes*, *The Atlantic*, and *CBS News*.

Writing for *The Guardian* in 2018, former U.S. Secretary of Labor, Robert Reich, an economist who served under three Presidents dating back to the Ford administration, cited a poll conducted by CareerBuilder in which 78 percent of full-time workers surveyed said they live paycheck to paycheck, while 71 percent said they were living in debt. Both numbers represented increases of 3 percent over the previous year. Reich stated that the national unemployment rate, which was 3.8 percent at the time, hid "more troubling realities: legions of college grads overqualified for their jobs, a growing number of contract work-

ers with no job security, and an army of part-time workers desperate for full-time jobs....Blanketing all of this are stagnant wages and vanishing job benefits." Last year, the Federal government shutdown gave us all a clearer picture of where the American workforce could find themselves in the event of a sudden, widespread economic downturn. Citing a study by the Corporation for Enterprise Development, CBS reported that "40 percent of Americans (are) only one missed paycheck away from poverty." "Thousands of furloughed government workers, who missed two paychecks, struggled to cover basics like housing and food," CBS stated.

Mr. President, the COVID-19 pandemic that continues to threaten us medically and devastate us economically is merely demonstrating what economists and researchers have been warning us about for years. Despite much of the rhetoric we were hearing about, the robust economy and the healthy job market, true financial security was and is just a mirage for most working-class Americans. In truth, until we mandate that all workers are paid fair, family-sustaining wages-until we in the General Assembly raise the minimum wage-the vast majority of Pennsylvanians will be only one paycheck away from dire straits and our economy will be under perpetual threat of failure.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, I sent a letter to the Governor the other day and I was going to speak mostly on that today, but being reflective of what has happened over the last several days, weeks, some heated exchanges on the Senate floor, the Governor's press conference, some votes that have been made that have stirred up some angst, and I want to get on the record and offer a perspective as being one of the Senators from the Lehigh Valley. I do believe that every elected Senator is working in the best interests of the people they represent - Democrat, Republican, Independent. In this Chamber, they are. I know this because I have worked with all of you, and I have worked alongside five governors now. I have seen the disagreements, I have seen the agreements, I have seen great legislation, and I have seen us move Pennsylvania forward. A lot of you know, on my side of the aisle and the other, I have never been a rubber stamp for any governor in the past, present, and in the future, as long as I am honored to be representing the people of the Lehigh Valley.

But, I do know absolutely, certainly that today communities, my constituents, are worried about how we are going to work together, all of us, to combat COVID-19. I know everybody is frustrated, anxious, and scared. It goes without saying that we have not had a lot of easy decisions to make. Most of the time we just list bad ones, but we owe it to all Pennsylvanians to be better and to be respectful of one another. I do not believe anyone in this Chamber, nor the Governor, is doing anything but acting in what they think and they believe is in the best interests of everyone. We do live in a democracy, a representative one, and we, in the legislature, this branch, we have an equally important role to play in framing our response to the pandemic and our recovery from it. Sometimes that does mean agreeing with our Governor, and I hope a lot of times, but sometimes it means asking those needed questions. I do believe Governor Wolf and Dr. Levine are doing what they think is in the best interests of all Pennsylvanians, in spite of this impossible situation.

Now I want to get back to a recent telephone town conference that I had. There was one of my guests, Don Cunningham, the current CEO of the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation. He remarked by saying, we are trying to fix an airplane by flying it. Dr. Jahre, the infectious disease doctor from St. Luke's, noted that we are trying to build an airplane on the run-

way. That just about sums it up, and I think it is an understatement. I do not envy Governor Wolf and Dr. Levine, nor the decisions that are being made on a day-to-day basis. Day in and day out they are making decisions, and I do not envy them. I do not envy any of us who are in this situation. Has the response been perfect? Probably not. It is impossible for anyone to get this totally right. No elected official can. Politics, by its nature, is confrontational. But we, as lawmakers, and the Governor, we have that responsibility now, more than ever, to put that aside right now. There is something too important out there. We have to work together, we have to fight this virus, we have to find common ground, and we have to, please, respect each other.

If you look on my Facebook page, you will see comments galore like I am sure every one of us, including the Governor, is getting. You have people who want to overthrow what they call tyranny. You have people who want to open up everything and go back to business as usual. You have people--in fact, a gentleman said to me, Senator Boscola, we should not even have the grocery stores open. That is how scared that individual is. So the emotions are running the spectrum. I have had people say, you know, if you want to open up a business out there, that is being heartless because you are putting money over people. Then you have others saying, you know, you are wrecking an economy and we have to start to live and figure out how we are going to live with this virus. I know every Senator out there has heard these same things. As elected officials, we represent a lot of voices, and I was reminded of that recently because in a conversation with a constituent scared of losing everything that she has built, scared of losing everything, she said to me, can you please be my voice? There were other individuals, because they were not getting their unemployment compensation or they have a parent in a nursing home, begging me to be their voice. Most of the time what they said was, I am just a little person, Lisa. I do not count. You do. You are my voice. That is why I am standing up here today.

There was a really sweet lady who, on my tele-town hall, asked the doctor on the phone if it was safe to get routine blood work. Think about that for a second. Somebody is calling you and saying, doctor, can I go out there safely and get my routine blood work? That summed up her fear and anxiety, that is what she is feeling. Now, how do you balance those fears? That is the question. One of complete and total financial ruin of a small business owner who is watching everything she invested in her company evaporate like that against the fear of the person terrified to go out and get blood work for fear of being struck down by COVID-19. Balancing different opinions is something we elected officials do quite a bit. Today, however, I do believe the stakes have never been higher and the options less clear.

For me, I try hard to filter out the noise, set aside the political rancor, and in this situation, focus on listening to people who know a heck of a lot more than I do about COVID-19. Dr. Jahre of St. Luke's Hospital and Dr. Rhodes of Lehigh Valley Hospital, both infectious disease doctors treating COVID-19 patients in the Lehigh Valley, shared the opinion with me that we can safely open some small businesses slowly and responsibly, provided people follow appropriate social distancing guidelines and are wearing masks. I encourage all of you who are interested to listen to what they had to say. You can go to my Web site, www.SenatorBoscola.com, the links are right there, you can hear it for yourself. They both were concerned that the nursing home

numbers were skewing numbers. The data about the virus, right, and perhaps, they said, hospitalization rates may be a better measure to follow than pure test results. I think even New York and New Jersey are following hospitalizations and not just purely test results. They did indicate that a vast majority of people with COVID-19 do not need hospitalization. They also noted how much better prepared we are today, not with just equipment, but knowledge about how we treat this virus.

Like one of my colleagues said yesterday, this virus has not changed. She is right. This virus has not changed. What these doctors are saying is that over the past 7 weeks, we have learned a lot more about this virus, and we are continuing to learn. So while we are on that learning curve and while we are learning and continuing to learn, we have the responsibility to be adaptive and flexible on how we move forward with this new information and how to set policy. Dr. Rhodes also said something that struck me. He felt we were still recoiled in fear. Based on what he said, I asked the Governor to move us in the Lehigh Valley to yellow. Now, these doctors have been fighting the virus on the front lines since it first appeared in the Lehigh Valley and they do understand how devastating this is, but they also believe that we can do more to open up some small businesses, to open up some business, and kind of slowly open up our economy.

So I saw my role, as representing the 18th Senatorial District, as taking what these experts said and politely asking the Governor to move us into that next phase, which is a slow, soft reopening of our economy. Now, I know our small businesses need to be opened, but opening businesses because they want to and for financial success is different than opening because it is safe. These infectious disease doctors, from the healthcare networks in my district, said it is safe with appropriate social distancing and face mask guidelines. In fact, both doctors agree that in the Lehigh Valley, we can even handle certain activities relegated to the green phase, like haircuts. We are often told to listen to experts, follow the science, and that is exactly what I did.

One thing that is clear to me, listening to the doctors, is that opening up more businesses and getting back to the broader sense of normalcy will not hold up if all Pennsylvanians do not do their part. We have a huge role to play in making certain that we beat back this virus, and it starts with wearing masks and committing to social distancing. There are a lot of people who have asked me, Lisa, what can I do? Give me some advice. What can I do to help? Do you know what I have been telling them? I tell them, the most American thing we can do to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and each other is to wear a mask. It is simple and it is a shared responsibility. The most American thing to do right now is wear a mask. It reminds me of the time following 9/11 when boarding airplanes changed dramatically. We were required to remove our shoes and belts and pass through a more intensive boarding process. At first, I remember, we resisted and we felt like this was not for us, this is not the American way, this is not who we are. But I think we realized that it was for a larger purpose, a greater good, and we do it. I view mask wearing in the same vein. This virus is dangerous, it is deadly, especially for vulnerable populations, so we must be extremely careful. It will be with us for the foreseeable future, according to most experts, and there may likely be a resurgence in the fall. This summer is going to be a summer so different from any that I have seen or any of us have. We need to wear our masks, and I know if we can, we can beat this virus back. Wear-

ing a mask is important to restarting our economy, and wearing a mask is important for small business owners so they can open and survive. Business owners need to get in the habit of adding "no mask" to the list of "no shoes, no shirt, no service." I love it. The sign saying "no shoes, no shirt, no service," all we have to do is add "no shoes, no shirt, no mask, no service."

Business owners need to protect themselves as well. Many of the business owners I spoke to, they have developed their own social distancing plans and COVID-19 mitigation plans. They do not want to get sick. These business owners opening up, or asking to open up, do not want to get sick. They do not want their employees to get sick, and they do not want their customers to get sick. These businesses need to provide employees with the needed protective equipment and they need to make it clear to their employees not to come to work if they are sick and to make a commitment to pay them. We have control of our own destiny here. One business owner I know, he can open, he is a dentist, he does not have to do just emergency surgeries anymore. He said he will not for another 2 weeks because he does not have the proper PPE and he did not feel people coming into the dentist office at this time were safe. Those are the responsible business owners.

In the end, I ask the Governor to listen to what Dr. Rhodes and Dr. Jahre had to say, and this morning, thankfully, the Department of Health contacted me asking to be connected with these doctors. I am so grateful for the opportunity for the State medical experts and our local experts to collaborate and compare options. Thank you. Both Dr. Rhodes and Dr. Jahre believe that more businesses can open in the Lehigh Valley, and I trust them. I know that if given the opportunity, the Lehigh Valley will do what it always has and does: succeed. We will wear masks and practice social distancing, and we will find a way to get ahead of COVID-19.

Thank you, Mr. President, for allowing me to make these remarks today.

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

Senator ARGALL. Mr. President, the Governor is the Governor. He is not a thug, he is not a dictator, he is a Governor. He is not a king, an earl, a prince, or a duke. As Pennsylvanians, we do not even know the difference between most of those lofty titles, and most of us really do not care. We also do not care when the Governor calls us bad names because we know it is simply not true. Consider the example of our newest colleague, Senator Arnold from Lebanon County, who signed a letter a few days ago to the Governor explaining that his home county is moving into the yellow, or medium phase of the Governor's COVID-19 shutdown order. The Governor knows better. Senator Arnold is not a coward. He is a hero. He has faced criminals as a district attorney again and again and again. Dave is now recovering from a terrible disease and he is still working every day, fighting for his constituents' rights to health and safety and a decent job. Another one of our new colleagues, Senator Mastriano, has been very outspoken on behalf of his constituents who want to safely return to work in southcentral Pennsylvania. Does anyone in the Senate really believe the Governor's bad words apply to a retired United States Army Colonel, a 30-year veteran, a guy who served along the East German border, who served in three deployments to Afghanistan? Doug is not a deserter, he is a hero. A well-educated hero with a Ph.D. in history who has taught at

the United States Army War College. We should thank Colonel Mastriano, and all of our House and Senate colleagues for their military service, not insult them.

The Governor is also a well-educated individual. This is the first page of his doctoral dissertation in political science from 1981. Thomas Westerman Wolf, B.A. from Dartmouth, Master of Philosophy from the University of London, Ph.D. MIT. I doubt that many of us have attempted to read this 603-page Ph.D. dissertation on *Congressional Sea Change: Conflict and Organizational Accommodation in the House of Representatives, 1878-1921*. Although I should note, as the son of a long-retired business English teacher from the McCann School of Business, not exactly MIT, I should point out that Dr. Wolf misspelled "accommodation." More important than any spelling errors throughout the Governor's entire dissertation, all 603 pages, there is no reference which states that a Governor can do whatever he wants. There are limits - checks and balances. Among our colleagues, Dr. Mastriano understands that. So does Dr. Dinniman. There are checks and balances. You do not need an MIT Ph.D. to know that. Any college student who has taken any of my classes, as a very part-time college instructor, understands that. Hell, any eighth grader who has paid attention in social studies should be able to explain the concept of checks and balances on the executive.

There is another document that those eighth graders have studied which was signed by some of our predecessors in the Pennsylvania General Assembly in Philadelphia almost 224 years ago. The second and third sentences hold the key phrases in Thomas Jefferson's masterpiece, our Declaration of Independence. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." If the Governor would talk to any of us from the counties that want to move to his medium, yellow, phase of a gradual and safe return to normal from this terrible pandemic, we would not call him names. Instead, we would remind him that through emails, letters, Facebook, phone calls, and people talking to us on the street, it is very clear to us in Schuylkill County, and in so many other counties still in his red, most restricted, zone of shutdown, the people we represent are not consenting. They are not consenting to remain locked up in their homes, limited to government handouts. People want to safely begin to work. Small businesses want to be able to reopen, just like their big business competitors down the street who have been open throughout this pandemic. The Governor owes many of us an apology, but that is not what I am asking for today. The campaign attack dogs who wrote his speech yesterday should probably be fired for public policy malpractice, but I am not asking for that either. We know better that we are not cowards or deserters or terrible business owners who do not care about the health and safety of their employees or their customers.

As Senator Boscola just pointed out, what business owner in his or her right mind would want to make their customers or their employees sick? If he would listen, I would remind the Governor that the public and local elected officials of both political parties in the counties under his most restrictive orders, the ones who have worked with the local doctors and hospitals and nurses, now tell us that it is safe for more of our counties to move to the

yellow, medium phase of his health and safety restrictions. All of us, including the Governor, should listen to the public. The public has told the coroners, the district attorneys, the sheriffs, the county commissioners, and, yes, the House and Senate Members in these counties, in Beaver, Franklin, Greene, Lebanon, Lancaster, York, Schuylkill, Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry, Berks, and beyond that we can trust the public to do the right thing and that they are ready to carefully and safely move to the next phase in recovering from this health and economic disaster. The consent of the governed, that is what this is all about. To all of us and to the Governor, remember that rather than name calling, we have the ability to restore our constituents' faith in democracy, to again receive the consent of the governed. The time to do that is now.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, very briefly, we, too, want to see our businesses and individuals getting back to work, and certainly in the appropriate manner as given to us, direction given to us by Governor Wolf and Secretary Levine and the other health experts who they consult with. With regard to the Governor's power or authority to do what he has lawfully been doing, those powers are derived from the Emergency Management Code. They also derive, as it relates to Secretary Levine, from the Disease Prevention and Control Act. That is where the authority comes from. Remember, we are a nation of laws, we are a State of laws and rules and regulations that must be followed. The authority given unto those laws, rules, and regulations are vested with the individuals who are given that power. As our Supreme Court has said, that information is vested, the health, safety, and welfare is vested in the Governor of the Commonwealth. So we are acting, and he is acting, in that manner. Just because we do not like the things that he is doing, or what Dr. Levine is doing, that does not mean that they are wrong or that they lack the authority to be able to do what they have been doing, through implementing the orders and providing the guidance and regulation after regulation to help manage this pandemic here in Pennsylvania. So, Mr. President, I know folks on this floor continue to raise the question as to whether or not the Governor is acting within the scope of his authority. Let us be clear with the people who are watching this program today, and let us be clear with all the people of Pennsylvania: he is 100 percent, entirely within his authority to be able to do what he is doing until such time as the order expires or steps are taken in this General Assembly to be able to change that and to end that order. That has not happened, and that is part of the problem. Folks are not happy with that.

So, at the end of the day, Mr. President, I believe that it is appropriate for us to continue to look to the authority that is vested in the Governor via our Constitution, as our Pennsylvania Supreme Court has said, as well as the two statutes that I referenced earlier. We are a nation of laws, we are a State and Commonwealth of laws, rules, and regulations, and we must abide by them and the authority that is provided by them. If we do not like that, we have two options, particularly with respect to our State Constitution, as well as the measures that I mentioned, the laws that I mentioned. We are a representative government, and if the people of Pennsylvania want us to make those changes, they do it through us here in the General Assembly. They have not done

that. That appears to be a conversation for another day, and we welcome the opportunity to have that debate on this Senate floor, and I assume on the House side as well. But at the end of the day, Mr. President, the Governor has the authority, the Secretary has the authority, vested in each of them, we are going to continue operating with what they recommend to us as we go forward as to how we balance the health of our residents and how we balance the impact it is having on our economy here in Pennsylvania.

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 Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 6:03 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.