

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

SESSION OF 2021 205TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 43

SENATE

TUESDAY, September 21, 2021

The Senate met at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Jacob D. Corman III) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend PAUL FRANK, of St. James Lutheran Church, Hallam, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Dear heavenly Father. You have created a beautiful world, You have given us the responsibility of taking care of it; help us to be faithful in this task. We are grateful for the seasons as we move from summer to autumn. In Pennsylvania, this means cooler temperatures, trees full of color, football, and the fall harvest. Pennsylvania is the land of rich soil. We are thankful for our farmers and all those who work in the food industry. Continue to bless our fields and orchards providing sunshine and rain. School starts in the fall. The last several years have been difficult years because of COVID-19. Protect and guide all those who work hard to educate our youth and be with our students helping them to have a good school year. Every September we observe Labor Day. Pennsylvania is a land full of industries and businesses. We pray for all those who labor. We all benefit from their hard work, and we honor them, not just one day a year, but every day. We pray for all those in law enforcement. We pray for those in the field of medicine. Continue to bless them as they work hard to keep us healthy, and continue to be with us as we battle COVID-19. Help us to defeat this deadly enemy. We pray for our soldiers, not only those who have served this country in the past, but those who are serving now. Be with our nation and our soldiers, and those who help the American government in Afghanistan; bring each one home safely. Make us, who come from many different nations and languages, united people.

So far this year, there have been a number of natural disasters: floods, hurricanes, fires, tornadoes, and earthquakes. We have lost property and loved ones in these tragedies. As a nation, we pray for them and reach out with aid to help them, especially where the people in our own State have suffered from the effects of Hurricane Ida. We pray for our elected leaders at the Federal, State, and local levels. Grant all our elected leaders wise minds and compassionate hearts. May there be cooperation between our elected leaders. May they work together for the common good. Continue to bless the elected leaders of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, our Governor, Lieutenant Governor, our State

Senators and Representatives. We are thankful for all that they do. This we pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair thanks Pastor Frank, who is the guest today of Senator Phillips-Hill.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

RECALL OF REGULAR SESSION

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

September 20, 2021

TO: President and All Members of the Senate

FROM: Senator JAKE CORMAN
President Pro Tempore

RE: Recall to Session-TOMORROW
Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Consistent with the recess motion made on September 14, 2021, the Senate is recalled for voting session tomorrow, Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 1:00 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE 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 PENNSYLVANIA
COUNCIL ON AGING

September 14, 2021

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, Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Council on Aging, to

serve until October 8, 2021, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Camilla Greene, Allentown, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

CONTROLLER, DAUPHIN COUNTY

September 14, 2021

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 J. Yablonski, Jr., 1408 Rose Lane, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Controller, in and for the County of Dauphin, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice Timothy DeFoor, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 14, 2021

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, Moriah Hathaway, 1009 Roman Knoll Court, Harrisburg 17109, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Education, to serve until October 1, 2024, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice James Barker, McKean, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
GAME COMMISSION

September 14, 2021

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 J. Yablonski, Jr. (District 8), 1408 Rose Lane, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, 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 Brian Hoover, Glenolden, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
BERKS COUNTY

September 14, 2021

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, Anne Gingrich Cornick, Esquire, 2311 Briarcliff Road, Harrisburg 17104, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Berks County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable James Bucci, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
GREENE COUNTY

September 14, 2021

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, Anne Gingrich Cornick, Esquire, 2311 Briarcliff Road, Harrisburg 17104, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Greene County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Farley Toothman, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
INDIANA COUNTY

September 14, 2021

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, Anne Gingrich Cornick, Esquire, 2311 Briarcliff Road, Harrisburg 17104, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Indiana County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable William Martin, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
LEHIGH COUNTY

September 14, 2021

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, Anne Gingrich Cornick, Esquire, 2311 Briarcliff Road, Harrisburg 17104, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Lehigh County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Kelly Banach, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
LUZERNE COUNTY

September 14, 2021

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, Anne Gingrich Cornick, Esquire, 2311 Briarcliff Road, Harrisburg 17104, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Luzerne County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable William Amesbury, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

September 14, 2021

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, Anne Gingrich Cornick, Esquire, 2311 Briarcliff Road, Harrisburg 17104, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Frederica Massiah-Jackson, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
WASHINGTON COUNTY

September 14, 2021

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, Anne Gingrich Cornick, Esquire, 2311 Briarcliff Road, Harrisburg 17104, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Washington County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Katherine Emery, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
YORK COUNTY

September 14, 2021

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, Anne Gingrich Cornick, Esquire, 2311 Briarcliff Road, Harrisburg 17104, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, York County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Michael Bortner, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, PHILADELPHIA MUNICIPAL COURT

September 14, 2021

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, Anne Gingrich Cornick, Esquire, 2311 Briarcliff Road, Harrisburg 17104, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Philadelphia Municipal Court, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Barbara Gilbert, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

September 14, 2021

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 J. Yablonski, Jr., 1408 Rose Lane, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment 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, vice Robert Frankil, Collegeville, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

SHERIFF, WAYNE COUNTY

September 14, 2021

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 J. Yablonski, Jr., 1408 Rose Lane, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Sheriff, in and for the County of Wayne, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice Mark Steelman, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

September 14, 2021

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, Betsy Phillips, 3607 North Fourth Street, Harrisburg 17110, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Allegheny, Magisterial District 05-2-15, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Thomas Torkowsky, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

September 14, 2021

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, Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Allegheny, Magisterial District 05-3-13, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Randy Martini, resigned.

TOM WOLF Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

September 14, 2021

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, Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Beaver, Magisterial District 36-3-04, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Janet Swihart, resigned.

TOM WOLF Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

September 14, 2021

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, Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Bucks, Magisterial District 07-1-04, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Robert Wagner, Jr., resigned.

TOM WOLF Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

September 14, 2021

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, Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Westmoreland, Magisterial District 10-2-01, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable L. Anthony Bompiani, resigned.

TOM WOLF Governor

APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL WITH EXCEPTIONS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following veto communication in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, advising that the following Senate Bill has been approved and signed by the Governor, with exceptions:

SB 255.

The Clerk read the veto message as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA Office of the Governor Harrisburg

June 30, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 16 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning this appropriation bill, Senate Bill 255, Printer's Number 971, to your chamber.

In a separate action today, I informed the House of Representatives that I am withholding my signature from House Bill 1300, Printer's Number 1869. Accordingly, I am also compelled to withhold my approval from a corresponding allocation of funding to the Office of the Auditor General intended to facilitate the establishment and operation of a Bureau of Election Audits.

For these reasons, I return the bill to your chamber partially approved and signed. The bill is approved with the exception of the item listed below:

SECTION 205. Auditor General.

For the Department of the Auditor General for postauditing annually, periodically or specially, the affairs of any department, board, or commission which is supported out of the General Fund, district justices, other fining offices, volunteer firemen's relief association funds and the offices of statewide elected officials and for the proper auditing of appropriations for or relating to public assistance, including any federal sums supplementing such appropriations.

State Appropriations \$41,441,000.

This item is approved in the sum of \$38,341,000.

Sincerely,

TOM WOLF Governor

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

SENATE BILLS RETURNED WITHOUT APPROVAL

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

SB 516, entitled:

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

The Clerk read the veto message as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Office of the Governor
Harrisburg

July 1, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 516, Printer's Number 802.

This legislation seeks to solve the real issue of collecting court costs from those who have the ability to pay, but unfortunately could result in disproportionately harming indigent defendants. This bill allows a court to turn over debt owed from court costs, fines, and restitution to a private collection agency, who may add up to a 25% surcharge, when the defendant does not appear at a financial determination hearing. The purpose of a financial determination hearing is for the court to review a defendant's financial situation and determine whether the payments should be made in installments. The court will account for the defendant's ability to make restitution and reparations and weigh the burden the payment will impose on the defendant. This bill would remove that safeguard if the defendant fails to appear at the financial determination hearing, regardless of whether that failure to appear is willful or non-willful. In many instances, the financial determination hearings will occur long after a person has completed probation or parole, moved, relocated, or otherwise fulfilled their obligations to the court, and the notice to appear is often sent to out-of-date addresses.

This bill attempts to solve the problem of financially able defendants willfully skipping the determination hearing to evade collection of their debt. However, without a financial determination hearing, defendants who do not have the ability to pay will be treated the same as those who do. This would result in indigent defendants being disproportionately affected in other aspects of their lives. While I strongly recognize that victims should have every effort made to collect restitution on their behalf, this bill does not delineate between those defendants with an ability to pay versus those that do not. Court-ordered debt can linger for years and impact credit scores, limit access to housing, employment, and other benefits, including the ability to secure a pardon.

A more holistic approach is needed to both increase a court's ability to collect fees from those who have the ability to pay while also protecting indigent defendants. Pennsylvania is one of two states that require local government to fund and administer indigent services. The creation of an Office of Indigent Defense is one proposal that I have put forth that would protect these vulnerable defendants. Unfortunately, this proposal did not receive funding in this year's budget. I appreciate that this bill is attempting to solve a legitimate problem faced by the counties; however, I believe it warrants more thorough consideration to protect indigent defendants.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from Senate Bill 516, Printer's Number 802.

Sincerely,

TOM WOLF
Governor

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

SB 618, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for vaccinations and for disease prevention and control.

The Clerk read the veto message as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Office of the Governor
Harrisburg

July 1, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 618, Printer's Number 945.

This legislation is contradictory, misguided and irresponsible. This bill prohibits basic public health measures, which are necessary to curb infectious disease transmission and save lives. Specifically, the bill eliminates the Department of Health's ability to take disease control measures for any future contagious disease, resulting in the inability to contain the spread of infectious diseases in the Commonwealth or long after the current pandemic is over.

While the provisions of this legislation put all Commonwealth residents at risk, individuals who are vulnerable to infectious diseases, such as residents of long-term care facilities, are at an even greater risk if the authority to mitigate transmission of infectious diseases is eliminated. In addition, persons of all ages with medical conditions and immunosuppressed systems are put at greater risk under this bill. As we have seen with COVID-19 and other disease outbreaks, public health response measures are critical in saving lives of vulnerable residents. Health orders are needed to provide direction to health care providers, medical facilities, patients, and those likely exposed to a disease during a pandemic.

Alongside Pennsylvania's nation-leading vaccine rollout, universal masking, distancing, and worker safety orders have been instrumental in fighting COVID-19 in Pennsylvania. Short-sighted legislation to tie the hands of people dedicated to public health will only make infectious diseases more difficult to fight.

Finally, this bill limits the Department of Health's ability to collect vaccine and immunization information for the Commonwealth's Statewide Immunization Information System. This would prevent medical providers and the public from having access to vital information on vaccination rates and vaccine efficacy.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from Senate Bill 618, Printer's Number 945.

Sincerely,

TOM WOLF
Governor

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

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

September 14, 2021

Senators MUTH, SANTARSIERO, FONTANA, COSTA, COMMITTA and BREWSTER presented to the Chair **SB 853**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, providing for veterans property tax and rent rebate assistance; establishing the Veterans Property Tax and Rent Rebate Assistance account; and making an appropriation.

Which was committed to the Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, September 14, 2021.

Senators MUTH, KANE, FONTANA, COLLETT, SCAVELLO, BREWSTER, HUGHES, SANTARSIERO, KEARNEY, STREET, COSTA, SCHWANK and COMITTA presented to the Chair **SB 860**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of November 29, 2006 (P.L.1471, No.165), known as the Sexual Assault Testing and Evidence Collection Act, further providing for definitions and for sexual assault evidence collection program.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, September 14, 2021.

Senators STEFANO, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA, MARTIN, MASTRIANO, MENSCH, PITTMAN, VOGEL and J. WARD presented to the Chair **SB 861**, entitled:

An Act making the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a party to the Recognition Of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact; and providing for the form of the compact.

Which was committed to the Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, September 14, 2021.

Senator PITTMAN presented to the Chair **SB 866**, entitled:

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 19231, on that portion of State Route 1014 over the abandoned Conrail Railroad, Green Township, Indiana County, as the Carl E. Keith Memorial Bridge.

Which was committed to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION, September 14, 2021.

Senator BAKER presented to the Chair **SB 867**, entitled:

An Act designating the portion of Pennsylvania Route 309 from the intersection with Pennsylvania Route 29 in Monroe Township, Wyoming County, to the intersection with State Route 1026 in Dallas Township, Luzerne County, as the Kunkle Firefighter Edward L. Nulton, Sr. Memorial Highway.

Which was committed to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION, September 14, 2021.

September 17, 2021

Senators MUTH, FONTANA, COLLETT, KEARNEY and CAPPELLETTI presented to the Chair **SB 868**, entitled:

An Act providing for registration of extraordinary water users; imposing a water resource fee; establishing the Water Use Fund; and providing for submission of a question to the electorate authorizing incurring of indebtedness for water-related environmental initiatives.

Which was committed to the Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, September 17, 2021.

Senators TOMLINSON, BOSCOLA, GORDNER, COMITTA, FONTANA, BROOKS, MARTIN, MENSCH, BAKER, J. WARD and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SB 869**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 63 (Professions and Occupations (State Licensed)) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in powers and duties, further providing for definitions and providing for virtual operation.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, September 17, 2021.

Senator LAUGHLIN presented to the Chair **SB 870**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act, providing for diseases with long latency periods between occupational exposure and manifestation of the disease and further providing for liability.

Which was committed to the Committee on LABOR AND INDUSTRY, September 17, 2021.

Senators J. WARD, COLLETT, SANTARSIERO, FONTANA, SCHWANK, BAKER, MENSCH, YUDICHAK, TARTAGLIONE, PITTMAN, STEFANO, CAPPELLETTI and SCAVELLO presented to the Chair **SB 871**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in child protective services, further providing for definitions, for mandatory reporting and postmortem investigation of deaths, for establishment of Statewide database, for access to information in Statewide database, for information in Statewide database, for disposition and expunction of unfounded reports and general protective services reports, for disposition of founded and indicated reports, for expunction of information of perpetrator who was under 18 years of age when child abuse was committed and for release of information in confidential reports, providing for exchange of information for placement, further providing for amendment or expunction of information, for investigating performance of county agency, for employees having contact with children and adoptive and foster parents, for audits by Attorney General, for reports to Governor and General Assembly, for penalties, for services for prevention, investigation and treatment of child abuse, for reports to department and coroner, for investigation of reports, for voluntary or court-ordered services and findings of child abuse and for evidence in court proceedings; and making editorial changes.

Which was committed to the Committee on AGING AND YOUTH, September 17, 2021.

Senators ARGALL, STREET, BOSCOLA, GORDNER, DUSH, MENSCH, COMITTA, BARTOLOTTA, SCHWANK, LANGERHOLC, BREWSTER and SCAVELLO presented to the Chair **SB 878**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, in the Secretary of the Commonwealth, further providing for powers and duties of the Secretary of the Commonwealth; in voting by qualified absentee electors, further providing for voting by absentee electors and for canvassing of official absentee ballots and mail-in ballots; and, in voting by qualified mail-in electors, further providing for applications for official mail-in ballots, for date of application for mail-in ballot and for voting by mail-in electors.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, September 17, 2021.

September 20, 2021

Senators CAPPELLETTI, SAVAL, MUTH, COLLETT, KANE and L. WILLIAMS presented to the Chair **SB 856**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of February 13, 1970 (P.L.19, No.10), entitled "An act enabling certain minors to consent to medical, dental and health services, declaring consent unnecessary under certain circumstances," providing for vaccine-preventable diseases.

Which was committed to the Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, September 20, 2021.

Senator SCAVELLO presented to the Chair **SB 880**, entitled:

An Act designating the portion of State Route 2014/Washington Street beginning at the intersection of South Courtland Street and Day Street at segment 0011 offset 1858 and ending at the intersection of Brown Street at segment 0011 offset 0000 in East Stroudsburg Borough, Monroe County, as the Samuel Newman Way; and making a repeal.

Which was committed to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION, September 20, 2021.

RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

September 14, 2021

Senator SCHWANK presented to the Chair **SR 168**, entitled:

A Resolution designating September 22, 2021, as "Falls Prevention Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, September 14, 2021.

Senators SCHWANK, BROWNE, KEARNEY, FONTANA, J. WARD, KANE, SANTARSIERO, HUGHES, BARTOLOTTA, MENSCH, MUTH, COSTA, CAPPELLETTI and AUMENT presented to the Chair **SR 169**, entitled:

A Resolution designating October 9, 2021, as "PANS/PANDAS Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, September 14, 2021.

Senators COMITTA, TOMLINSON, MARTIN, COSTA, SANTARSIERO, BREWSTER, PHILLIPS-HILL, MUTH, SCAVELLO and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SR 170**, entitled:

A Resolution commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of West Chester University.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, September 14, 2021.

September 17, 2021

Senators TARTAGLIONE, HUGHES, J. WARD, KANE, MARTIN, COSTA, MUTH, COMITTA, BARTOLOTTA, SCHWANK, FONTANA, STREET, BROOKS, SCAVELLO,

KEARNEY, GORDNER, STEFANO, MENSCH, CAPPELLETTI and PITTMAN presented to the Chair **SR 171**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of September 2021 as "National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, September 17, 2021.

Senators LANGERHOLC, YUDICHAK, REGAN, ARGALL, PHILLIPS-HILL, STEFANO, SCAVELLO, DiSANTO, PITTMAN, BROOKS, VOGEL, BARTOLOTTA, J. WARD, ROBINSON and MASTRIANO presented to the Chair **SR 172**, entitled:

A Resolution urging the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of Transportation to take action on the nationwide school bus driver shortage.

Which was committed to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION, September 17, 2021.

Senators TARTAGLIONE, HUGHES, DUSH, J. WARD, KANE, BOSCOLA, MARTIN, COSTA, MUTH, COMITTA, BARTOLOTTA, SCHWANK, FONTANA, STREET, BROOKS, KEARNEY, STEFANO, CAPPELLETTI and BROWNE presented to the Chair **SR 173**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing September 10, 2021, as "World Suicide Prevention Day" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, September 17, 2021.

September 20, 2021

Senators TARTAGLIONE, PHILLIPS-HILL, KEARNEY, KANE, HUGHES, BARTOLOTTA, STREET, FONTANA, BROWNE, MARTIN, BREWSTER, CAPPELLETTI, MUTH, COSTA and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SR 174**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of October 2021 as "National Sensory Processing Disorder Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, September 20, 2021.

Senators TARTAGLIONE, HUGHES, BARTOLOTTA, J. WARD, FONTANA, KEARNEY, SCAVELLO, COMITTA, MARTIN, STREET, KANE, BROWNE, COSTA, SCHWANK, CAPPELLETTI, BREWSTER, MENSCH, MUTH and PITTMAN presented to the Chair **SR 175**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of October 2021 as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, September 20, 2021.

Senators TARTAGLIONE, BARTOLOTTA, KEARNEY, BROWNE, BOSCOLA, PHILLIPS-HILL, STREET, FONTANA, J. WARD, MARTIN, COSTA, SCHWANK, BREWSTER, HUTCHINSON, MUTH, SCAVELLO and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SR 176**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of October 2021 as "National Physical Therapy Month" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, September 20, 2021.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator TOMLINSON, from the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, reported the following bills:

SB 869 (Pr. No. 1074)

An Act amending Title 63 (Professions and Occupations (State Licensed)) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in powers and duties, further providing for definitions and providing for virtual operation.

HB 245 (Pr. No. 2141) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the Medical Practice Act of 1985, further providing for license without restriction and for institutional license.

HB 1182 (Pr. No. 1715)

An Act amending the act of June 19, 1931 (P.L.589, No.202), referred to as the Barbers' License Law, further providing for supervision of shops and schools and licenses and renewal.

HB 1183 (Pr. No. 1716)

An Act amending the act of May 3, 1933 (P.L.242, No.86), referred to as the Cosmetology Law, further providing for requirements of a school of cosmetology.

Senator DUSH, from the Committee on Local Government, reported the following bill:

HB 1591 (Pr. No. 2139) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code, in names and corporate powers, classification of counties, further providing for ascertainment, certification and effect of change of class; and making related repeals.

Senator ARGALL, from the Committee on State Government, reported the following bills:

SB 56 (Pr. No. 33)

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

SB 140 (Pr. No. 117)

An Act amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, in primary and election expenses, further providing for reporting by candidate and political committees and other persons, for late contributions and independent expenditures, for oath of compliance, perjury, disqualification from office and commercial use, for residual funds and for place of filing, providing for manner of filing and for inability to file reports or statements electronically by deadline and further providing for late filing fee and certificate of filing, for additional powers and duties of the Secre-

tary of the Commonwealth and for reports by business entities and publication by Secretary of the Commonwealth.

SB 428 (Pr. No. 432)

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

SB 551 (Pr. No. 576)

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for tenure of justices, judges and justices of the peace.

SB 636 (Pr. No. 755)

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Department of Corrections and the Governor, to lease to the County of Wayne a portion of the lands of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the State Correctional Institution - Waymart, situate in the Township of Canaan and Borough of Waymart, County of Wayne.

SB 795 (Pr. No. 950)

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Pennsylvania State Police and the Governor, to grant and convey to Robert Swingle, certain lands and improvements situate in the Township of Richmond, Tioga County.

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

SB 849 (Pr. No. 1043)

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in veterans' preference, further providing for definitions; and, in voluntary veterans' preference in private employment, further providing for definitions.

HB 941 (Pr. No. 949)

An Act amending the act of December 15, 1982 (P.L.1266, No.287), entitled "An act conferring limited residency status on military personnel, their dependents and civilian personnel assigned to an active duty station in Pennsylvania," further providing for residency of students.

HB 1598 (Pr. No. 2140) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of October 4, 1978 (P.L.851, No.166), known as the Flood Plain Management Act, replacing references to the Department of Community Affairs with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency; in miscellaneous and appropriations, repealing provisions related to appropriations; making a related repeal; and making editorial changes.

RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SR 164 (Pr. No. 1060)

A Concurrent Resolution urging the Secretary of the Navy to designate the City of Philadelphia and both banks of the Delaware River as the site of the main celebration of the 250th birthdays of the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps in October and November 2025.

The resolution will be placed on the Calendar.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Brooks and Senator Mensch.

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

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Kim Ward requests legislative leaves for Senator Brooks and Senator Mensch.

Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Schwank.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Senator K. WARD asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator BROWNE, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journal of the Session of April 27, 2021, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of April 27, 2021.

Senator K. WARD. 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 K. WARD and were as follows, viz:

YEA-49

Argall	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Aument	Flynn	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Street
Bartolotta	Gebhard	Muth	Tartaglione
Boscola	Gordner	Phillips-Hill	Tomlinson
Brewster	Haywood	Pittman	Vogel
Brooks	Hughes	Regan	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hutchinson	Robinson	Ward, Kim
Collett	Kane	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Kearney	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Corman	Langerholc	Saval	Yaw
Costa	Laughlin	Scavello	Yudichak
DiSanto			

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.

**GUESTS OF SENATOR
KRISTIN PHILLIPS-HILL
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I rise to introduce today's guest Chaplain, Pastor Paul Frank, Jr., of St. James Lutheran Church located in Hallam. The Senate has a longstanding tradition of opening Session in a word of prayer, and the pandemic did not stop that. However, it did present some challenges. In fact, we heard from Pastor Frank via Zoom back in May. So today it is an honor to have Pastor Frank here in person before all of us. Would my Senate colleagues please join me in giving today's guest Chaplain, Pastor Frank, and his wife, Ruth, a warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would Pastor Frank and his wife please rise so the Senate can give you our usual warm welcome.

(Applause.)

**GUESTS OF SENATOR
CAMERA C. BARTOLOTTA
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, today I have a group of very special guests joining us from Washington County for the annual Recovery Advocacy Day event, which was held this morning. Recovery Advocacy Day aims to raise awareness of substance use conditions, celebrates individuals in recovery, and acknowledges the work of prevention, treatment, and recovery support services. These men and women are either currently on the road to recovery or have lost loved ones as a result of an accidental overdose. Some of these brave and courageous individuals are seated in the gallery along with other individuals who have been instrumental in assisting in recovery programs. Among them are Ashley Potts, substance use disorder program manager for Highmark Health; and staff from the Washington Drug and Alcohol Commission, including Briana Roman, Carly McGinnis, Brianna Stogran, Patrick Good, and Karen Bennett. Recovery Advocacy Day reminds us that there is a way forward for people struggling with addiction issues. Instead of reflecting on the catastrophic toll taken by this epidemic, we can pause for a moment of celebration in honor of all of those individuals who chose a better path. Mr. President, please join me in extending a very warm Senate welcome to these individuals for not only being present with us today but, more importantly, for their courageous journey to recovery.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guests of Senator Bartolotta please rise so the Senate may give you our usual warm welcome.

(Applause.)

RECESS

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a Republican caucus to be held in the Majority Caucus Room and via Zoom.

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

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For purposes of Republican and Democratic caucuses to be held in their respective caucus rooms, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator Elder A. Vogel, Jr.) in the Chair.

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator DiSanto.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Kim Ward requests a legislative leave for Senator DiSanto. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

HOUSE MESSAGE**HOUSE RESOLUTION FOR CONCURRENCE**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives presented to the Senate the following resolution for concurrence, which was referred to the committee indicated:

September 21, 2021

HR 139 -- Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness.

RECESS

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for purposes of a meeting of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness to be held in the Rules room, followed by a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held here on the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. For purposes of a meeting of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness to be held in the Rules room, followed by a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held here on the floor, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Jacob D. Corman III) in the Chair.

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Aument.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Kim Ward requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Aument. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 153 (Pr. No. 127) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in size, weight and load, further providing for maximum gross weight of vehicles.

SB 302 (Pr. No. 905) (Rereported)

An Act prohibiting the use of certain class B firefighting foams under certain circumstances and providing for warning labels; and imposing powers and duties on the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the State Fire Commissioner.

SB 552 (Pr. No. 579) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law, in agency response, providing for vexatious requester.

SB 673 (Pr. No. 742) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.103, No.69), known as The Second Class Township Code, in auditors and accountants, further providing for surcharge by auditors; and, in township manager, further providing for township manager and appointment, removal, powers and duties and compensation and bond.

SB 709 (Pr. No. 812) (Rereported)

An Act providing for cytomegalovirus education and newborn screening.

SB 739 (Pr. No. 874) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Commonwealth services, further providing for definitions and for assistance to fire companies and EMS companies.

RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

HR 139 (Pr. No. 2150)

A Concurrent Resolution extending in whole the disaster emergency declared on August 31, 2021, in response to the aftereffects of Hurricane Ida.

The resolution will be placed on the Calendar.

MOTION PURSUANT TO SENATE RULE 29

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, as a special order of business, I call up Senate Supplemental Calendar No. 3 and move that the Senate proceed to consider the following resolution, notwithstanding the provisions of Senate Rule 29(b):

HR 139.

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. 3****HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
No. 139, ADOPTED**

Senator K. WARD, without objection, called up from page 1 of Supplemental Calendar No. 3, **House Concurrent Resolution No. 139**, entitled:

A Concurrent Resolution extending in whole the disaster emergency declared on August 31, 2021, in response to the aftereffects of Hurricane Ida.

On the question,
Will the Senate concur in the resolution?

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in House Concurrent Resolution No. 139.

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

MUTH AMENDMENT A2308 OFFERED

Senator MUTH offered the following amendment No. A2308:

Amend Resolution, page 2, line 16, by striking out "October 27" and inserting:
November 29

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

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

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, my amendment simply changes the disaster declaration end date from October 27, 2021, to November 29, 2021, which was requested initially by PEMA and the Governor's Office, specifically from the standpoint of the available aid and resources that may disappear or not be accessible anymore to impacted areas if the declaration were to end sooner. Under that falls our ability to work with other States in the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, EMAC, which would bring additional assistance in from surrounding States such as housing specialists, DRC managers, or additional recovery specialists. FEMA's regional administrator suggested that this was a really big part for us to consider in our extended disaster relief plans. The policy that FEMA instituted was 10 years ago, so they are updating their policies. One of the requirements to use EMAC is that the State has to have a disaster declaration in place since it is a State-to-State aid that is reimbursed at the State level. Absent having a disaster declaration, there may be challenges with using the EMAC system to bring in assistance from other States if needed. Also, there is an ongoing need in the 44th Senatorial District--as my colleagues in the southeast have seen--to clean up massive levels of debris and damage from the storms, both in creeks and streams and also emergency road repairs as situations are still being uncovered and assessed by FEMA. These damage assessments are still ongoing. Having the ability to use emergency procurement procedures and having access to enter on a private property if necessary--if there are power lines still down or private well water issues--having this in place will hasten these operations so these assessments can be made in a more timely manner. Therefore, a plan and implementation of remediation can actually happen faster for our residents.

I respectfully request an affirmative vote on this, and the simple fact that we have not been able to get clarification on what October 27, 2021, has to do with the actual relief process and how that date was identified--understand that I am advocating for the residents and constituents in my district, and in the southeast, who have been impacted. PEMA is obviously in the position, as well as us in the Minority, to take what we "can get," if the Majority party in both Chambers only wants to extend to October 27, we have no choice. We are at their mercy, and our residents need aid and assistance desperately. I hope that we let the emergency disaster relief planners assess and decide what timeframe, and PEMA has identified the November 29, 2021, extension date, as requested, allows them the same time that they used for the last disaster of similar impact knowing that they could utilize these resources and not leave our residents in any more emotional and financial anxiety and angst than they have already experienced. I am sure you can imagine if your entire home, your invested wealth, was completely flooded and needed complete restoration or an entire new home. If this were the reverse and any of your districts were impacted, I certainly would support your request for ensuring that your constituents also had every resource they needed to help them recover in a way that made them whole. So, I respectfully request an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Mr. President, thank you, Senator Muth, for this amendment. I am reaching out to my colleagues to implore you to consider this extension. It is not much, but it is so desperately needed. If you do not know, my district was one of

the hardest-hit districts in Pennsylvania. I had three municipalities definitively underwater with water rescues. I have other municipalities with areas of complete flooding and total destruction. Some of those areas were more affluent than others. But the two municipalities in my mind that I am thinking of are people with lower incomes--working-class families, blue collar people, your everyday person--they need us to extend this. We are having a hard time making sure that we are finding each and every person who was displaced from this flood and this disaster and ensuring that they get the resources that they need from FEMA--that they know how to reach out to FEMA and get what they need. They are living in their cars, in tents, couchsurfing from home to home, not knowing how to get the help that we have to offer them, and we are doing our best to make sure that we get to them. We are trying to figure it out. We are out on the streets, making phone calls, and sending text messages. But if you could give us the grace of this additional time from the humanity of the situation, because this affects everyone; it does not just affect my Democratic constituents, my Republican constituents, it affects everybody from all political sides. I implore you to consider this, because if we can give them that little extra boost of time to get what they need, to get our constituents back on their feet, they might have some type of restored faith in us, which all of us sorely need--to have our constituents' renewed faith in us as a body and what we can do for them. So I implore you, please, because as Senator Muth said, if this was your district--for the humanity of it, not for any political game or partisanship, for people's lives--I would vote "yes" to support the people in your districts simply because it is the right thing to do. Thank you.

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I feel really horrible for all those people. We have all had flooding in our areas, and it is so devastating. But with that I ask for a "no" vote on the amendment. We were on a call, all four Caucuses, with the Governor's Office and PEMA, and PEMA was asked, how much time do you need? They said, we need 30 days. So the timing of the resolution, as it stands, October 27, should give them the time. But they said if they need more time they will let us know. That week, we are all in, the House and the Senate, so we will be able to address that quickly. Thank you.

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

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I want to reference that the 90 days is the adequate time that was, again, used for the last disaster of this magnitude. This is not just flooding, this is entire homes, people on roofs, evacuated. This is a disaster that I would rather have emergency professionals tell us how to do a disaster declaration relief plan, have them decide that timeframe, because they understand the process. Many people have to wait for insurance reimbursement. They have to wait for assessments--and that is once they get funding to make these repairs--have to find an available contractor. These are all delays in people's lives to get back to normal and have some level of home, living in a hotel or a trailer for months on end, hoping that the next declaration is approved so that they can continue to get housing assistance dollars. When we do not have to leave them in that situation of anxiety, again, as my colleague, Senator Cappelletti, mentioned, I would never do that to any of your constituents. So when PEMA and the Governor's Office were supportive of this

amendment--it is in their September 15, 2021, letter--and, again, they are at the mercy, unfortunately, of the political process here of this whole emergency declaration debacle, which obviously was changed in a constitutional amendment. So here we are with the situation instead of making us return again at the final hour, as today is the only day to pass this current resolution, come back in October and do the same thing again. I think for efficiency's sake, for the sake of restoring some faith in our ability to lead, and I, again, would ask the Leader to respectfully reconsider the guidance on the vote because I certainly would never vote against people in your district as my own family lives there.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, as you introduced me, you referred to me as the gentleman from Philadelphia. I appreciate the reference as a gentleman, I will take that and hold onto it. But the other side of that is that I represent portions of Montgomery County as well, and there is not much that can be explained in words what we saw in pictures, unfortunately, in a very short amount of time. I represent, in the city of Philadelphia, Manayunk and Main Street, a community where many of the Members, Democrat and Republican, from across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have come down and spent time and enjoyed the fabulous restaurants and nightlife. Maybe some of your children are attending college in the region and they made a decision to either reside in that community or definitely made a decision to enjoy the restaurants and the nightlife on Main Street in Manayunk. The flood that occurred there in that community--consistently is flooded. Mr. President, you have spent enough time in your adult life, and maybe your younger adult life, spending time in the great city of Philadelphia; you have probably been over to Main Street in Manayunk. You know it is a really great community, really thriving community. But the flooding that existed there is the flooding that has not occurred since 1870--6 feet above the previous highest watermark--but that is only part of the story. Mr. President, this story goes--as I said, I represent portions of Montgomery County, the great folks in Conshohocken who were flooded, and I think Senator Cappelletti's community next to Conshohocken, Bridgeport, I believe, that whole community over there, right next to them, the same kind of flooding--but they were blessed to not have as many low-lying homes on the floodplain as is the case in Senator Cappelletti's district, although they were impacted. I also represent Upper Dublin. Let me just move away if I could, Mr. President, move away from the conversation about flooding to talk about tornadoes.

You are a Temple man like I am, Mr. President. The Ambler Campus of Temple University is in my district. It is right in that community, adjacent to Upper Dublin, devastated from tornadoes. Not flooding but from tornadoes. Tornadoes that you would only see if you watch the movie *Twister*, you know, right, like that kind of devastation, or if you have seen other tornado devastation that has occurred in the midwestern portion of the nation. Trees sheared off at the top of a line. Trees rooted up with the bases of these trees that are maybe about 20 feet in circumference just rooted up and ripped out all throughout the community. Although this is a relatively affluent community--and sometimes there is a sense that, well, you know, they are going to be all right, they have insurance, they are going to be taken

care of--the devastation that occurred from a tornado, much of which, as we have seen in other communities across the country, has an impact that lasts longer than the 2 or 3 days of TV coverage that was provided for that community. We still travel up there to see and check and talk to folks and figure out how we can get some additional help. Although there has been some progress, a community that is not used to tornadoes has a lot to adjust to. The older gentleman who has no family in this region and the closest family that he has access to is in the south. The older gentleman, what does he do? He is by himself, his house was destroyed by a tornado, not by a flood. So, consistent with the comments from Senator Muth and Senator Cappelletti, I would urge support for the proposal because we have never seen anything like this--tornadoes of this kind, devastation of this kind, flooding going back to 1870--never seen this kind of devastation, and all we are looking for is a little extra time, but maybe more importantly than that, Mr. President, a sense of empathy from Pennsylvanians across the State. A sense of empathy that is as much moral support as it is the financial support and other assistance that can be provided in the context of what the good folks at PEMA, FEMA, and the Red Cross and the rest can provide. That empathy, that comment that we are standing with you and we are not letting you stand alone, that we are right there with you. What I have come to experience, Mr. President, over the last several weeks means a lot. There is a tendency to believe that our children, when confronted with circumstances like this, are resilient, that they can manage, they can handle, and they will be able to get through in--I focused on the Upper Dublin community. That was the first day back to school, and the children were excited to go back to school. Remember, they had been denied in-person education, for the most part, throughout the pandemic, since about March 11, 2020, somewhere around that timeframe. They were excited, ready to go back, and wanted to see their friends at the beginning of the school year. Everybody is ready to go, I am going to see my friends, we are going to have fun, and then that was snatched from them. We say they are resilient; I think we may be pushing the envelope just a bit too much in terms of depending upon their resilience to get through a disaster that they could not fathom and that they had never experienced before.

We ask for an affirmative vote. As much as to make sure that we maximize the financial support--that is important, no doubt--but the empathy sent by this body, by this building, I believe, in many cases, is as important as whatever financial support that could be derived as we extend this extra time. So I stand with my colleagues and hope that I have represented well the concerns that they have had to address, I have had to address, but most importantly, thousands of people have had to live through. It was hell down there and, unfortunately, far too many are still living in that hell.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I think all of us as Senators have districts that have been affected by weather emergencies. I represent the town of Bloomsburg, and just over the last 20-some years the town of Bloomsburg has experienced, I think, seven flooding emergencies. It is one of the largest communities along the Susquehanna River that did not have flood protection. Thankfully, over the last 5 or 6 years we have been able to put

some flood protection in that community, but any sort of weather emergency is a big challenge.

The voters, in May, made a decision in regard to a constitutional amendment, and they decided that they, going forward, did not want just one individual--the governor, Republican or Democrat--to make the decisions but wanted the governor to work with the legislature. This process, in regard to this specific emergency, has actually become a perfect example of how the governor and the House and the Senate can work together. When the Governor originally did his emergency declaration, there was a 21-day period that he could do, and that 21 days ends today. It ends today, Mr. President. At midnight tonight that 21-day emergency ends. So, to the credit of the House and the Senate, Democrats and Republicans, the four Caucuses over the last week or so have been working together, which is how it should be. It is what I think the people wanted back in May. So House Democrats, House Republicans, Senate Democrats, Senate Republicans, and the Governor were on a phone call in order to come up with a consensus as to what date we should extend this emergency to allow those folks devastated by this emergency to be able to complete the paperwork and complete the different things to make sure that they get the help and relief that they need. As a result of those phone conversations, it was agreed to--between the House, the Senate, and the Governor--that October 27 would be the date that would give us enough time. The good news is that the House is in Session that week, the Senate is in Session that week, and if for some reason it turns out that it is not long enough, we are in Session that week and we can extend it again. But here is the situation we are in, Mr. President. We reached that understanding, Democrats, Republicans, House, Senate, Governor, working together to extend it to the October 27 date. The initial declaration that the Governor did ends at midnight tonight. The House has finished their work for the day, they are done. So the only thing that is waiting at this point is for the Senate to adopt this resolution. The Speaker of the House is actually sticking around so that he can sign it in the House and then go to the Governor so that the Governor, today, can extend this emergency.

I will just finish, Mr. President, by saying that this resolution, as currently stated, passed the House unanimously. Every Democrat and every Republican voted in favor of this resolution in the House to make sure that on this last day of the initial emergency that we get it done. I would not want us to change this one comma, or word, or anything else, because the people deserve that we act today; and with the House acting unanimously, I hope the Senate acts unanimously as well. I hope that we vote down this amendment; that we adopt the resolution; that we can sign it here in the Senate; we can get it over to Speaker Cutler, who is waiting in the House to sign it; get it to the Governor so that he can sign it as well; and we can extend the emergency for the folks who were devastated by this weather emergency.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes, for the second time, the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Cappelletti.

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Mr. President, I am a little upset that we just had a conversation about constitutional amendments and how things go; because we did pass that constitutional amendment, and we stand here today being able to extend this little bit of time. Because I do not think any of you seem to truly under-

stand the trauma, that uncertainty of housing, food, transportation, and job insecurity all combined into one, especially during a pandemic, seems to have on an individual. The people who I have been talking with are fraught, they do not know what to do. I am trying to help them. I am pointing them in the right direction and I am pleading with you. Do you have any idea what it is like to wake up and see your entire district underwater? To see boat rescues happening? To know that people died? Yes, I do know some of you know what that is like because it has happened in your districts; and God forbid it happens again, I will stand here and support you to get the support that you need to take care of your people. I do not understand why this is so difficult. This is a matter of life and death kind of a thing, like literal. I am frustrated, and I am very saddened and upset because, yes, I will vote to extend it. It probably will be unanimous because there is no other option right now, but I am just sad. I am sad and frustrated that we are asking for just a little bit of time, a little cushion to ensure that all people are taken care of. I fear that giving them that uncertainty of us having to extend it again--will they, or will they not? Will they have a heart about it, or will they not have a heart about it, can cause on somebody the mental stress and trauma compounded by the pandemic that we have been living through for 18 months, and it is still ongoing. Please, I implore you to think about those things and take that into consideration.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair recognizes, for the third time, the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Muth.

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I appreciate your indulgence. For the sake of our constituents watching--because they might not have fully understood, or maybe they did support the ballot initiative--I think it is important to remind the public that, unfortunately, in the Minority we yield no power to call people back to Session. Call, ask for this kind of issue that should be nonpartisan to be addressed in a timely manner. Here we are on the final day that this could have been addressed, it is a crunch time moment, and we are at the mercy, and as Senator Cappelletti just said, we have no choice but to vote "yes." Despite the fact that there is an alternative that is not being utilized or supported that would alleviate the tremendous burden that people are facing and allow FEMA, PEMA, and other organizations to adequately assess and assist all of the needs and damage so that people can be made whole.

So when it comes to this bipartisan consensus, there was no choice. We are at the mercy in the Minority. I cannot help my constituents in this moment besides standing at this podium pleading for some level of empathy that, unfortunately, does not seem to exist. Yet, this is not a partisan issue. Again, I urge the Leader to reconsider, because this does not have to be a repeat in a month from now, going back through these steps at the final hour to jam something through, and with an arbitrary date picked just because there is an effort to undermine the authority of the administration to set and allow emergency officials to decide how long relief takes. I guess then I will direct constituents with their frustration, if this does not get renewed again, to everyone else's offices in here who do not support the extension to answer these questions, because in the absence of having the ability to make this what it should be and do the right thing, we are at their mercy. So, again, I urge an affirmative vote to change this and,

you know, the House is still around. They are back here tomorrow, call them back in. We do it all the time for whatever is the priority of the Majority party, and I urge you to make this a priority and encourage your colleagues in the House to do the same.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes, for the second time, the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator Kim Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, please be assured that within the last hour we have talked to Director Padfield, and he said that October 27 works for them. If for some reason it does not, they will let us know and we will address it again. We will be here in Session as will the House. Thank you.

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

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

YEA-21

Boscola	Flynn	Kearney	Schwank
Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Street
Cappelletti	Haywood	Sabatina	Tartaglione
Collett	Hughes	Santarsiero	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Kane	Saval	Williams, Lindsey
Costa			

NAY-28

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

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Kim Ward.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Gordner requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Kim Ward. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

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

The yeas and nays were required by Senator K. WARD and were as follows, viz:

YEA-49

Argall	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Aument	Flynn	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Fontana	Mensch	Street
Bartolotta	Gebhard	Muth	Tartaglione
Boscola	Gordner	Phillips-Hill	Tomlinson

Brewster	Haywood	Pittman	Vogel
Brooks	Hughes	Regan	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hutchinson	Robinson	Ward, Kim
Collett	Kane	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Kearney	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Corman	Langerholc	Saval	Yaw
Costa	Laughlin	Scavello	Yudichak
DiSanto			

NAY-0

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

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Costa.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Anthony Williams requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Costa. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1, SB 113, SB 137 and SB 236 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 318 (Pr. No. 326) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 34 (Game) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in hunting and furtaking, further providing for hunting on Sunday prohibited.

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-47

Argall	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Aument	Flynn	Mensch	Street
Baker	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Bartolotta	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Tomlinson
Boscola	Gordner	Pittman	Vogel
Brewster	Haywood	Regan	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hughes	Robinson	Ward, Kim
Collett	Kane	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Kearney	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Corman	Langerholc	Saval	Yaw

Costa	Laughlin	Scavello	Yudichak
DiSanto	Martin	Schwank	

NAY-2

Brooks Hutchinson

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 457 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Martin.

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 461 (Pr. No. 469) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, further providing for organization.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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, despite many unanswered questions still surrounding COVID-19, we continue to learn important lessons from the pandemic, and a substantive conclusion confirms what many of us had believed for years: the position of the director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency has become elevated in significance and the realm of responsibility ever-greater in reach. This is another reason why I believe this vital role should be filled through a nomination and confirmation process rather than executive approval alone. That is why I have introduced this legislation to require Senate confirmation.

The security landscape changed dramatically during those frightening days following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Since then, severe natural and manmade disasters have struck the Com-

monwealth with increased frequency. The pandemic has added a dimension to the agency's portfolio with all the health-related considerations causing extended declarations. Earlier today, the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness advanced legislation to actually transfer authority to PEMA to serve as the lead agency to oversee our floodplain management as well as to administer and oversee the National Flood Insurance Program at the State level. So, consequently, PEMA has become a more prominent frontline entity with a wide range of responsibilities to help Pennsylvania and our citizens respond, recover, and rebuild from natural and manmade disasters. We saw this evolution close up when I chaired the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness and led a joint review of the Valentine's Day snowstorm back in 2007. Oversight is an extremely important function, but much of it comes after the fact, and the increasing intensity of weather certainly raises the stakes about the caliber of the individual leading the agency.

We should, as the General Assembly and the Senate, have the chance to judge the qualifications, capabilities, and priorities of the director long before that individual assumes office, just as we do for other State departments, many of which have lesser impact on community safety. PEMA has a total complement of staff of 371 employees, far greater than the Departments of Aging, Banking, DCED, Drug and Alcohol, and Insurance--agencies that require Senate confirmation for their cabinet officials. So, a director who goes through confirmation will have the advantage of legislative contacts. He or she will have a greater understanding of the local conditions and concerns beyond what can be gleaned from the best set of briefing books. From the legislative standpoint, our oversight responsibility will be carried out on a more informed basis. We can judge their methods, and we can judge their motives. We can match promises and pledges against performance. We can assess the degree to which their agenda has been acted upon and their reforms carried out.

I want to emphasize that the matter of confirmation predates whatever current disputes may exist between executive and legislative branches over responses. This is not an issue of partisan advantage. It does not diminish or shackle gubernatorial authority. Public safety and emergency planning, as we heard recently, affect every county and community in our State. With the current administration having roughly a year or so left, this measure will have no impact whatsoever on this governor. This is an issue worth acting on irrespective of who holds the governorship or what the partisan split might be. Applying the checks and balances that confirmation brings will benefit the State in years to come. This bill is a solid step towards a more responsive and accountable State government leadership in the important area of emergency management. It will increase accountability and will ensure the agency is prepared to deal with emergencies efficiently and effectively. So I urge an affirmative vote on the confirmation of the PEMA director.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Gebhard.

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

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-30

Argall	Dush	Mensch	Tomlinson
Aument	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Baker	Gordner	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Bartolotta	Hutchinson	Regan	Ward, Kim
Boscola	Langerholc	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Brooks	Laughlin	Scavello	Yaw
Corman	Martin	Stefano	Yudichak
DiSanto	Mastriano		

NAY-19

Brewster	Flynn	Kearney	Schwank
Cappelletti	Fontana	Muth	Street
Collett	Haywood	Sabatina	Tartaglione
Comitta	Hughes	Santarsiero	Williams, Anthony H.
Costa	Kane	Saval	

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 523, SB 696, SB 703, SB 704 and HB 1013 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 25, SB 222, SB 225 and SB 284 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 312 (Pr. No. 322) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in procedure, further providing for written requests; and, in judicial review, further providing for fee limitations.

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 431, SB 435 and SB 519 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 545 (Pr. No. 563) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 22, 1937 (P.L.1987, No.394), known as The Clean Streams Law, in other pollutions and potential pollution, providing for notice of discharge endangering public health or environment.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.
Upon motion of Senator GORDNER, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 562, SB 565, SB 597, SB 607, SB 617, SB 689, SB 705, SB 717 and SB 718 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 725 (Pr. No. 824) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in licensing of drivers, further providing for classes of licenses; and in commercial drivers, further providing for requirement for commercial driver's license.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.
Upon motion of Senator GORDNER, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

SB 726 (Pr. No. 829) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in computer offenses, providing for the offense of ransomware; and imposing duties on the Office of Administration.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.
Upon motion of Senator GORDNER, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 737 and HB 951 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

HB 1010 (Pr. No. 1453) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for proposal of amendments by the General Assembly and their adoption.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.
Upon motion of Senator GORDNER, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 1500 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 302 (Pr. No. 905) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act prohibiting the use of certain class B firefighting foams under certain circumstances and providing for warning labels; and imposing powers and duties on the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the State Fire Commissioner.

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 Montgomery, Senator Collett.

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, I rise today to offer remarks on Senate Bill No. 302. As many of you know, the 12th Senatorial District is home to several former and active military bases that used firefighting foams containing dangerous polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) for decades. These chemicals contaminated the groundwater, wells, and drinking water of hundreds of thousands of past and current residents of my district, as well as that of the hardworking, patriotic, military and civilian employees who worked on these bases. We know that long-term exposure to PFAS has been shown to cause various negative health effects, including infertility, high cholesterol, and certain

types of cancers. Military bases are not the only places where these firefighting foams have been used. These foams have been used at airports and fire training facilities as well as active fire sites across the Commonwealth. By restricting and regulating the use of these firefighting foams going forward, and requiring warning labels on firefighting PPE, Senator Yaw's Senate Bill No. 302 offers a degree of comfort, protection, and transparency to the brave men and women of our military and fire departments and the communities they serve.

Unfortunately, Senate Bill No. 302 allows PFAS-containing foams to be used in training if the training facility has implemented appropriate disposal measures, yet fails to adequately define "disposal." Thus, the burden of containing PFAS seems to shift to fire departments that are already overburdened with their efforts to recruit, train, and maintain volunteers and protect their neighborhoods. Adding this burden to their shoulders is unfair to say the least. While I applaud the efforts of Senate Bill No. 302, we cannot waver in our urgency to fight ongoing contamination from these chemicals. But, for my district and for my colleagues who represent other sites that have already been contaminated, this bill does not address the larger problems. How do we clean up the mess, and who should pay for it? Federal and State delays in setting maximum contaminant levels for PFAS and classifying them as hazardous substances have slowed, limited, or downright stopped remediation efforts. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on Senate Bill No. 302 and to revisit and move Senate Bill No. 611 and Senate Bill No. 612, setting an MCL, and classifying PFAS as hazardous substances to provide the comprehensive relief to suffering communities. 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:

YEA-40

Argall	Corman	Hutchinson	Sabatina
Aument	Costa	Langerholc	Scavello
Baker	DiSanto	Laughlin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Dush	Martin	Stefano
Boscola	Flynn	Mastriano	Tomlinson
Brewster	Fontana	Mensch	Vogel
Brooks	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Gordner	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Collett	Haywood	Regan	Yaw
Comitta	Hughes	Robinson	Yudichak

NAY-9

Kane	Santarsiero	Street	Williams, Anthony H.
Kearney	Saval	Tartaglione	Williams, Lindsey
Muth			

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.

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

BILLS AMENDED

SB 709 (Pr. No. 812) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for cytomegalovirus education and newborn screening.

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

Senator TOMLINSON offered the following amendment No. A2280:

Amend Bill, page 4, lines 12 and 13, by striking out all of said lines and inserting:

- (3) testing approved on or before the effective date of this section by:
 - (i) the department; or
 - (ii) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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

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

Senator TOMLINSON. Mr. President, I offer amendment No. A2280 to Senate Bill No. 709. This is the CMV education testing bill. It is a technical amendment, and it clarifies the test that is approved.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

It was agreed to.

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

SB 739 (Pr. No. 874) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Commonwealth services, further providing for definitions and for assistance to fire companies and EMS companies.

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

Senator STEFANO offered the following amendment No. A1942:

Amend Bill, page 2, lines 15 and 16, by striking out all of said lines Amend Bill, page 2, line 17, by striking out "(11)" and inserting:

(10)

Amend Bill, page 2, line 19, by striking out "(12)" and inserting:

(11)

Amend Bill, page 2, line 21, by striking out "(13)" and inserting:

(12)

Amend Bill, page 2, line 23, by striking out "(14)" and inserting:

(13)

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Fayette, Senator Stefano.

Senator STEFANO. Mr. President, this amendment simply deletes a reference to one of the organizations--the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania--that is currently in law, and I ask for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1 RESUMED

RECONSIDERATION OF SB 302

SB 302 (Pr. No. 905) -- Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now reconsider the vote by which Senate Bill No. 302, Printer's No. 905, just passed finally.

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

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-39

Argall	Costa	Langerholc	Scavello
Aument	DiSanto	Laughlin	Schwank
Baker	Dush	Martin	Stefano
Bartolotta	Flynn	Mastriano	Tomlinson
Boscola	Fontana	Mensch	Vogel
Brewster	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Brooks	Gordner	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Collett	Haywood	Regan	Yaw
Comitta	Hughes	Robinson	Yudichak
Corman	Hutchinson	Sabatina	

NAY-10

Cappelletti	Muth	Street	Williams, Anthony H.
Kane	Santarsiero	Tartaglione	Williams, Lindsey
Kearney	Saval		

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

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

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

SB 56, SB 140, SB 428, SB 551, SB 636, SB 795, SB 849, SB 869, HB 245, HB 941, HB 1182, HB 1183, HB 1591 and HB 1598.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

9:00 A.M.	EDUCATION and LABOR AND INDUSTRY (joint public hearing on the importance of adult education as part of Pennsylvania's workforce development system)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off. (LIVE STREAMED)
9:00 A.M.	TRANSPORTATION (public hearing on accountability for the loss of \$104 million in tolls)	Room 461 Main Capitol
10:00 A.M.	COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY (public hearing to discuss State and national perspectives on the consolidation of State IT systems)	Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
10:00 A.M.	TRANSPORTATION (to consider Senate Bills No. 396, 474, 667, 780, 827, 847, 859, 865, 867 and 880; and Senate Resolution No. 172)	Room 461 Main Capitol
10:30 A.M.	AGING AND YOUTH (to consider Senate Bill No. 871; and House Bill No. 1082)	Room 461 Main Capitol
10:30 A.M.	COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (to consider Senate Bill No. 706)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

11:00 A.M.	EDUCATION (public hearing on the impacts of PA Department of Health orders on Pennsylvania's children and schools)	Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
1:00 P.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (public hearing to take testimony on Senate Bill No. 878 legislation to implement recommendations of the Senate Special Committee on Election Integrity and Reform)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off. (LIVE STREAMED)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator Elder A. Vogel, Jr.) in the Chair.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Mr. President, I offered a resolution, Senate Resolution No. 162. It designates the month of September 2021 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in

Pennsylvania. This resolution is coinciding with the National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, recognizing the seriousness of the issue and encouraging Pennsylvanians to learn more about the warning signs of suicide and possible prevention measures. Approximately 1,887 Pennsylvanians have lost their lives to suicide in 2019. As we continue to emerge out of the pandemic of 2020, health concerns, economic impacts, and social restrictions have a profound effect on the mental health of many residents living in our communities. It is my hope to continue to educate, support, and make available the resources of those whose lives have been affected by suicide and mental health issues. I am proud to participate with a group in my district called the Jana Marie Foundation, as well as the Centre County Suicide Prevention Task Force. I commend them for their hard work, especially their efforts aimed to support Centre County children and young adults. I join in their belief that the conversation and community support will offer resilience and hope to those affected by mental health struggles.

Mr. President, it was 23 years ago next month that my own family was struck by suicide, and when my own sister lost her battle with mental health. So I ask you all to continue the conversation and support in your districts, as well as me, in recognizing September 2021 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington, Senator Bartolotta.

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, earlier today I participated in the Courage to Change Recovery Advocacy Day. The men and women at this event are either currently on the road to recovery or have lost loved ones as a result of an accidental overdose. I was proud to be among these individuals, particularly those who have faced the depths of despair of addiction and decided that they had more fight in them and that they were not going to give up. As you know, addiction is not defeated once, the battle must be won again and again every single day.

Last year, Pennsylvania lost nearly 5,200 people to overdoses. This is a real crisis and we must not just raise awareness—we are all aware—we must do better to overcome the disease. We need substance use conditions; we need to celebrate the individuals in recovery; and we need to acknowledge the work of prevention, treatment, and recovery support services and programs. That is why I introduced Senate Resolution No. 165, designating September 2021 as National Recovery Month. This designation is a simple way to remind us that there is a way forward for people struggling with addiction issues. Instead of reflecting on the catastrophic toll taken by this epidemic, we can pause for a moment of celebration in honor of all of those individuals who chose a better path.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Fayette, Senator Stefano.

Senator STEFANO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, I worked closely with Senator Corman's office to recognize Sunday, August 15 through 21 as Pennsylvania Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has one of the largest National Guards in the nation and one of the most deployed. Pennsylvania Guard units have taken part in every conflict America has faced, from the Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Guard soldiers have provided hu-

manitarian relief, led peacekeeping missions, and deployed thousands of soldiers at home and abroad to fight the war against terrorism.

A member of the National Guard must train one weekend a month and always be prepared to deploy, whether it be to an in-State emergency declaration or overseas, leaving behind family and jobs. But in order for all this to be successful, it requires a partnership between the Guard member, their spouse and family, and employers. We often talk about the sacrifice that family makes, and it was important that we passed the Military Family Relief Act last Session, but employers also make accommodations for our citizen soldiers. They maintain operations while a key cog in their operation is away, as well as keeping their job ready upon the Guard member's return. So today, with Senate Resolution No. 157, we honor the employers that play a critical role in the support of the National Guard.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about Senate Resolution No. 173, which recognizes September 10, 2021, as World Suicide Prevention Day in Pennsylvania. This devastating problem impacts every segment of society here in Pennsylvania, throughout the nation, and around the world. Suicide has become more than a problem, it is an epidemic. All too often it is a silent killer. It is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, more prevalent than liver disease, high blood pressure, or even murder. Almost 45,000 Americans took their own lives in 2020, about 1,900 of those deaths occurred in Pennsylvania. Although these numbers represent a slight decrease in deaths compared to 2019, suicide among people of color increased last year, which reflects the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on these communities. Those figures also do not account for nearly 1.5 million suicide attempts that occur each year, nor do they reveal the immeasurable harm endured by countless survivors, their relatives, friends, coworkers, and classmates of those who died by suicide. Suicide impacts all walks of life regardless of age, gender, race, religion, education, income, or sexuality, and the annual death toll continues to rise at an alarming pace.

Since 1999, the national rate has grown by 33 percent. In Pennsylvania, it has grown by more than 35 percent. Yet, we do not discuss suicide nearly enough. How often in our daily lives do we approach the subject of suicide on a truly personal level? My hope is that World Suicide Prevention Day will inspire more public dialogue and more private, personal conversations about suicide. I hope that we will become more educated about the risk factors and the warning signs. I hope that our families, friends, coworkers, and classmates will learn to recognize when a loved one is in danger. I hope that the many troubled souls who are contemplating suicide will know where to find help and will feel empowered to seek it. Please join me in recognizing World Suicide Prevention Day in the Commonwealth, and please remember, help is only a phone call away. If you, or someone you know, may be facing a crisis, call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK. That is 1-800-273-8255. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes, for the second time, the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, today marks 5,553 days since the Pennsylvania legislature last raised the minimum wage. That is more than 15 years, and it is far too long.

Mr. President, as the full Senate returns to the Capitol, I would like to bring everybody up to speed on one of the most important issues facing us today and in the coming weeks. Unfortunately, not much has changed with the minimum wage since the last time we were here. The mass majority of Pennsylvanians and Americans still support raising our minimum wage. Yet, low-wage workers in Pennsylvania and Americans are still waiting for their long-sought raises.

Earlier this month, CBS News and YouGov announced the results of a new nationwide poll in which more than seven in ten Americans said they think that a \$7.25 minimum wage is too low. To be specific, 71 percent of Americans support a higher minimum wage, as do 74 percent of those living in households with less than \$50,000 in annual income. Seventy-two percent of political independents, 77 percent of self-described political moderates, 85 percent of registered Democrats, and even 52 percent of registered Republicans. Let me repeat that. In an era when partisanship dominates our national, statewide, and even local politics on most issues, more than half of Republicans support raising the minimum wage. This should come as no surprise. Public support and voter support for higher minimum wage has been struck for many years and has continued to grow. Our constituents want us to raise the minimum wage.

We, in the General Assembly, should have done this years ago. Nor should it come as a surprise why supporting raising the minimum wage is universally strong. Each year that passes without raising the rate, minimum wage workers effectively make less money than they did the year before. In 2020, there were approximately 250,000 Americans making minimum wage. Accounting for inflation, today's minimum wage workers earn almost 28 percent per hour less than minimum wage workers made in 2009 when Congress last raised the Federal minimum wage. If we look back to 2006, the last time the Pennsylvania General Assembly raised the State's minimum wage, today's workers are now making almost 30 percent less per hour than their 2006 counterparts did. Mr. President, that is more than one-third of a pay cut for many of the hardest working and most vulnerable members of our workforce. Minimum wage earners are often stereotyped as teenagers working part time for expendable income, but the generalization could not be further from the truth. They are the ones raising families and trying to plug gaping holes in their personal budgets caused by soaring costs for things like housing, medical care, childcare, and education. In many cases, they are essential frontline workers. They enable our communities to function even in the face of a worldwide pandemic and at great personal risk to themselves. Mr. President, I urge the Senate and our counterparts in the House to act in the interests of the lowest-paid workers and to fulfill the will of our constituents. I urge the General Assembly to raise the minimum wage without delay.

Thank you, Mr. President.

HOUSE MESSAGE

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the Senate to **HB 184**.

BILL SIGNED

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

HB 184.

RESOLUTION SIGNED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair wishes to announce the following resolution was signed by the President pro tempore (Senator Jacob D. Corman III) in the presence of the Senate:

HR 139.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Columbia, Senator Gordner.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 11 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 5:39 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.