

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**Legislative Journal**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021

SESSION OF 2021 205TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 58

**SENATE**

TUESDAY, December 14, 2021

The Senate met at 1 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

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

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Reverend DR. ANDREW WOODS, of the Community Evangelical Free Church, Spring Grove, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank You for who You are. We thank You for making us in Your image, for giving us creativity, dominion, and a capacity to love each other. We thank You for giving us minds to use and the capacity to think, understand, and make decisions. As we are in this Advent season, we thank You for all the gifts that You give us because every good and perfect gift comes from You. We thank You for all the blessings that You give us each day. We thank You for the gift of life that each of us has; this is a precious gift that only You can provide. Help all of us to use our life in a way that glorifies and honors You every single day, no matter what task is before us. We thank You for the gift of wisdom You give us when we ask for it. Help this Senate as it goes about its leadership and governing tasks to have wisdom to know when to act and what action is required. We pray that all of us would submit ourselves to Your will and desire. We thank You most of all for the gift of Your Son, Jesus. We approach the celebration of His birth with an expectation of the life we know He led. We celebrate His birth, His perfect life, and His death and resurrection. The gift of faith in Jesus' death and resurrection is the sole way to Heaven, for Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. It is in His name we pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Dr. Woods, who is the guest today of Senator Phillips-Hill.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**HOUSE MESSAGES**

**HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE BILLS**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 208** and **SB 869**, with the information the House has passed the same without amendments.

**BILLS SIGNED**

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

**SB 208, SB 772 and SB 869.**

**BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES**

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

**SB 200 (Pr. No. 1276) (Amended)**

An Act amending the act of December 19, 1990 (P.L.1372, No.212), known as the Early Intervention Services System Act, further providing for title of the act; in general provisions, further providing for legislative findings for early intervention, for definitions, for State inter-agency agreement, for other duties of State agencies and for council; in Statewide system for provision of early intervention services, further providing for requirements, for program regulations and standards, for administration by Department of Public Welfare, for administration by Department of Education and for child identification, assessment and tracking system; in miscellaneous provisions, further providing for effective date; and making editorial changes.

**SB 358 (Pr. No. 404)**

An Act amending the act of May 9, 2018 (P.L.118, No.24), known as the Maternal Mortality Review Act, further providing for confidentiality and protection of collected data, proceedings and activities.

**SB 522 (Pr. No. 1275) (Amended)**

An Act providing for blood lead testing of certain children and pregnant women by health care providers; imposing duties on the Department of Health; and requiring certain health insurance policies to cover blood lead tests.

**SB 848 (Pr. No. 1277) (Amended)**

An Act amending the act of April 27, 1905 (P.L.312, No.218), entitled "An act creating a Department of Health, and defining its powers and duties," further providing for the administrative structure of the Department of Health, establishing the office of Chief Nursing Officer of the Commonwealth and providing for the powers and duties of the Chief Nursing Officer of the Commonwealth.

**SB 967 (Pr. No. 1266)**

An Act establishing the Women, Infants and Children State Advisory Board.

**SB 970 (Pr. No. 1265)**

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; and providing for noncompliance.

**HB 118 (Pr. No. 2521) (Amended)**

An Act providing for the final disposition of fetal remains; and imposing penalties.

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

**SB 940 (Pr. No. 1214)**

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.

**SB 992 (Pr. No. 1267)**

An Act providing for the adoption of a population data set certified by the Legislative Reapportionment Commission and providing for use requirement in congressional redistricting legislation.

**HB 1823 (Pr. No. 2370)**

An Act amending Title 37 (Historical and Museums) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in historic properties, further providing for powers over certain historic property and providing for Washington Crossing Historic Park.

**RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

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

**SR 67 (Pr. No. 716)**

A Concurrent Resolution directing the Congress of the United States to call a convention limited to proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of nine justices.

The resolution will be placed on the Calendar.

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVES**

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

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Kim Ward and Senator Mastriano, and a legislative leave for Senator Mensch.

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

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

The PRESIDENT. Senator Gordner requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Kim Ward and Senator Mastriano, and a legislative leave for Senator Mensch.

Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Anthony Williams.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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

**JOURNAL APPROVED**

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of June 9, 2021, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of June 9, 2021.

Senator GORDNER. 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 GORDNER and were as follows, viz:

**YEA-49**

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

**NAY-0**

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

**GUESTS OF SENATOR GENE YAW  
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator YAW. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to rise today to welcome a group of outstanding young men from my Senatorial district. Seated with us on the Senate floor are nine members of the Lewisburg High School Boys' Cross Country Team along with their coach, Ron Hess, who I would like to honor upon capturing first place in the Class AA Boys' Team Rankings during the 2021 PIAA State Cross Country Championships in Hershey on November 6. I would also like to recognize Coach Hess as the PIAA cross country coach of the year.

To the great credit of the Green Dragons, they won their third consecutive State title with a score of 87 points. Earning their fourth undefeated season and having a record with a total of 61 wins and 0 losses, the team distinguished itself by winning their third District IV title and their fourth Pennsylvania Heartland Athletic Conference title. Under the expert guidance of Coach Hess, the team was comprised of Jacob Hess; Thomas Hess; Jonathan Hess; Bryce Ryder; Connor Murray; Kieran Murray; Liam Shabahang; and alternates Jonah Carney and Ben Bailey. Obviously, you have heard the name "Hess" quite frequently here: the Hess brothers and Coach Hess. Their mother, Jessica, also became so involved in it that she went through the process to become a volunteer coach.

What is interesting about it is when the team was last here--I think it was 2 years ago, they were not here last year, although they won a State championship last year--I told them, if you win three in a row, you can sit on the floor. Well, apparently, they took that very seriously. I know that Jessica--the mother of the Hess brothers--was recording when they finally made the official announcement of the results at the State championship, and Thomas Hess yelled out: threepeat, Senate floor, Gene Yaw, here we come.

(Laughter.)

So, they are here. I told them today, I only wish I would have that much influence on other people, that I could suggest that they do something and they would go on to take that as their winning goal. The team members are to be commended for their continuing commitment to excellence, and they have brought a great deal of credit to themselves, their school, their communities, and this Commonwealth. I would also like to mention one other person who is with them today: the athletic director, Stephanie Beaver.

There is no question that their hard work and determination makes them an example for others on and off the cross country course. Mr. President, it is so encouraging to see what these young men have accomplished. They showed us all that persistence and hard work pays off, and I am very excited to see what the future holds for those who will remain on the team as well as for the seniors who are looking to participate at the collegiate level. It is my honor to recognize and welcome all of these exceptional athletes who are here representing Lewisburg High School. I ask my colleagues to please give them our usual warm Senate welcome.

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

(Applause.)

#### **GUESTS OF SENATOR JAY COSTA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce two guests who joined us this year, working in our legal office. Our office, here in Harrisburg, was joined by two outstanding legal interns: Allyson Lonas and Nateira Robinson. Ms. Lonas is a student at Penn State Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where she expects to graduate this fall. Before coming to our office to work with our legal staff, she held very prestigious internships with the Office of the Attorney General as well

as the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Ally hails from Johnstown, and when she is not in our office working and supporting our legal staff, she enjoys traveling and Penn State football--which has been a tough year for Ally this year.

(Laughter.)

Ms. Robinson is a student at Widener University Law School in Harrisburg, where she participates in trial advocacy and is the president of the Moot Court Honor Society. She hails from Illinois, where she received a bachelor's degree in political science at Illinois State University. She, too, has held internships in her legal experience at private law firms and also at the local county's public defender's office. She is interested in philanthropy, fashion design, and art.

Mr. President, I can tell you and my colleagues that these two young ladies have been a great asset to our legal team over the course of this past summer. I know that they will continue to be with us for a few more weeks, but I know that they will both become outstanding lawyers when they graduate and pass the bar exam. So, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Nateira Robinson and Allyson "Ally" Lonas. Allyson is here today--Nateira is not able to join us as she has gone back to Chicago--but, Ally, thank you for joining us and thank you for your work. I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming these two fine students.

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

(Applause.)

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

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I rise to introduce today's guest Chaplain, Dr. Andrew Woods with Community Evangelical Free Church, located in Spring Grove. Dr. Woods has been serving in the pastoral ministry since 1999, and he aims to lead people to encounter Jesus and encourages them to have a relationship with Him. Community Evangelical Free Church is a community of believers committed to exalting Christ, equipping Christians, and evangelizing communities. The church does that by hosting events like their community EFC carnival and their upcoming winter youth experience, the polar blast.

Joining Dr. Woods today is his wife, Lori, who is seated on the floor. Would my colleagues please join me in giving a warm Senate welcome to Dr. Andrew Woods and his wife, Lori.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Phillips-Hill please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

#### **GUESTS OF SENATOR MICHAEL R. REGAN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, thank you for your indulgence, for I am introducing three separate groups of people today, so I will try to make this fast. I am going to start with four distinguished gentlemen in the gallery who I am pleased to welcome to the Senate today: Eddie Brennan, Dennis Bucks, Ed

Miller, and Doc Roeder. These gentlemen are members of the distinguished Cumberland County Honor Guard and posted the colors during today's Wreaths Across America ceremony. I thank Senator Robinson for sponsoring that event. It was a really beautiful and meaningful event. Cumberland County Honor Guard is an all-volunteer organization consisting of veterans from the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. The Honor Guard's primary function is to provide military funeral honors for deceased veterans of Cumberland County, but they also participate in parades and other ceremonies. The 125 members render, on average, more than 150 military honors each year, Mr. President. Please join me in welcoming these gentlemen to the Senate, and let us extend our sincere appreciation for their selfless service to our country.

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

(Applause.)

Senator REGAN. Additionally, Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce a very special guest from my district who lives in Carlisle, Alessia Iannuzzi. Alessia joined us today, again, at that beautiful ceremony, Wreaths Across America, where she sang the *Star Spangled Banner* so amazingly and beautiful. Alessia is a Carlisle High School sophomore who is involved with student council, Model UN, and the Chamber Singers. She also sings on the worship team at Carlisle Evangelical Free Church, and she both plays and teaches the ukulele. Alessia is an excellent student who has made distinguished honor roll every marking period, takes all honors classes, and is in the top five in her class. We are so proud of Alessia and her accomplishments. She certainly has a bright future, I think you would agree, Mr. President. Please join me in welcoming Alessia and her mom, Kimberly, who are seated in the gallery.

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

(Applause.)

#### **GUESTS OF SENATOR MICHAEL R. REGAN ON BEHALF OF SENATOR JUDY WARD PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator REGAN. Finally, Mr. President, I am standing in for Senator Judy Ward, and I am pleased to introduce some special guests of hers who are with us in the gallery today. Boy Scout Troop 185 from Newville, Pennsylvania. These Scouts, their parents, and troop leaders are in Harrisburg today, once again, for the Wreaths Across America ceremony held in the Capitol. The Scouts did a great job in leading the Pledge of Allegiance today. Troop 185 was chartered in 1950 into the Keystone Area Council, which is now part of the New Birth of Freedom Council. It is sponsored by Penn Township Volunteer Fire Company No. 50, located in the village of Huntsdale. Scouting skills and advancement are given a high priority within Troop 185, along with leadership, development, and putting Scouting principles into everyday practice. Representing a part of Cumberland County myself, I know the high success rate that our Boy Scout troops have with their members achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, and Troop 185 certainly is among the best, having so far produced 48 Eagle Scouts, which is over twice the national aver-

age. I know Senator Judy Ward--who is recovering--is very proud of these fine Scouts and their achievements, and as well we should be. Please join me in welcoming the following Scouts: Zach Casto; Aaron Cribbs; Ian Heishman; Cole Klein; Sam and Will Monnett; Alaina and Chris Oyler; Liam Souder; Jared Warner; and Matt Witter; as well as Assistant Scoutmaster, Mike Oyler; committee member, Randy Heishman; and parents, Teresa Casto; Jodi and Gary Cribbs; Randy Dick; Max Klein; and Steve Warner.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

(Applause.)

#### **GUESTS OF SENATOR ARTHUR L. HAYWOOD PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator HAYWOOD. Mr. President, I rise to recognize outstanding Americans and guests from my district: Michelle, Alicia, and Jessica Simrak. These fantastic individuals were fortunate enough to win an auction for a trip to Harrisburg and a visit of the Capitol in connection with the Briar Bush Nature Center in Montgomery County.

Let me tell you a little bit about my guests. Michelle and Jessica both volunteer at the Briar Bush Center, which is a nature center that focuses on animals and vegetation. What they do there is help to care for the animals at the center. Michelle has been visiting Briar Bush since she was a child; she first visited with her grandmother, who was also a volunteer there. Michelle has been an ultrasound technician for 24 years, 16 of those years she spent at Fox Chase Cancer Center, caring for cancer patients and patients alike. She resigned during the pandemic to support her children's schooling. Alicia is 16 and is in eleventh grade taking honors U.S. history classes at Commonwealth Charter Academy. She is thrilled to be here in the Capitol, she was able to--and the entire family was able to--attend the meeting of the Committee on Health and Human Services chaired by my friend and colleague, Senator Brooks. Alicia is an individual who remembers facts well, tends to be more literal, has grit, and works hard in school. The youngest, Jessica, 14, is in ninth grade. She is a full-time life student, and she is thriving and continues to explore her community. Both girls love nature and learning ways to help grow with conservation. Both won the Silver Award in Girl Scouts in 2019. Alicia constructed a garden at our local library to help attract pollinators. Jessica and her team constructed birdhouses that were installed and taken into our local library. Now Alicia is completing her Gold Award. She is putting together four chamber bat boxes in local preserves. Seven more bat boxes will go into the ground in the spring. I request that we give these outstanding Americans and young people a warm Senate welcome.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

(Applause.)

## CALENDAR

### SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

#### HB 2071 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

**HB 2071 (Pr. No. 2518)** -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 9 of the Second Consideration Calendar, by Senator GORDNER, as a Special Order of Business.

#### BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

**HB 2071 (Pr. No. 2518)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 64 (Public Authorities and Quasi-Public Corporations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority to provide broadband Internet access to unserved and underserved residents; and providing for powers and duties of the authority and for grant awards.

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.

#### SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY

The SECRETARY. Permission has been granted for the Committee on Appropriations to consider, today, House Bill No. 412 when it meets off-the-floor this afternoon.

#### RECESS

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

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a Republican caucus to be held in the Majority Caucus Room immediately.

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

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

The PRESIDENT. 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 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 LEAVES

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

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Bartolotta, Senator DiSanto, Senator Regan, and Senator Tomlinson.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Comitta and Senator Street.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Aument requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Bartolotta, Senator DiSanto, Senator Regan, and Senator Tomlinson.

Senator Costa requests legislative leaves for Senator Comitta and Senator Street.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

#### RECESS

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

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held here on the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For the purpose of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held here immediately on the Senate floor, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

#### AFTER RECESS

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

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

#### LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

#### CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

#### THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

#### BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 1, SB 113, SB 137, HB 220 and SB 291** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

#### LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Bartolotta has returned, and her temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 327 (Pr. No. 902) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code, in coroner, further providing for coroner's investigation.

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

SB 327 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 327, Printer's No. 902, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 428 (Pr. No. 432) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

Table with 4 columns of names: Argall, DiSanto, Laughlin, Scavello, Aument, Dush, Martin, Schwank, Baker, Flynn, Mastriano, Stefano, Bartolotta, Fontana, Mensch, Street, Boscola, Gebhard, Muth, Tartaglione, Brewster, Gordner, Phillips-Hill, Tomlinson, Brooks, Haywood, Pittman, Vogel, Browne, Hughes, Regan, Ward, Kim, Cappelletti, Hutchinson, Robinson, Williams, Anthony H., Collett, Kane, Sabatina, Williams, Lindsey, Comitta, Kearney, Santarsiero, Yaw, Corman, Langerholc, Saval, Yudichak, Costa

NAY-0

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 457, SB 566, SB 573, SB 696, SB 703, SB 704, HB 723, SB 745, SB 775, SB 846 and SB 862 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 931 (Pr. No. 1196) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in educational tax credits, further providing for definitions.

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-41

Table with 4 columns of names: Argall, Costa, Langerholc, Santarsiero, Aument, DiSanto, Laughlin, Scavello, Baker, Dush, Martin, Schwank, Bartolotta, Flynn, Mastriano, Stefano, Boscola, Fontana, Mensch, Tomlinson, Brewster, Gebhard, Phillips-Hill, Vogel, Brooks, Gordner, Pittman, Ward, Kim, Browne, Haywood, Regan, Williams, Anthony H., Collett, Hughes, Robinson, Yaw, Comitta, Hutchinson, Sabatina, Yudichak, Corman

NAY-8

Table with 4 columns of names: Cappelletti, Kearney, Saval, Tartaglione, Kane, Muth, Street, Williams, Lindsey

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.

SB 932 (Pr. No. 1197) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in educational tax credits, further providing for definitions.

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-33

Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Scavello
Aument	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Flynn	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Boscola	Gordner	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Brooks	Langerholc	Robinson	Yaw
Browne	Laughlin	Sabatina	Yudichak
Corman			

NAY-16

Cappelletti	Fontana	Kearney	Schwank
Collett	Haywood	Muth	Street
Comitta	Hughes	Santarsiero	Tartaglione
Costa	Kane	Saval	Williams, Lindsey

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.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 938 and HB 1082 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1642 (Pr. No. 2372) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in educational tax credits, further providing for definitions, for qualification and application by organizations, for application by business firms, for tax credits, for limitations and for opportunity scholarships.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to House Bill No. 1642. It is a little bit of a confusing bill, and it takes a minute to understand what is happening. In fact, I have

a little flow chart to understand what is happening with this tax credit bill. Under OSTC currently, OSTC and EITC have the same starting income threshold, which is \$113,000 with one child. The current pot of money for OSTC is \$55 million. This bill would move it to \$50 million. EITC's current pot of money is \$225 million, moves it to \$230 million.

Now, if you are a family that is utilizing OSTC, in order to get an extra amount, and under OSTC, you must reside near a lowest-performing school district; and two, there is a preference that you live in a city of the first class, or financial recovery school district, and your family is 185 percent of the Federal poverty limit. If you meet those two things under OSTC, there is \$5 million available that you get an extra amount if you attend a school that has 75 percent of their students on OSTC scholarship. What happens under House Bill No. 1642 is that \$5 million from OSTC, which was designed to go to the most struggling families, moves that money from OSTC to EITC. OSTC students now no longer have access to that \$5 million and that extra money. It moves into EITC. It also changes the percentage of kids at that school who must receive the scholarship. It changes it from 75 percent to 51 percent. There is an estimate that this would about double the number of eligible students under this pool. It also changes the amount of the extra money that is available. Currently, under OSTC, it is \$1,000 that you are potentially eligible for extra dollars under OSTC. It would move it on EITC for \$2,000 extra for elementary, and \$4,000 extra for secondary.

So this is, once again, another expansion to EITC. As I have said many times on this floor, there are no checks and balances on this program. We have no idea. We have anecdotal stories about EITC and OSTC benefitting students, and I have talked to them, I have talked to those families. There are some who are really benefitting from this, but we have no qualitative data because DCED is barred from providing us income levels, race, and ethnic data. We have no idea with this tax credit, if discrimination is happening within EITC and OSTC because DCED is barred from collecting this information. However, we do know that LGBTQ+ students are not welcome in some of the schools and are pushed out of some of the schools that receive these scholarships. In fact, it is a priority of the Catholic Conference that they be allowed to discriminate against LGBTQ+ students. So what we are doing with House Bill No. 1642 is we are letting go of the pretense that this is about low-income students and helping low-income students in struggling schools. This is taking that money from the most low-income students and transferring it to EITC. So I am opposed to House Bill No. 1642 and any legislation that would expand one of the largest and most unaccountable tax credits that we have. 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-30

Argall	DiSanto	Mastriano	Scavello
Aument	Dush	Mensch	Stefano
Baker	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Gordner	Pittman	Vogel
Boscola	Hutchinson	Regan	Ward, Kim

Brooks	Langerholc	Robinson	Yaw
Browne	Laughlin	Sabatina	Yudichak
Corman	Martin		

NAY-19

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

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendments in which concurrence of the House is requested.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

**HB 1660** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

**HB 1837 (Pr. No. 2394)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act, in procedure, further providing for modifications, reinstatements, suspensions and terminations and for compromise and release.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

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

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendments in which concurrence of the House is requested.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 225, SB 284, SB 301, SB 450, SB 471, SB 474, HB 491, SB 504, SB 597, HB 598, SB 617, HB 636, SB 676, SB 807, SB 812, SB 815 and SB 861** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

**SB 881 (Pr. No. 1184)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for Safe Exchange Zone Program.

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 927, HB 951 and HB 995** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

**HB 1121 (Pr. No. 1169)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating the bridge, identified as Bridge Key 45676, carrying Pennsylvania Route 26 over Yellow Creek in Hopewell Township, Bedford County, as the Colonel Joseph M. Stine Memorial Bridge.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**HB 1304, HB 1312, HB 1421, HB 1500, HB 1650, HB 1819 and HB 1829** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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



**SB 337 (Pr. No. 683)** (Rereported)

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

**SB 562 (Pr. No. 1274)** (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, providing for airport land development zones.

**SB 635 (Pr. No. 1125)** (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in property assessed clean energy program, further providing for purpose, for definitions, for establishment of a program, for notice to lien holder required for participation, for scope of work, for lien and for collection of assessments.

**SB 904 (Pr. No. 1140)** (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in other criminal provisions, further providing for definitions and providing for meetings.

**SB 905 (Pr. No. 1141)** (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of November 22, 1978 (P.L.1166, No.274), referred to as the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law, further providing for County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee.

**SB 913 (Pr. No. 1144)** (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sentencing, further providing for conditions of probation and for modification or revocation of order of probation.

**SB 924 (Pr. No. 1177)** (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of October 20, 1966 (3rd Sp.Sess., P.L.96, No.6), known as the Mental Health and Intellectual Disability Act of 1966, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in responsibilities of the State, providing for State center closure moratorium.

**HB 291 (Pr. No. 257)** (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of August 26, 1971 (P.L.351, No.91), known as the State Lottery Law, in pharmaceutical assistance for the elderly, further providing for determination of eligibility.

**HB 412 (Pr. No. 845)** (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in professional employees, providing for day-to-day substitutes; and, in certification of teachers, further providing for substitute teaching permit for prospective teachers and for program of continuing professional education.

**HB 1255 (Pr. No. 2532)** (Amended) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in facilities and supplies, providing for additional surcharge; in limitation of time, providing for real estate appraisals; and making a related repeal.

**HB 1260 (Pr. No. 2320)** (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of August 26, 1971 (P.L.351, No.91), known as the State Lottery Law, in Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Elderly, further providing for the pharmaceutical assistance contract for the elderly needs enhancement tier, for board, for powers of the department and for coordination of benefits.

**HB 2071 (Pr. No. 2518)** (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 64 (Public Authorities and Quasi-Public Corporations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority to provide broadband Internet access to unserved and underserved residents; and providing for powers and duties of the authority and for grant awards.

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

**BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION  
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

**HB 291 (Pr. No. 257)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of August 26, 1971 (P.L.351, No.91), known as the State Lottery Law, in pharmaceutical assistance for the elderly, further providing for determination of eligibility.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

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

NAY-0

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

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

**SB 337 (Pr. No. 683)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

NAY-2

Cappelletti	Saval
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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.

**SB 562 (Pr. No. 1274)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, providing for airport land development zones.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-39

Argall	DiSanto	Laughlin	Scavello
Aument	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Baker	Flynn	Mastriano	Stefano
Bartolotta	Fontana	Mensch	Tartaglione
Boscola	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Tomlinson
Brewster	Gordner	Pittman	Vogel

Brooks	Hughes	Regan	Ward, Kim
Browne	Hutchinson	Robinson	Yaw
Comitta	Kane	Sabatina	Yudichak
Corman	Langerholc	Santarsiero	

NAY-10

Cappelletti	Haywood	Saval	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kearney	Street	Williams, Lindsey
Costa	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.

BILL AMENDED

**SB 913 (Pr. No. 1144)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sentencing, further providing for conditions of probation and for modification or revocation of order of probation.

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

Senator BAKER offered the following amendment No. A3128:

Amend Bill, page 1, line 4, by inserting after "probation":  
and providing for authority regarding probation detainers

Amend Bill, page 4, lines 5 through 12, by striking out all of said lines and inserting:

(1) The court shall not impose a sentence of total confinement upon revocation unless the court finds either that the defendant has been convicted of another crime or that the provisions of paragraph (2) are satisfied.

(2) A defendant who has not been convicted of another crime may be sentenced to total confinement upon revocation only if the court first finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant committed a technical violation and any of the following apply:

Amend Bill, page 5, line 2, by inserting after "sentenced":  
to a determinate sentence

Amend Bill, page 5, by inserting between lines 27 and 28:

(4) Nothing in this section shall prevent the adoption of a program under section 9771.1.

Amend Bill, page 8, line 5, by striking out "The parties" and inserting:

Any individual or entity

Amend Bill, page 11, lines 14 through 16, by striking out "Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (1), no" in line 14 and all of lines 15 and 16 and inserting:

No defendant shall have the defendant's probation terminated at a probation review conference held under paragraphs (1), (2), (2.2), (3), (4), (5), (7) and (11), if:

Amend Bill, page 11, line 17, by inserting after "determines":  
at the probation review conference

Amend Bill, page 12, line 6, by inserting after "determines":  
at the probation review conference

Amend Bill, page 12, lines 14 and 15, by striking out "a scheduled review conference" and inserting:  
termination of probation

Amend Bill, page 12, lines 19 and 20, by striking out "a scheduled review conference" and inserting:  
termination of probation

Amend Bill, page 15, line 25, by inserting after "the":  
specific

Amend Bill, page 15, line 26, by striking out "sentence" and inserting:

probation

Amend Bill, page 15, by inserting between lines 29 and 30:

"Weapon." As defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 907(d) (relating to possessing instrument of crime).

Section 2.1. Title 42 is amended by adding a section to read:

§ 9771.2. Authority regarding probation detainees.

Nothing in this subchapter shall infringe or inhibit the authority of a court of competent jurisdiction, a probation officer or any other relevant officer or entity from levying or requesting a probation detainee in the event that new criminal charges are filed against an individual serving a term of probation.

Amend Bill, page 18, line 22, by inserting after "2022": , or immediately, whichever is later

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

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

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, these changes to the bill are technical in nature, and they are the result of lengthy discussions that we have had with the stakeholders on the bill. This is the comprehensive probation reform bill that I am working on with Senator Bartolotta and Senator Anthony Williams, 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.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1260 (Pr. No. 2320) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of August 26, 1971 (P.L.351, No.91), known as the State Lottery Law, in Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Elderly, further providing for the pharmaceutical assistance contract for the elderly needs enhancement tier, for board, for powers of the department and for coordination of benefits.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

Table with 4 columns: Argall, DiSanto, Laughlin, Scavello, Aument, Dush, Martin, Schwank, Baker, Flynn, Mastriano, Stefano, Bartolotta, Fontana, Mensch, Street, Boscola, Gebhard, Muth, Tartaglione, Brewster, Gordner, Phillips-Hill, Tomlinson, Brooks, Haywood, Pittman, Vogel, Browne, Hughes, Regan, Ward, Kim, Cappelletti, Hutchinson, Robinson, Williams, Anthony H.

Table with 4 columns: Collett, Kane, Sabatina, Williams, Lindsey, Comitta, Kearney, Santarsiero, Yaw, Corman, Langerholc, Saval, Yudichak, Costa

NAY-0

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

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

MOTION PURSUANT TO SENATE RULE 12

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

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, as a special order of business, I call up Senate Supplemental Calendar No. 2 and move the Senate proceed to consider House Bill No. 1255, notwithstanding the provisions of Senate Rule 12(m)(2).

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

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

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 2

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1255 (Pr. No. 2532) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in facilities and supplies, providing for additional surcharge; in limitation of time, providing for real estate appraisals; and making a related repeal.

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

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

Table with 4 columns: Argall, DiSanto, Laughlin, Scavello, Aument, Dush, Martin, Schwank, Baker, Flynn, Mastriano, Stefano, Bartolotta, Fontana, Mensch, Street, Boscola, Gebhard, Muth, Tartaglione, Brewster, Gordner, Phillips-Hill, Tomlinson, Brooks, Haywood, Pittman, Vogel, Browne, Hughes, Regan, Ward, Kim, Cappelletti, Hutchinson, Robinson, Williams, Anthony H., Collett, Kane, Sabatina, Williams, Lindsey, Comitta, Kearney, Santarsiero, Yaw, Corman, Langerholc, Saval, Yudichak, Costa

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendments in which concurrence of the House is requested.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS  
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 3**

BILL AMENDED

**HB 412 (Pr. No. 845)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in professional employees, providing for day-to-day substitutes; and, in certification of teachers, further providing for substitute teaching permit for prospective teachers and for program of continuing professional education.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL offered the following amendment No. A3233:

Amend Bill, page 1, lines 5 through 9, by striking out "in professional employees EMPLOYEES," in line 5 and all of lines 6 through 9 and inserting:

in preliminary provisions, providing for special provisions applicable to limited school years; in professional employees, providing for day-to-day substitutes; in certification of teachers, further providing for substitute teaching permit for prospective teachers, for program of continuing professional education and for locally issued temporary certification for substitute teachers and providing for permit for classroom monitors and for substitute teaching policy; and, in Safe2Say Program, further providing for false reports.

Amend Bill, page 1, lines 12 through 20; pages 2 and 3, lines 1 through 30; page 4, lines 1 through 26; by striking out all of said lines on said pages and inserting:

Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding sections to read:

Section 129. Special Provisions Applicable to Limited School Years.--Notwithstanding any provision of law or regulation to the contrary, for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years, if, in the judgment of a school employer, an emergency or shortage of day-to-day substitute teachers exists under 24 Pa.C.S. § 8346(b) (relating to termination of annuities), the school employer may hire an annuitant, as defined in 24 Pa.C.S. § 8102 (relating to definitions), regardless of whether the school employer first attempts to secure nonretired personnel, except that the school employer shall comply with section 1125.1(d)(2) by first offering the work to any certified professional employe on a recall list. The provisions of 24 Pa.C.S. § 8346(b) regarding the continuation of annuity or distributions to an annuitant who returns to school service during an emergency shall apply to annuitants hired under this section. Nothing under this section shall supersede or preempt a provision of an existing collective bargaining agreement between a school employer and an exclusive representative of the employes under the act of July 23, 1970 (P.L.563, No.195), known as the "Public Employe Relations Act."

Section 1114. Day-to-Day Substitutes.--(a) The following shall apply:

(1) An individual holding a day-to-day substitute permit issued by the department under 22 Pa. Code § 49.31 (relating to criteria for eligibility) may serve as a day-to-day substitute in any certificate area for a period not exceeding twenty (20) days of substituting for an individual professional or temporary professional employe. If the individual's service exceeds twenty (20) days of substituting for an individual pro-

fessional or temporary professional employe, a long-term substitute permit issued by the department shall be required.

(2) An individual holding a day-to-day substitute permit under paragraph (1) may serve as a day-to-day substitute for more than one professional or temporary professional employe within a school year, even if the individual serves as a substitute for more than twenty (20) cumulative days.

(b) The following shall apply:

(1) The following service limitations shall apply:

(i) An individual holding a day-to-day substitute permit issued by a chief school administrator under 22 Pa. Code § 49.34 (relating to locally-issued day-to-day substitute permits) may serve as a day-to-day substitute in any certificate area for a period not exceeding twenty (20) days of substituting for an individual professional or temporary professional employe.

(ii) An individual holding a valid and active Pennsylvania certificate or a comparable out-of-State certificate may serve as a day-to-day substitute in the individual's certificate area for a period not exceeding twenty (20) days of substituting for an individual professional or temporary professional employe.

(2) If an individual's service exceeds twenty (20) days of substituting for an individual professional or temporary professional employe, or if a certified individual is substituting outside the individual's certificate area, an emergency permit under 22 Pa. Code § 49.31 (relating to criteria for eligibility) issued by the department shall be required.

(3) An individual holding a day-to-day substitute permit under paragraph (1) may serve as a day-to-day substitute for more than one professional or temporary professional employe within a school year, notwithstanding if the individual serves as a substitute for more than twenty (20) cumulative days.

(c) The department shall update certification staffing guidelines to comply with this section.

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

"Chief school administrator" shall include a school district superintendent, an executive director of an intermediate unit, an administrative director of an area career and technical school or a chief executive officer of a charter school, regional charter school or cyber charter school.

"Day-to-day substitute permit" shall mean a permit issued by the department or a chief school administrator to fill a position due to the temporary absence of a professional or temporary professional employe and for which a long-term substitute permit is not required.

"Emergency permit" shall mean a permit issued to fill a vacancy resulting from resignation, termination, retirement, death or the creation of a new position.

"Long-term substitute permit" shall mean a permit issued by the department that allows an individual to substitute for an individual professional or temporary professional employe for more than twenty (20) days.

Section 2. Sections 1201.1(3), 1205.2(k)(3) and 1215 of the act are amended to read:

Section 1201.1. Substitute Teaching Permit for Prospective Teachers.--An individual who does not hold a certificate under section 1201 shall be eligible to teach as a substitute in a school district, an area career and technical school or an intermediate unit provided that:

\* \* \*

(3) An individual receiving a Substitute Teaching Permit for Prospective Teachers may serve as a substitute teacher for no more than ten (10) days per school year for a single professional employe or temporary professional employe, provided that the individual may serve as a substitute for multiple professional employes or temporary professional employes for no more than twenty (20) days per school year. For the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years, the number of days or hours per school year for which an individual receiving a permit under this section may serve as a substitute teacher shall not be limited, except for an individual who is undertaking a student teacher program as required under 22 Pa. Code § 354.25(f) (relating to preparation program curriculum) for educator preparation programs.

\* \* \*

Section 1205.2. Program of Continuing Professional Education.--\*

\* \*

(k) A professional educator who is not employed by a school entity as a professional or temporary professional employe may apply to the department for inactive certification. Inactive certification shall:

\*\*\*

(3) Disqualify an individual from being employed by a school entity as a professional or temporary employe. An individual with inactive certification who is not an annuitant as defined in 24 Pa.C.S. § 8102 (relating to definitions) or 71 Pa.C.S. § 5102 (relating to definitions) may be employed as a substitute teacher, principal, superintendent or assistant superintendent in accordance with the endorsement on the individual's certificate or letter of eligibility for no more than [ninety (90)] one hundred and eighty (180) days during a school year.

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Section 1215. Locally Issued Temporary Certification for Substitute Teachers.--A temporary substitute teacher certificate may be issued by a public school entity to an individual who presents a letter from a college or university verifying that the individual has completed an approved teacher preparation program, has successfully completed the certification testing requirements or is in the process of scheduling the required certification testing and has completed all requirements for the awarding of a bachelor's degree on a date certain. The temporary substitute teacher certificate shall only be used for day-to-day assignments and shall expire upon the termination of any summer school conducted in the summer which follows the date of issuance or upon the receipt of Instructional I certification by the individual. For the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years, the temporary substitute teacher certificate issued under this section may be used for assignments of more than twenty (20) consecutive days to fill a position due to the absence of professional certified personnel.

Section 3. The act is amended by adding sections to read:

Section 1218. Permit for Classroom Monitors.--(a) A school entity may request that the department issue a classroom monitor permit to allow an individual to deliver to students assignments that are pre-planned by a professional employe or temporary professional employe. A classroom monitor may not plan lessons or create or grade student work.

(b) An individual receiving a permit under subsection (a) shall satisfy all of the following:

(1) Has completed at least sixty (60) semester hours or the equivalent of courses at a college or university located in this Commonwealth and accredited by a regional accrediting agency, or has at least three (3) years' experience as a paraprofessional in a school entity and is currently employed as a paraprofessional in a school entity.

(2) Has met the requirements under sections 111, 111.1 and 1109(a) and 23 Pa.C.S. Ch. 63 Subch. C (relating to powers and duties of department).

(3) Has attained a minimum age of twenty-five (25) years.

(4) Has completed training on classroom management provided by an intermediate unit and approved by the department.

(c) An individual receiving a permit under this section who is already employed by the school entity as a paraprofessional shall receive the higher of the individual's existing contractual compensation or the compensation established by the school entity for day-to-day substitute teachers.

(d) Each school entity that uses the services of a classroom monitor under this section shall ensure that each student who receives services under an Individualized Education Program under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Public Law 91-230, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.) receives a free and appropriate public education as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

(e) Each school entity shall report to the department the following by March 31, 2023:

(1) The number of individuals who served as classroom monitors under this section and the number of days on which the school entity used the services of classroom monitors.

(2) The school entity's day-to-day substitute teacher compensation rates in the 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. For a school entity that uses a third-party entity to provide substitute teachers, the rate reported by the school entity shall be the take-home amount received by an individual, excluding the portion paid to the third-party entity. The department shall issue rules necessary to effectuate this subsection.

(f) By April 15, 2023, the department shall issue a report on the effectiveness of the classroom monitor permit and recommendations for

improvement or continuation of the permit. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the information reported to the department under subsection (e) and a formal evaluation of the permit and its effectiveness by an independent research organization which may include a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting agency. The report shall be submitted to the General Assembly and the State Board and shall be posted on the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

(g) This section shall expire on June 30, 2023.

Section 1219. Substitute Teaching Policy.--By February 15, 2022, each teacher preparation program approved by the department shall adopt a policy regarding allowing an individual undertaking a student teacher program under 22 Pa. Code § 354.25(f) (relating to preparation program curriculum) and satisfying the requirements of section 1201.1(1) to teach as a substitute in exchange for financial compensation, if the individual has received at least one satisfactory observation related to the individual's student teacher program. A teacher preparation program policy may not prohibit substitute teaching by individuals who have received at least one satisfactory observation related to their student teacher program.

Section 4. Section 1305-D of the act is amended by adding a subsection to read:

Section 1305-D. False reports.

\*\*\*

(c) Concurrent jurisdiction.--The Attorney General may investigate and institute criminal proceedings for a violation of this section.

Section 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, this amendment is a substantive change to the underlying bill sponsored by my good friend, the gentlewoman from Cumberland County. This amendment resolves several issues to address our substitute teacher shortage here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. First, it provides more flexibility to hire retired educators on a temporary basis. This amendment applies only to this school year and next school year during the current substitute crisis. At the end of the next school year, the existing process will resume, eliminating any concern that this amendment could outlast the current crisis. The amendment is simply a short-term fix to an immediate problem.

Next, it would provide permanent solutions for day-to-day subs. The bill expands the number of days a substitute can work in a school year. Also, this amendment would promote the ability of prospective teachers to aid in the crisis. It would uncap the number of days a prospective educator can sub under the Act 86 program, and it would require higher education institutions to adopt a policy regarding their student teachers' or prospective educators' ability to sub while they are enrolled in school.

Lastly, it would establish a pilot program for anyone with 60 credits or equivalent work experience to serve as a day-to-day classroom monitor. The amendment would create a classroom monitor permit to allow such people to oversee a classroom in a teacher's absence but stipulates that they cannot provide instruction, grade, or create work. People with a classroom monitor permit under the proposed pilot program can deliver pre-planned student assignments. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote to help address Pennsylvania's current substitute teacher shortage. Thank you.

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

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I rise to speak against this amendment. Yes, we have a serious teacher shortage issue; yes we have a serious substitute teacher shortage issue for a number of reasons. Years of politicians demeaning teachers has helped lead to the shortage that we are seeing right now. Failure to invest in higher education, community college, and our PASSHE system, and creating a pathway for students to become teachers. Failure to pay substitutes enough money to want to stay in the profession.

As I have said in the Committee on Education a number of times, the devil is in the details. This is a gut and replace amendment. I have not had the time to read it, talk to stakeholders, absorb what these massive changes will actually do, and I am scared that we will do something inadvertently to make the situation worse. In the city of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia School District thought they were making their substitute shortage issue better. They thought they would fix it by breaking the union and subcontracting out their substitutes. You know what happened? It was more expensive and they placed fewer substitutes. I urge caution, and I will be a "no" vote on this amendment until there is more time to actually determine what will happen as a result of this amendment. Thank you.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were required by Senator PHILLIPS-HILL and were as follows, viz:

YEA-35

Argall	Comitta	Laughlin	Scavello
Aument	Corman	Martin	Schwank
Baker	DiSanto	Mastriano	Stefano
Bartolotta	Dush	Mensch	Tomlinson
Boscola	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Brooks	Gordner	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Browne	Hutchinson	Regan	Yaw
Cappelletti	Kane	Robinson	Yudichak
Collett	Langerholc	Santarsiero	

NAY-14

Brewster	Haywood	Sabatina	Tartaglione
Costa	Hughes	Saval	Williams, Anthony H.
Flynn	Kearney	Street	Williams, Lindsey
Fontana	Muth		

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator SCAVELLO. 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 200, SB 358, SB 522, SB 848, SB 940, SB 967, SB 970, SB 992, HB 118 and HB 1823.**

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, DECEMBER 15, 2021

9:00 A.M.	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (S) and AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (H) (joint public hearing to receive testimony regarding fireworks laws)	Room 60 East Wing
10:00 A.M.	SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING FORMULA COMMISSION (to consider recommendations for special education funding)	Room 140 Main Capitol
10:30 A.M.	COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (to consider Senate Bills No. 797 and 977)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider certain Executive Nominations)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the 9-year anniversary of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, an act of firearms and gun violence that took the lives of 26 people, the majority of whom were well under the age of 7. If my colleagues do not mind, I would like us to take a moment of silence in the memory of their lives and all the others lost to gun violence across this nation.  
(Moment of silence observed.)

Thank you everyone. I appreciate that we took that moment.

I want you to know that I find it to be a disgrace that the needless loss of those little kids, whose lives are supposedly so valued and precious to this legislature, the loss of their teachers, who supposedly we regard as heroes nowadays, has not moved this legislature, legislatures across the country, nor Washington D.C., to take any meaningful action to stem firearms and gun violence

in this country. In fact, today, we all woke up to find that our colleague's office has been severely damaged by a high-power weapon, one that no civilian should have their hands on. Yet, we still see no movement in commonsense gun legislation that has proven time and again elsewhere in other States and other countries to reduce gun and firearms violence.

It is not just a city issue; it continues to run rampant throughout our entire Commonwealth, whether it affects you as gun violence that is against another human being or self-inflicted. In fact, a little over 2 weeks ago, I would gather to say, many of us were with our families around the Thanksgiving dinner table, enjoying a meal with loved ones who we may not have seen in over a year or 2, looking forward to eating some pumpkin or apple pie. But in my district, Edilberto Miguel Palaez Moctezuma was sitting at his table eating a Thanksgiving dinner with his family at his home on Arch Street in Norristown, and a single bullet came through the window and hit him. He did not make it to dessert. Police were dispatched to the home, and they found him unresponsive with a gunshot wound to his torso. He was flown to Penn Presbyterian Medical Center and pronounced dead, according to the authorities. A stray bullet killed Edilberto as he sat around his Thanksgiving table. Can you imagine what Thanksgiving is going to be like for his family in the future? The memories that they are going to have? What thanks will they give?

Yet, just a month ago, this Chamber spent hours debating a bill that would make it easier for Pennsylvanians to have concealed weapons on our streets. A bill that they knew would end up being vetoed as soon as it hit the Governor's desk. Like many Pennsylvanians, I am scared that my mother, who is the store manager of a grocery store, will have to call the police one day because a shooter has walked through her doors with the intent to kill. I am scared that there will be a gunman bringing a weapon into one of the schools that I represent or one that my niece is attending. I am scared that a stray bullet, any day now, could hurt someone who I love. Like so many Pennsylvanians, I am frustrated and angry.

This Chamber continues to prove time and again how little the lives of Pennsylvanians actually matter to them. We are elected to protect the people of this Commonwealth, that is our job, that is what we get paid to do. Yet time and again, we fail to pass meaningful legislation that actually provides any help for them, supports them, protects them from what is an epidemic in this country. The Majority continues to push bills filled with policy that conflict with data and science in the hopes of pushing what agenda? What is the purpose of everyone having a gun? We know that those bills ultimately get vetoed. It is wasting our time. It does nothing. We know that it is not going to help stem this problem; we know that it is not going to pass. So let us do something that does fix this issue and help the people here in Pennsylvania. My Democratic colleagues and I have introduced multiple bills that would lead to a decrease in gun and firearm violence in this Commonwealth. As I mentioned, proven policy solutions that will save Pennsylvanian's lives.

I told you before, I live in a gun-owning family. My husband is a veteran; I come from a family of veterans, as does he. I can tell you with all sincerity, gun owners support the policies that my colleagues and I have put forward because responsible gun owners see that these solutions are not about punishing them or taking away their rights. They are for others who are struggling

or are facing crises and looking for an impulsive way out of this chaotic world. Because like many Americans, responsible gun owners want to see a stop to the mass shootings that we have all become desensitized to. We are not infringing on anyone's rights. It is not what we want to do. It is not the intent. The intent is simply to end the violence and the fear that has festered in this Commonwealth due to this Chamber's lack of action. So I stand here, again, asking my colleagues that in 2022 when we come back, we make some meaningful changes to gun violence policies that we have here in this Commonwealth and we do our job and protect our citizens. Thank you.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS  
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 3 RESUMED  
RECONSIDERATION OF HB 412**

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which House Bill No. 412 went over in its order.

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

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

**RECONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT A3233**

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which amendment No. A3233 was agreed to.

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

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

The yeas and nays were required by Senator PHILLIPS-HILL and were as follows, viz:

**YEA-34**

Argall	Corman	Martin	Scavello
Aument	DiSanto	Mastriano	Schwank
Baker	Dush	Mensch	Stefano
Bartolotta	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Tomlinson
Boscola	Gordner	Pittman	Vogel
Brooks	Hutchinson	Regan	Ward, Kim
Browne	Kane	Robinson	Yaw
Cappelletti	Langerholc	Santarsiero	Yudichak
Collett	Laughlin		

**NAY-15**

Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Comitta	Haywood	Sabatina	Williams, Anthony H.
Costa	Hughes	Saval	Williams, Lindsey
Flynn	Kearney	Street	

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

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

### PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES (Continued)

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise today because it marks 5,637 days since the Pennsylvania legislature last passed a raise in the minimum wage. Mr. President, that means for the last 15 1/2 years our Commonwealth's legislature has done nothing to help its lowest earners. I do not know about you, Mr. President, but I think that is far too long.

In 2006, I fought for a raise in the minimum wage, and we won. We raised it from \$5.15 to \$7.15, just 10 cents less than our current minimum wage of \$7.25, which was mandated by the Federal government more than 12 years ago. So, for 12 years, our lowest earners have had no increase in their pay. It is the longest in America's history since the minimum wage was first established in 1938 that it has not moved. Yet, those last 12 years have had inflation rates that have rarely been seen in our nation's history, Mr. President.

Prices in the last year, on average, are up 7 percent, and if we boil that down to the truest form, it means our lowest earners are less able to provide for their family's basic needs. If Dollar Tree, or another discount retailer, is forced to raise prices on their items because inflation is making their current business strategy impossible, it is safe to assume living on a stagnant poverty-level wage allowed under our minimum wage is impossible as well. But our lowest earners do not have the luxury of just giving themselves a 25 percent raise at their own whim. That responsibility falls on us; it falls on us to protect our lowest earners.

Mr. President, I fight to raise the minimum wage for the single mother working two minimum-wage jobs just to make ends meet. I fight for the cashier at the corner store who cannot afford her medicine. I fight for all Pennsylvanians who deserve a livable wage and the economic independence that comes with it. That is why I introduced Senate Bill No. 12, because our lowest earners need to have people fighting for them. Let us pass Senate Bill No. 12, Mr. President. Thank you.

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

Senator SCAVELLO. Mr. President, there are many topics this Chamber is called upon to tackle. Few of them have been around as long as the one I rise to address today. For decades, we have discussed the need to reform the Commonwealth's burdensome and ever-growing local school property tax. We have held hearings, formed working groups, held stakeholder meetings, and produced legislation. The only thing lacking is the sense of urgency.

I speak today to urge renewed resolve. Homeowners are begging us for help. Who are the victims of our outdated school funding system? Our seniors. We have a system that does not care whether you have children in school, whether you are an elderly widow living on \$1,200 of Social Security a month, or whether your taxes have risen tenfold since you retired. As I have said standing here before, a constituent in my district lost her husband, took a substantial hit on her Social Security, and had trouble paying taxes that had risen from \$600 to \$4,600. She

came to me and said, I am guilty of living too long. Do we have to choose between helping this poor woman and properly funding our schools? Of course not. We can do both.

We continually work to ensure our students have opportunities to succeed, but too often we do not talk about the price of our antiquated school tax system and the impact it has on our homeowners, especially our seniors. My Senatorial district is the victim of an unfair State funding formula that drove millions of dollars away from our region when we had the fastest-growing population in the Commonwealth. To this day, that situation has never been made right. Rather than receiving our fair share of education dollars to offset our ever-growing school population, our residents were saddled with that burden. The citizens in my school districts in the Pocono region and Northampton area pay the highest portion of income to school property taxes. This is unacceptable. My constituents deserve schools that do not have to fight for their fair share of funding, and our seniors deserve to live their lives without having to worry about losing their homes.

We all know the dismal record of achievement--the Senate has discussed, debated, researched, held hearings, and hosted town hall meetings for the last two decades with zero progress on any meaningful school property tax reform. I have sponsored and cosponsored numerous school tax reform proposals, the most prolific and popular of which is Senate Bill No. 76, the School Property Tax Independence Act. This bill proposes full elimination of school property taxes for all properties. Since 2004, we have worked to try and pass this bill, including a vote which ended in a 24-24 tie, and I would vote for elimination today. The Lieutenant Governor, of course, broke the tie with a negative vote at that time. It appears support has waned again since the last time this bill was considered and failed, because many of the people who voted in favor of Senate Bill No. 76 have since retired.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues who have not supported any school property tax proposals to step up to the plate and help make the hard decisions needed to get meaningful action for our citizens. If the statewide constitutional vote to allow for treatment of homesteads differently than other properties in 2017 was any indication, there is broad support for action on school property tax reform; it is just the right thing to do. We cannot continue to sit here while our seniors lose their homes to increasing school property taxes. That is why I have introduced Senate Bill No. 590 of 2021, a proposal that, with just a half a percent increase in the State sales tax, would be able to reduce or eliminate school property taxes for most senior homeowners in the Commonwealth. For someone at the age of 65 or over, whose combined income is not greater than \$60,000, a number which would only factor in half of your Social Security income, you would receive up to a \$5,000 credit off your school property tax bill. Like the homestead exclusion you see on your tax bill each year, which is funded from gambling revenue--which I have always said would never eliminate school taxes--senior homeowners would see an additional amount reduced from their tax bill under my proposal. A half-percent increase in the State sales tax avoids the pitfalls we inevitably encounter when we talk about expanding the State sales tax base onto other items and services. My proposal is simply a half-percent increase to the existing sales tax.

It is my hope that this is the first step toward broader reform like Senate Bill No. 76 proposes, but we cannot continue to stand



by while our seniors are in crisis. This proposal is so simple and so critical that I urge my colleagues to do the right thing and join me on this bill. Show our citizens that you care for our students and our seniors. It is past time that we act on this important issue. Mr. President, we have the bill, and we need the will. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Kane.

Senator KANE. Mr. President, I will be brief, as usual. I want to take a minute to talk about mental health. One in six Americans experience seasonal depression, which is often at its worst around the holidays. As the COVID-19 pandemic rumbles towards its second year, we know it has stretched our mental health assistance and provider systems to the limit. Adults and children are suffering. In the past year, 1 in 6 young adults have considered suicide. Mental health challenges are often invisible. You may not know that your friends, family, and loved ones are struggling; you might not see it. As we are heading home for the holidays and reconnecting with family members, I want to encourage all of you to reach out and ask those who you love that simple question: are you struggling? That could make all the difference. To everyone, you are not alone. Call the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255, or contact the crisis line by texting HOME to 741741. Help is out there.

Thank you, Mr. President.

### BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

December 14, 2021

Senators MASTRIANO, PHILLIPS-HILL, J. WARD, DUSH and DiSANTO presented to the Chair **SB 963**, entitled:

An Act limiting assignment of State-owned vehicles; prohibiting long-term vehicle leases for public officials and employees; and providing for duties of the Department of General Services.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, December 14, 2021.

Senators ARGALL, GEBHARD, FONTANA, KANE, MARTIN, STEFANO, SCHWANK, CAPPELLETTI, MENSCH and MUTH presented to the Chair **SB 969**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for administration of emergency anti-seizure medication.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, December 14, 2021.

### RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Venango, Senator Hutchinson.

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 11 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 5:44 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.