

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**Legislative Journal**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022

SESSION OF 2022 206TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 6

**SENATE**

WEDNESDAY, January 26, 2022

The Senate met at 11 a.m., Eastern Standard Time.

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

**PRAYER**

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

Let us pray.

When I was a little girl, my great-grandmother, GG, lived with us, and she and I prayed together daily. She always started with a prayer of thanks to the Lord. So, today, I will do the same.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for this day of health and strength. We thank You for our families who love and support us as we work here in the Senate. We thank You for the wisdom You bestow upon us, so that we can work collaboratively for the good of all Pennsylvanians. We thank You for the gift of Your peace, and we ask that You fill our hearts with compassion and peace, and our minds with understanding, so that we can work together in unity here in our Senate. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**GENERAL COMMUNICATION**

**REPORT ON TAX-EXEMPT BOND  
ALLOCATION FOR END OF YEAR 2021**

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

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Department of Community and Economic Development  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 4th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

January 26, 2022

Megan Martin  
Secretary of Senate  
Office of the Secretary of the Senate  
462 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Ms. Martin:

As required by the Job Enhancement Act of 1996, (P.L. 434, No 67), Act 113, Section 2706, as amended, I am providing a report on tax-exempt bond allocation for the end of year 2021.

This report includes:

1. A summary of volume cap allocation usage for small issue, exempt facility, housing, and education bonds; and
2. A list of small issue and exempt facility allocations including the issuing authority, project name, allocation amount, and estimated jobs for each project.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

DENNIS M. DAVIN  
Secretary

The PRESIDENT. This report will be filed in the Library.

**BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

Senator LANGERHOLC, from the Committee on Transportation, reported the following bills:

**SB 866 (Pr. No. 1066)**

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.

**SB 891 (Pr. No. 1143)**

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 41272, on that portion of Pennsylvania Route 286 over Crooked Creek, Rayne Township, Indiana County, as the Sergeant First Class Randy McCaulley Memorial Bridge.

**SB 965 (Pr. No. 1354) (Amended)**

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in certificate of title and security interests, further providing for content and effect of certificate of title; in rules of the road in general, further providing for platooning; in miscellaneous provisions, further providing for accidents involving death or personal injury, for accidents involving damage to attended vehicle or property, for duty to give information and render aid, for accidents involving damage to unattended vehicle or property and for immediate notice of accident to police department; in equipment standards, further providing for promulgation of vehicle equipment standards; in inspection of vehicles, further providing for requirement for periodic inspection of vehicles; in size, weight and load, further providing for width of vehicles; and, in highly automated vehicles, further providing for definitions, providing for construction, further providing for Highly Automated Vehicle Advisory Committee and providing for operation of highly automated vehicles without a highly automated vehicle driver, for operation of highly automated

vehicles with a highly automated motor vehicle driver, for operation of highly automated motor carrier vehicles, for operation of highly automated transportation network service, for licensing and registration, for insurance, for control and for regulations.

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVES**

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Bartolotta and Senator Mastriano.

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Haywood and Senator Muth.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Kim Ward requests legislative leaves for Senator Bartolotta and Senator Mastriano.

Senator Anthony Williams requests legislative leaves for Senator Haywood and Senator Muth.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

**JOURNAL APPROVED**

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of June 21, 2021, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of June 21, 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	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, Judy
Browne	Hughes	Regan	Ward, Kim
Cappelletti	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Saval	Yaw
Corman	Langerhole	Scavello	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.

**LEAVE CHANGED**

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I request that Senator Muth's leave be changed from a legislative leave to a temporary Capitol leave.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Anthony Williams requests that Senator Muth's leave be changed from a legislative leave to a temporary Capitol leave. Without objection, the leave will be changed.

**GUESTS OF SENATOR JUDY SCHWANK  
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Berks, Senator Schwank.

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, good morning everyone. Joining me today here in our Senate Chamber, they are up in the gallery, is the family of one of my district office employees, Tara Kutzer; her husband, Chris, and her two daughters, Zoey and Avery, are here with her as well. There is a unique story about Mrs. Tara Kutzer. Tara has been with our Senate office for 27 years. If you would look at her, you would think she is no older than 18, but she actually started as an intern while she was a student at Central Catholic High School in the city of Reading. So, she has been doing this job for a long time and doing it very well. I feel very fortunate to have her on board, and I enjoy it when she brings her children into the district office as well. By the way, Zoey will be 10 on Friday. She is a fourth grader at La Salle Academy in Shillington, Pennsylvania, and she is actually learning about State government right now. So, her mom and dad brought her up to Harrisburg so she could see the Senate in action, and if she is anything like many of the children who I know who come up here, the next stop will be the gift shop. Thank you very much, Mr. President, and would you ask our colleagues to welcome my guests here today? Thank you.

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

(Applause.)

**CALENDAR**

**SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

**BILLS OUT OF ORDER**

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

**BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION  
AND REREFERRED**

**HB 221 (Pr. No. 188)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of January 19, 1968 (1967 P.L.992, No.442), entitled "An act authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the local government units thereof to preserve, acquire or hold land for open space uses," further providing for local taxing options.

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

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

**HB 889 (Pr. No. 880)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 22, 1951 (P.L.317, No.69), known as The Professional Nursing Law, further providing for examinations and certificates.

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

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

**RECESS**

The PRESIDENT. 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 meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held here on the floor.

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

**CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED**

**THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

**BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

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

**BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE**

**HB 220 (Pr. No. 187)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in powers and duties of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, further providing for powers and duties.

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

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

**BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**HB 245, SB 327, SB 457, SB 573, HB 598, SB 676, SB 703, SB 704, HB 723 and SB 745** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE**

**HB 764 (Pr. No. 2646)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in child protective services, further providing for employees having contact with children and adoptive and foster parents.

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	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, Judy
Browne	Hughes	Regan	Ward, Kim
Cappelletti	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Saval	Yaw
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	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.

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED**

**THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED**

**BILL OVER IN ORDER**

**SB 775** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE**

**SB 806 (Pr. No. 1353)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 20, 1979 (P.L.183, No.60), known as the Oil and Gas Lease Act, further providing for definitions, for payment information to interest owners and for accumulation of proceeds from production.

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	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, Judy
Browne	Hughes	Regan	Ward, Kim
Cappelletti	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Saval	Yaw
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	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 807, SB 846 and SB 862** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

**SB 927 (Pr. No. 1220)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in military educational programs, further providing for medical officer or health officer incentive program, for definitions, for establishment of program, for program stipend, for additional incentives, for recoupment of incentive payments and for adjustment of stipend amounts.

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 gentleman from Venango, Senator Hutchinson.

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise to ask the Members to support Senate Bill No. 927, the Medical Officer or Healthcare Officer Incentive Program. This legislation builds upon a successful recruitment and retention program for the Pennsylvania National Guard in critical health-related specialties, which the legislature enacted back in 2014, and of which I was the proud author. Passage of this bill would expand eligibility to members of the Guard in additional health professions, for which there is a shortage, adding dentists and physician assistants to the numerous other healthcare providers such as nurses, doctors, and behavioral health specialists. It will also adjust the monthly stipend offered to these critical healthcare providers based upon their degree attained and the years of Guard service.

It is incumbent upon us to ensure that our National Guard is able to recruit these critical health specialists so they can serve our brave men and women and fulfill the mission of the Pennsylvania National Guard. I urge a "yes" vote, and thank you, my fellow Members.

And the question recurring,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

Argall	DiSanto	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, Judy
Browne	Hughes	Regan	Ward, Kim
Cappelletti	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Saval	Yaw
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	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 934, SB 935, SB 938, SB 967, SB 992, HB 1082 and HB 1224** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

**HB 1479 (Pr. No. 1598)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating a portion of Pennsylvania Route 31 from Strikertown Road to Renaissance Lane in South Huntingdon Township, Westmoreland County, as the John Michael Beyrand Memorial Highway.

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	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, Judy
Browne	Hughes	Regan	Ward, Kim
Cappelletti	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Saval	Yaw
Corman	Langerholc	Scavello	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.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

**HB 1560** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

**HB 1660 (Pr. No. 2371)** -- 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 duties and powers of boards of school directors, further providing for temporary emergency provisions.

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

**HB 1660 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 1660, Printer's No. 2371, 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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**HB 1823, HB 1849 and HB 2051** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

**SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED**

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**HB 118, SB 152, SB 200, SB 225 and SB 284** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

**SB 322 (Pr. No. 330)** -- 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 voting by qualified absentee electors, further providing for canvassing of official absentee ballots and mail-in ballots.

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

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

**SB 471 (Pr. No. 1211)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act prohibiting the mandatory COVID-19 vaccination of Pennsylvania residents by the Commonwealth, political subdivisions or as a condition of employment.

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

**SB 471 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 471, Printer's No. 1211, 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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 522 and SB 527** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION  
AND REREFERRED

**SB 589 (Pr. No. 714)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions relating to home rule and optional plan government, further providing for definitions,

providing for appointment of government study commission in distressed municipality and further providing for first meeting of commission, for function and duty of commission, for hearings and public forums, for report of findings and recommendations, for limitation on enactment of ordinance or filing of petition and for limitation on municipal powers.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 597, HB 668 and SB 815** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

**SB 945 (Pr. No. 1348)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for the disposition of alternative energy credits.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**HB 951, SB 956, SB 962, SB 977, HB 987, HB 996, SB 1030, HB 1096, HB 1248 and HB 1312** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

**HB 1350 (Pr. No. 1465)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 8 (Boroughs and Incorporated Towns) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in powers and duties of elected officials, further providing for surcharge by auditors; in powers, duties and rights of appointed officers and employees, further providing for borough manager created by ordinance and election, for powers and duties, for other offices not incompatible and for organization of commission; and, in taxation and finance, further providing for preparation of budget.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

**HB 1420 (Pr. No. 1527)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in general powers and duties of the Department of Public Welfare, providing for COVID-19 mental health public awareness campaign.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

**HB 1421 (Pr. No. 1528)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military Affairs, further providing for burial details for veterans.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**HB 1500, HB 1737, HB 1801, HB 1819 and HB 1842** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

**HB 1868 (Pr. No. 2652)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 63 (Professions and Occupations (State Licensed)) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for military and veterans' licensure.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

**HB 1877** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

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

**HB 221 (Pr. No. 188) (Rereported)**

An Act amending the act of January 19, 1968 (1967 P.L.992, No.442), entitled "An act authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the local government units thereof to preserve, acquire or hold land for open space uses," further providing for local taxing options.

**HB 889 (Pr. No. 880) (Rereported)**

An Act amending the act of May 22, 1951 (P.L.317, No.69), known as The Professional Nursing Law, further providing for examinations and certificates.

**HB 995 (Pr. No. 2381) (Rereported)**

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military Affairs, establishing the PA VETConnect Program.

**BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION**

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bills were as follows:

**SB 866, SB 891 and SB 965.**

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022

10:00 A.M.	LAW AND JUSTICE (public hearing on adult-use marijuana)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off. (LIVE STREAMED)
11:00 A.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bills No. 991, 1020 and 1043; and Senate Resolution No. 152)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
12:00 P.M.	TRANSPORTATION (to consider Senate Bills No. 892, 925, 1031, 1051 and 1053)	Room 461 Main Capitol
12:00 P.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to consider Senate Bills No. 1016, 1027, 1028 and 1047)	Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

12:30 P.M.	EDUCATION (to consider House Bill No. 232)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
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Off the Floor	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (to consider House Bill No. 2143)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
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Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider Senate Bill No. 739; and certain Executive Nominations)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022

Off the Floor	LABOR AND INDUSTRY (to consider Senate Bills No. 569 and 993; and House Bill No. 129)	Room 461 Main Capitol
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

5:00 P.M.	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS and GAME AND FISHERIES (joint public hearing to receive testimony on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD))	American Legion 3721 US 220 BUS Bedford
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Off the Floor	FINANCE (to consider Senate Bills No. 230 and 622; and House Bill No. 2058)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
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**PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES**

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the week of January 30 through February 5, 2022, as Catholic Schools Week in Pennsylvania. As mentioned in my Senate Resolution No. 218, Catholic schools are an important institution within our Commonwealth, and that is why this upcoming Sunday through next Saturday we recognize their many important accomplishments and achievements.

In Pennsylvania, there are approximately 135,000 students enrolled in Catholic schools, with the nationwide total being over 1.6 million. In other words, Pennsylvania alone constitutes nearly 1/10 of the entire Catholic school population nationally. In addition, data shows that 99 percent of Catholic school students graduate and that 95 percent go on to some form of higher education. Parents that choose Catholic schools repeatedly cite high academic standards, a safe school environment, and values-added education as the reason for their choice. Catholic schools instill a strong sense of values, self-esteem, confidence, and leadership skills in their students, which are skills that I, as a former Catholic school student myself, have taken into my professional career. Finally, these parochial institutions are an important part of communities across our great Commonwealth.

Mr. President, I ask that the Senate please join me in recognizing Catholic Schools Week here in Pennsylvania. Thank you.

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

Senator BROWNE. Mr. President, really briefly, as the Members are aware, we had an opportunity to appropriate a very important package for our hospital community yesterday. I just want to take an opportunity to acknowledge a member of our staff who did some tremendous work in helping this body pull this together. Meaghan Sprout did a tremendous job, and I just wanted to make sure that we acknowledged her.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I rise to recognize January 2022 as School Director Recognition Month here in Pennsylvania. Aside from parents and teachers, no individual has a bigger impact on the education of our young people than the 4,500 dedicated individuals who are elected by the people to serve on our local school boards. Our education system is more than just learning basic math, science, English, and history--it is a platform for students to reach their greatest potential. My children were the beneficiaries of a great public education system in York County, and I too served on the school board of the Dallastown Area School District where we made fiscal responsibility and transparency our priorities. Those lessons learned at that level have stayed with me, even as a State Senator. Pennsylvania's school districts exist because individuals volunteer their valuable time to make informed decisions about issues facing our public schools. They make difficult decisions for the betterment of our students, such as voting on budgets, hiring personnel, selecting textbooks, and working for the public, to name just a few. Last year, we entrusted them to make the decisions on developing public health and safety plans amid efforts to reopen our school districts this past fall. School directors work to ensure the needs of our students are met in a way that reflects the views and the values of the communities. Every January, we celebrate and thank these individuals, the nine duly-elected school board directors in each school district across the Commonwealth, who serve our students, our communities, the taxpayers, and our local education system. Mr. President, I hope my colleagues will join me in dedicating January 2022 as School Director Recognition Month here in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about an issue of transparency that many of you probably have been following in the headlines recently. Not good headlines. As a trustee of the Pennsylvania School Employees' Retirement fund, we are in troubled waters. I am wary of what is ahead, but I am confident that solutions linger in the near future, and we need to talk about, as we head into budget hearings, the necessity for transparency for all of our State agencies. We have a pension fund of over \$70 billion and they have not been brought in for Senate and House budget hearings in quite some time. I am grateful to have some bipartisan support on legislation that I have introduced, Senate Bill No. 961, which would require leadership from SERS and PSERS to testify before the Committees on Appropriations of both Chambers as part of the annual committee hearing process.

Budget hearings start next month and maybe it is not too late. Maybe we can get PSERS in front of one of the budget hearings so the Members have the opportunity to ask questions and hopefully get more answers than I have been offered as a trustee. I know that several of you have mentioned to me that the headlines are troubling and, to be very frank, I have never been part of such an organization where I felt that answers were so poorly answered. How do I talk to annuitants, teachers, and school employees about where their dollars are going, and how do I explain to taxpayers where their dollars are going, to fund financial sta-

bility for school employees when they retire, when I do not have the answers? If we do not know where dollars are going, whether it is in a State agency program--there is lots of talk of waste, fraud, and abuse often in this Chamber, and I think that we should be just as diligent with our public pension funds.

Yesterday I tried to amend a bill to end nondisclosure agreements with civil action relative to gas royalties if landowners are not paid their fair share, and, unfortunately, that amendment failed on party line vote. Now, as a trustee of the pension board for the School Employees' Retirement System, we have been told to sign NDAs to get more information about calculation errors; I believe that, maybe, that will change to now being optional. But, again, democracy requires transparency. In the absence of that transparency, the public does not trust the government. We work for the people. The government runs on the dollars of people who we represent. I would hope that all of you would agree that signing nondisclosure agreements, when it comes to the use of public dollars, is unacceptable. I was pleasantly surprised to hear some of the up-and-coming gubernatorial candidates all agreed that information about our Public School Employees' Retirement System should be made public. Findings should be made public. Your dollars are all being spent--tax dollars, annuities dollars, are being spent--on a lot of lawyers, big money, and we still do not know what happened. So I would hope that that report is made public so that the public is able to read what occurred, what is going to be done moving forward to make sure that it never happens again, and that we secure retirement for all of these hardworking school employees who deserve that kind of future from an economic sustainability and protection standpoint. You work hard your whole life, and now you are worried about where your pension is; that is troubling.

So I rise today, Mr. President, to reiterate my request for full transparency in this Chamber. Reiterate the request to hopefully get a last-minute budget hearing scheduled where PSERS can be present in front of the Committee on Appropriations so that Members can ask questions who do not serve as trustees, because I do believe all of you deserve answers as well.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator SCAVELLO. Mr. President, I have been rising on the floor pretty much every other week or so to talk about school property taxes for seniors. So today, what I am going to do is I am going to read a letter from a senior. Her name is Sandra. That is all I am going to say but the name. Right across the top of the letter she puts: Please do something about the burden of school taxes on the elderly. This is her letter: We pay taxes for decades, but never own our home, even when the mortgage is paid off. I am a 77-year-old widow with a \$25,000 income, and it is fixed. Does not go up or anything, she is stressing. I have no savings or investments. I own my home but owe over \$350 a month in real estate taxes. That is 17 percent of my income that must be paid by June 30, 2022, which is when the school taxes are due, otherwise you go into penalties, \$4,100. The tax rent rebate does not help me or anyone struggling to pay these taxes.

Let me explain what that does. If you do not pre-pay the tax, if you cannot pay the taxes the year before, you do not get that \$650. There is a rebate there, there is a tremendous number of people out there who qualify for it, but because they were not able to pay the taxes on time, that is not available to them. So

you are paying on the current year's taxes, not trying to catch up on the late taxes. So that is the situation that she is in, and, of course, with late taxes that she is paying payments, she is also paying and she is not getting that 2 percent reduction up front. Each June 30 I am afraid to lose my home to a tax sale. I cannot even buy enough food. Just imagine, 77-years-old, by herself, and this is what she is struggling with since her husband passed. We have not had children in school for decades. I am begging, I cannot sleep and I cannot even afford food. This is from someone who sent me this letter. As I get these letters, I am going to read them. I think you need to hear from the people out there who are hurting.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Tartaglione has submitted remarks for the record. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

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

Mr. President, I rise because today marks 5,680 days since the Pennsylvania legislature last passed an increase in the minimum wage here in Pennsylvania. As we all know, we are living through a time of great change in the United States and here in Pennsylvania. The events of the last 2 years have caused a transformation in how companies compensate their employees for the work they provide. Mr. President, we see signs as we drive down the road daily that read: Now hiring, paying up to \$15 an hour. That is great. Companies like Walmart, Target, and Amazon are showing that it is, in fact, possible to pay workers a livable wage. But, Mr. President, not all workers have employers like that.

According to the last report on the minimum wage published by the Minimum Wage Advisory Board, there are nearly 1.3 million Pennsylvanians making less than \$15 an hour. Those same workers struggling to make ends meet and making poverty-level wages are also the workers we continue to praise as essential workers. Mr. President, workers making at or near \$15 an hour traditionally work in food service, retail, and educational services. Your store clerk, waiter, waitress, or child's daycare teacher are often the Pennsylvanians who are struggling to make ends meet while also providing essential services to their community, and I do not think that is right, Mr. President.

We cannot wait for employers to decide to do the right thing and pay their employees a livable, family-sustaining wage. That is why I introduced Senate Bill No. 12, because I know that workers across this Commonwealth deserve to make a livable wage, a wage where they are not forced to choose between putting food on the table, medicine for their children, paying rent, or fixing their car. People need dignity in work, and the surest way to ensure that is to pay people a livable wage. Let us pass Senate Bill No. 12 and ensure all Pennsylvanians make a living wage.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator KANE. Mr. President, a few months ago, a constituent reached out to me to right a longstanding wrong in this Commonwealth, and I am here today to do that.

Now, I know we do not always agree on the minimum wage, healthcare costs, or how to allocate the remaining \$5 billion in the American Rescue Plan funding, but I think everyone in this Chamber can agree that the groundhog deserves the title of Pennsylvania's State rodent. See, the groundhog is notable for several reasons. For example, did you know that the groundhog is the only member of the marmot family that chooses a lowland habitat instead of one in the mountains? Neither did I. Did you know

that the groundhog is one of only a few animals that enters a true hibernation and even builds a separate winter burrow to do so? I did not know that, either. Groundhogs are also extremely intelligent. They form elaborate social networks and even communicate threats through whistling.

Punxsutawney Phil, Pennsylvania's most famous groundhog, has been predicting the weather since 1887, with a 100 percent accuracy rate. Not only are his predictions themselves powerful, but, the celebrity also brings an additional \$1 million in revenue to Jefferson County each year. We have Gus the groundhog, Pennsylvania's second most-famous groundhog, that also plays a central role in our economy, promoting the Pennsylvania Lottery. Together, these groundhogs put forth a great, if small and a little beady-eyed, face for our Commonwealth. With Groundhog Day just a week away, the time is right to finally give this animal the recognition it deserves. I hope you will join me in supporting and cosponsoring my legislation to give the groundhog its rightful place as our official State rodent.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, it was 2 years ago when we lost Kobe Bryant to a tragic death, and I was negligent in preparing a resolution. But I did think that it was important for those of us--for Pennsylvanians--who not only love basketball, but love wonderful human beings, to reflect upon the loss of this young man. For those of us who followed his extraordinary career, setting of records, winning of championship rings, battling ailments and injuries, are all of great note, but most significant, for those of us who reflect upon him, is his family and legacies left.

I would like to say that Kobe is a kid from Philadelphia. But the truth is, he was a kid from the suburbs. He claimed Philadelphia as his home, but the truth is he lived in Montgomery County, and for a large part of his life he lived in Italy. So he was a different type of person with regard to where he came from. He was not an African American kid from the tough streets of Philadelphia, but his dad was, and the part of the story that many people do not know is his father, Joe "Jellybean" Bryant, was a guy from west Philadelphia playing on the neighborhood streets, and his mother lived in Philadelphia as well. They were folks of basic means in life and they transformed their entire family's life by not simply having a dad who was an athlete who burned up all his money, but Joe "Jellybean" and his wife had a plan for their children and their family.

For those of us who come from those communities who sometimes struggle, and people do not understand the dynamics of them, there are countless "Jellybean" Bryant families in our communities across Pennsylvania--certainly, in my neighborhood--who only desire the best for their children. Who could unbelievably understand that the consequence of the loss of human beings who we have seen over the last several years, how many of those would be Kobe Bryant? Not the basketball player, but the human being. The guy who, after he retired, went on to win a Grammy, Emmy, or Golden Globe, whatever it was, for a movie. Most importantly, to have a marriage that was sustainable and strong despite the challenges of starting, and several wonderful daughters. Who would think that a family coming from that background would have the vision to take their children out of the challenges of those communities, not burn through all their lim-

ited resources, and allow for their children to prosper in ways that they never experienced in their life.

The celebration of Kobe Bryant is the legacy of not just him but his family, of the hopes and dreams of many of us who come from tough backgrounds. All of us in Pennsylvania can say, regardless of where you come from, if you come from a humble beginning, it truly is something that will not guarantee success in life. Kobe's life is a testament to the American dream. A generation separated from modest beginnings and limited information, that is not privileged, but one that said through competition, hard work, repetition, a desire to do better, led him to places, sites, and scenes that most of us can only imagine. That his legacy of leaving together an intact family and not just championship rings, but, frankly, a certain level of income that his family will be able to sustain itself after his loss. His reputation as a humanitarian, a man who is uplifting girls in basketball in ways that many of us have overlooked. A guy who decided and had a plan that, after I retire, I am not just going to be sitting on a beach someplace, idly sitting by, I am going to craft another career, and it will not just be commenting about basketball, it will be about taking on the platform of Hollywood and providing insight to what life can be for others.

So, while we remember the loss, and for some of us it is a few tears. I can only tell you that if we remind ourselves of what Kobe lived through his life, the gift of life, the opportunity put in front of him and the passion with which he pursued it, that we would expect that some of the challenges that we see every day. If those of us who come from those humble beginnings are reminded of what happened with Kobe Bryant, we too can embrace what opportunities are in front of us. It will not be perfect, easy, or guaranteed, but what it will be is present. So while he is gone, his legacy and memory lives on. Happy birthday, Kobe Bryant.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**BILL SIGNED**

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

**HB 979.**

**HOUSE MESSAGES**

**HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILLS**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the Senate to **HB 253** and **HB 1122**.

**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:

January 26, 2022

Senators BROWNE, MENSCH, STEFANO, PITTMAN, SCHWANK and MARTIN presented to the Chair **SB 1034**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in intestate succession, further providing for share of surviving spouse; in wills, further providing for modification by circumstances and for penalty clause for contest; in administration and personal representatives, providing for application to co-personal representatives; in estates, further providing for modification by divorce or pending divorce; and, in trusts, further providing for rules of construction - UTC 112 and providing for modification by circumstances and for penalty clause for contest.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, January 26, 2022.

Senators BROWNE, MENSCH, STEFANO, PITTMAN, SCHWANK and MARTIN presented to the Chair **SB 1035**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in trusts, further providing for definitions, for trust instrument controls and mandatory rules - UTC 105, for governing law - UTC 107, for situs of trust, for nonjudicial settlement agreements - UTC 111, for charitable purposes; enforcement - UTC 405, for trust for care of animal - UTC 408, for noncharitable trust without ascertainable beneficiary - UTC 409, for reformation to correct mistakes - UTC 415, for modification to achieve settlor's tax objectives - UTC 416, for spendthrift provision - UTC 502, for creditor's claim against settlor - UTC 505(a), for overdue distribution - UTC 506, for revocation or amendment of revocable trust - UTC 602, for trustee's duties and powers of withdrawal - UTC 603, for accepting or declining trusteeship - UTC 701, for trustee's bond - UTC 702, for cotrustees - UTC 703, for vacancy in trusteeship and appointment of successor - UTC 704, for resignation of trustee and filing resignation, for compensation of trustee - UTC 708, for duty to administer trust - UTC 801, for duty of loyalty - UTC 802, for powers to direct - UTC 808, for duty to inform and report, for discretionary powers and for powers of trustees - UTC 815, providing for directed trusts, further providing for remedies for breach of trust--UTC 1001, providing for nonjudicial account settlement and further providing for reliance on trust instrument - UTC 1006, for exculpation of trustee - UTC 1008, for certification of trust - UTC 1013 and for title of purchaser.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, January 26, 2022.

Senators STEFANO and MENSCH presented to the Chair **SB 1038**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 31, 1945 (P.L.1198, No.418), known as the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act, further providing for land reclamation financial guarantees; and making an inconsistent repeal.

Which was committed to the Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, January 26, 2022.

Senators SCHWANK, FONTANA, COMITTA, HUGHES, CAPPELLETTI, COSTA and KEARNEY presented to the Chair **SB 1039**, entitled:

An Act establishing the Health In All Policies Task Force; and providing for duties of task force.

Which was committed to the Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, January 26, 2022.

Senators BROWNE, K. WARD, COSTA, PITTMAN, SCHWANK, MARTIN, LAUGHLIN, ARGALL, GEBHARD, MASTRIANO, MENSCH, J. WARD, STEFANO and SANTARSIERO presented to the Chair **SB 1040**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of November 24, 1998 (P.L.882, No.111), known as the Crime Victims Act, in crime victims, further providing for responsibilities of State and local law enforcement agencies.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, January 26, 2022.

### **BILLS SIGNED**

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

**HB 253, HB 1122 and HB 1479.**

### **RECESS**

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, February 7, 2022, at 1 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 2:50 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.