

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022

SESSION OF 2022 206TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 8

SENATE

TUESDAY, February 8, 2022

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

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend BRANDON RAJA GRADY, of Black Rock Church of the Brethren, Glennville, offered the following prayer:

We come together in prayer, friends.

O gracious God--One who lavishes love, sustains sustenance, builds bridges, opens opportunities, and humbles hearts--indwell, encircle, and enfold us in these hallowed Chambers with a sense of honor and community. It is honorable to tread in this space knowing the fate of Pennsylvanians rests not only in the definite decisions from our human heads and hearts, but also in the fruitful faith You plant deep within us, entrusting us to entrench ourselves in the jubilant joy of each moment while concurrently discovering in our soul searching a sense of efficiency and intentionality to the task at hand.

At the same time, revive our resoluteness, O God. Center our call so we might attain an attitude this morning, and all our days, to longingly listen, eagerly engage, and ask appropriate inquiries. From Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, State College to Somerset, Mount Union to Mount Carmel, Allegheny to Allentown, Erie to East Berlin, and Hanover to Harrisburg, help us harbor with passion and purpose the radiant reality: whatever happens within these wondrous walls, O glorious God, collaboratively creates community or devilishly draws divides.

Sometimes it is tough to imagine the innocence You ignited from the beginning of time. Yet may our minds and faces smile with an awesome awareness--even as this week we may be deluged discussing dollars and dimes--that we would possess a pleasure to not only be good stewards of the time and talents designated to our decisionmaking, but also notice You unveiling beautiful buoyancy in our time together. So, as we leave this week, all residents in our State may feel closer to a sense of success and further from failure.

Prosper us in body and soul, so by Your grace our blessing would never be blinded; courage would never crumble; weaknesses would wane; and strengths, physically and mentally, would sincerely surround. Attune us to the perfection and potential of Your plan, so we might always attune ourselves to an understanding, undergirding us with the ideal, it is never about us,

but always about how You are working through us. So this morning, we expectantly exit this portrait of prayer while unitedly surrendering and extending unto You, with quiet confidence, that fervently familiar phrase, let not our will but Yours be done. We pray all these things to and for Your glory. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Pastor Grady, who is a guest today of Senator Phillips-Hill.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

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

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority, to serve until January 17, 2023, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Robert Loughery, Perkaskie, whose term expired and whose last day was April 23, 2021.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Rebecca Dombrowsky (Public Member), 6466 Heatherfield Way, Harrisburg 17112, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Cosmetology, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months

beyond that period, vice Elaine Gowaty, Murrysville, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Elise Claire Schell (Public Member), 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Cosmetology, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice James Farrell, Erie, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF CRANE OPERATORS

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Moriah Hathaway, 112 Juniata Hall, Middletown 17109, Dauphin County, Forty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Crane Operators, to serve until December 8, 2024, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Daniel Haulman, Lebanon, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF CRANE OPERATORS

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Elise Claire Schell (Public Member), 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Crane Operators, to serve until December 8, 2022, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Jason Giurintano, Camp Hill, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
DRUG, DEVICE AND COSMETIC BOARD

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Drug,

Device and Cosmetic Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Jeffrey Pincus, Hummelstown, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
DRUG, DEVICE AND COSMETIC BOARD

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Anne Gingrich Cornick, Esquire, 2311 Briarcliff Road, Harrisburg 17104, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Drug, Device and Cosmetic Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice George Pajovich, Royersford, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
DRUG, DEVICE AND COSMETIC BOARD

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Rebecca Dombrowsky, 6466 Heatherfield Way, Harrisburg 17112, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Drug, Device and Cosmetic Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Thomas Weida, Lititz, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
DRUG, DEVICE AND COSMETIC BOARD

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Moriah Hathaway, 112 Juniata Hall, Middletown 17109, Dauphin County, Forty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Drug, Device and Cosmetic Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Susan Williams, Clearfield, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
DRUG, DEVICE AND COSMETIC BOARD

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Victoria S. Madden, Esquire, 1056 Brandt Avenue, Lemoyne 17043, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Drug, Device and Cosmetic Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Janis Creason, Harrisburg, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
DRUG, DEVICE AND COSMETIC BOARD

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Theron Perez, Esquire, 22 Tall Tree Drive, Camp Hill 17011, York County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Drug, Device and Cosmetic Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Jeffrey Runge, Philadelphia, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
DRUG, DEVICE AND COSMETIC BOARD

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Betsy Phillips, 3607 North Fourth Street, Harrisburg 17110, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Drug, Device and Cosmetic Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Pamela Higgins, Harrisburg, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
DRUG, DEVICE AND COSMETIC BOARD

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Drug, Device and Cosmetic Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the succes-

sor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice John Keegan, Hazleton, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
DRUG, DEVICE AND COSMETIC BOARD

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Mary K. Topper, Esquire, 232 Syl-
vania Avenue, Glenside 19038, Montgomery County, Fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Drug, Device and Cosmetic Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Richard Grimaldi, Connellsville, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
DRUG, DEVICE AND COSMETIC BOARD

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Drug, Device and Cosmetic Board, to serve [data missing] a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Joan Tarloff, Collegeville, deceased.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Education, to serve until October 1, 2024, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Nicole Carnicella, Bellefonte, whose term expired and whose last day was April 23, 2021.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Rebecca Dombrowsky, 6466 Heatherfield Way, Harrisburg 17112, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Education, to serve until October 1, 2022, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Kirk Hallett, Camp Hill, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Moriah Hathaway, 112 Juniata Hall, Middletown 17109, Dauphin County, Forty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Education, to serve until October 1, 2024, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice James Barker, McKean, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Betsy Phillips, 3607 North Fourth Street, Harrisburg 17110, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Education, to serve until October 1, 2025, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Colleen Sheehan, Wayne, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Education, to serve until October 1, 2025, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Craig Snider, Bryn Mawr, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of

Education, to serve until October 1, 2025, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Jay Badams, Erie, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Rebecca Dombrowsky, 6466 Heatherfield Way, Harrisburg 17112, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority, to serve until April 8, 2022, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Robert Sanders, Philadelphia, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING BOARD

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Environmental Hearing Board, to serve for a term of six years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Richard P. Mather, Harrisburg, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr. (District 8), 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Brian Hoover, Glenolden, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF HAMBURG CENTER

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115

Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Hamburg Center, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Nancy Ann Houser, Bernville, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE HEALTH POLICY BOARD

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Rebecca Dombrowsky, 6466 Heatherfield Way, Harrisburg 17112, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Health Policy Board, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice C. Michael Blackwood, Mars, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HIGHER
EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AGENCY

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, to serve until June 30, 2025, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice the Honorable Roy Reinard, III, New Hope, whose term expired and whose last day was April 23, 2021.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF
THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Moriah Hathaway, 112 Juniata Hall, Middletown 17109, Dauphin County, Forty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education, to serve until December 31, 2024, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Donald Houser, Jr., Coraopolis, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF
THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education, to serve until December 31, 2022, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice B. Michael Schaul, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL
AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Rebecca Dombrowsky, 6466 Heatherfield Way, Harrisburg 17112, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, to serve until January 17, 2023, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice David Schuyler, Lancaster, deceased.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Rebecca Dombrowsky, 6466 Heatherfield Way, Harrisburg 17112, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, to serve for a term of five years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Kathleen Dormer-Carusone, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Moriah Hathaway, 112 Juniata Hall, Middletown 17109, Dauphin County, Forty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Human Relations

Commission, to serve for a term of five years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Gerald Robinson, Lancaster, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE INDUSTRIAL BOARD

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Rebecca Dombrowsky, 6466 Heatherfield Way, Harrisburg 17112, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Industrial Board, to serve until January 17, 2023, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Bony Dawood, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority, to serve until July 24, 2023, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice B. Michael Schaul, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

February 8, 2022

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority, to serve until July 24, 2026, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Janis Herschkowitz, Hummelstown, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

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:

February 7, 2022

Senators DUSH and MASTRIANO presented to the Chair **SB 1044**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in emergency management services, providing for emergency response payment.

Which was committed to the Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, February 7, 2022.

February 8, 2022

Senators BROOKS, COLLETT, STEFANO, MENSCH, DUSH, CAPPELLETTI, J. WARD, MUTH, L. WILLIAMS and HUTCHINSON presented to the Chair **SB 1057**, 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 Health and its departmental administrative and advisory boards, providing for administration of COVID-19 antigen tests.

Which was committed to the Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, February 8, 2022.

RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

February 7, 2022

Senators SANTARSIERO, KEARNEY, HUGHES, MUTH, CAPPELLETTI, KANE, COMITTA, STREET and COSTA presented to the Chair **SR 89**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing February 15, 2022, as "Love is Love Day" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, February 7, 2022.

Senators SCAVELLO, BROWNE, FONTANA, BARTOLOTTA, COSTA, MENSCH and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SR 221**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the week of February 13 through 19, 2022, as "National Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda Week" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, February 7, 2022.

Senators MARTIN, BROWNE, AUMENT, VOGEL, PHILLIPS-HILL, FONTANA, HUGHES, ROBINSON, BARTOLOTTA, LAUGHLIN, LANGERHOLC, COMITTA, SCAVELLO, J. WARD, SCHWANK, PITTMAN, HUTCHINSON, MENSCH, STEFANO and COSTA presented to the Chair **SR 222**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing February 15, 2022, as "International Childhood Cancer Day" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, February 7, 2022.

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

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

February 7, 2022

HB 19 -- Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

HB 1867 -- Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness.

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

REPORT ON ANNUAL FINANCING STRATEGY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-23

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

February 8, 2022

To the General Assembly
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: DCED ANNUAL FINANCING STRATEGY

Below you will find the link for the DCED Annual Financing Strategy for FY2021-22 [sic]. Pennsylvania Act 12 of 2004 requires the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to annually develop a report containing a financing strategy for economic development. The file is too large to be submitted by email.

The "DCED Annual Financing Strategy FY2022-23" is available at:

<https://dced.pa.gov/download/dced-annual-financing-strategy-fy2022-23/?wpdmdl=113432>

Please let me know if you have any questions.
Have a wonderful day.

Leigh Walter, Director
DCED Legislative Affairs

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

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

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

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

The PRESIDENT. Senator Kim Ward requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator DiSanto.

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

JOINT SESSION

Senator K. WARD offered the following resolution, which was read as follows:

In the Senate, February 8, 2022

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate and House of Representatives meet in Joint Session today, February 8, 2022, at 11:30 AM, in the Hall of the House of Representatives for the purpose of hearing an address by His Excellency, Governor Tom Wolf; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a committee of three, on the part of the Senate, be appointed to act with a similar committee, on the part of the House of Representatives, to escort His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to the Hall of the House of Representatives.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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.

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

GUESTS OF SENATOR SCOTT F. MARTIN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Glen Lapp, who co-owns the Smoketown restaurant Good 'N Plenty with his sister, Judy Eisenberger. Glen is joined today with his son, Seth. For the past 52 years, the local business, Good 'N Plenty, has been serving our community and the many people who visit Lancaster County. The restaurant began in 1969 as a traditional Pennsylvania Dutch restaurant that served all-you-can-eat, family-style meals and expanded in 1971 to include a dining room with a capacity of nearly 600. The Lapp family became the sole owners of the business in 1981, and in 1995 their

children, Glen Lapp and Judy Eisenberger, took over operation of the business.

In addition to two dining rooms, the 10-acre property on which Good 'N Plenty sat includes a bake shop, gift shop, playground, and petting zoo. Good 'N Plenty developed a strong reputation for the highest quality of service throughout its history, and its dedication to providing for its customers and offering quality Pennsylvania Dutch cuisine and experiences is to be admired. Unfortunately, Good 'N Plenty closed its doors late last year after deciding that it was time to move onto other ventures. It was a staple of our community and has left a hole that will be hard to fill. Please join me in welcoming the Lapp family to the Pennsylvania Senate. Thank you.

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

(Applause.)

GUEST 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, Pastor Brandon Grady with Black Rock Church of the Brethren in Glennville. At Black Rock Church you come as you are, experience God's love, and go out like Christ. Pastor Grady finds the pastoral calling the greatest honor this side of Heaven. He says it enhances his spiritual gift to be able to form connections with varied people in various situations. Pastor Grady, thank you so much for your thoughtful prayer today. Would my colleagues please join me in a warm Senate welcome for our guest Chaplain, Pastor Brandon Grady.

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

(Applause.)

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO ESCORT THE GOVERNOR TO THE HALL OF THE HOUSE

The PRESIDENT. The time has come in our order of business to assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives for a Joint Session.

The President pro tempore has appointed the following Senators to act as a committee on the part of the Senate to escort the Governor to the Joint Session: the gentleman from Luzerne County, Senator Yudichak, Chair; the gentleman from Allegheny County, Senator Robinson; and the gentlewoman from Montgomery County, Senator Cappelletti. The committee will leave immediately to discharge its duties.

SENATE PROCEEDS TO HOUSE TO HEAR GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

The PRESIDENT. The Members of the Senate will please form a line in the center aisle immediately behind the Sergeant-at-Arms in order that we may proceed to the Joint Session.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair now declares a recess of the Senate.

AFTER RECESS

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Haywood.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Haywood. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

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 appreciate the opportunity. Ladies and gentlemen, fellow colleagues, and friends, it is my pleasure today to introduce a number of folks who are here today, many of whom you have already met and know from the University of Pittsburgh. They are here today in celebration of the 2021 ACC championship Panthers football team, and today we are blessed to be joined by Coach Pat Narduzzi as well as Deputy Athletic Director Christian Spears, Associate Athletic Director Chris LaSala, Vice Chancellor for Community and Governmental Relations Paul Supowitz, and Director of Commonwealth Relations Charlie McLaughlin, the latter two whom we all know very well from their advocacy here for many years, and I want to say thank you. We are here today, as I mentioned, to celebrate the tremendous success of not only the University of Pittsburgh football team this past year, but the great work that the university--in a broader sense, the athletic department--has been doing, particularly with our student athletes, who we will learn a little bit about in a moment.

Our Pitt Panthers had an 11-3 season in 2021, defeating Wake Forest in the conference championship this past December, the first ACC championship in football. The team was ranked number 12 in the final college football poll rankings and number 13 in both the final AP as well as *USA Today* American Football Coaches Association Poll. As many of you know, the team was led by a tremendous quarterback this past season, and the victories were led by quarterback Kenny Pickett. Kenny Pickett, who we expect, in a matter of months will likely be one of the top dozen or so players drafted in the NFL in a couple of weeks. He was a Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award winner and had a tremendous season, as I mentioned, and was Second Team All-American. But he also had a number of other folks who were on that team who were outstanding athletes as well. Jordan Addison, wide receiver, the Biletnikoff Award winner, which is a pretty prestigious award. In fact, the last Pitt player to win that was Larry Fitzgerald, and we all know about the tremendous season he has had in Arizona working with the Arizona Cardinals. But, also, there are a number of other folks who made All-American

honors as well and, as a whole, the team members are here today, and they should be recognized and commended for the continuing commitment to excellence that has brought great credit, certainly, to themselves, but also to the university and our community in Pittsburgh.

Now, I will later be presenting a Citation to Coach Narduzzi and the folks from Pitt here today, but I want to talk a little bit about some of the other successes that they have had. Not necessarily on the field, but in the classroom. When you look back and see what has taken place for the past couple of years, Pitt has had outstanding success with regard to the number of student athletes who become what I will call academic All-Americans. Just recently I printed out one thing that says the Pitt soccer program had eight people selected to the All-ACC Academic Team. The women's volleyball team had five individuals recognized to the All-Academic Team; the football team, I think since Narduzzi's tenure there, each year has had four or five players who have been deemed to be academic All-Americans in the ACC which, as we know, has a very high standard.

Mr. President, Pitt has been aggressive and innovative within existing rules and implementing programs that directly support the academic and health needs of student athletes, and they foster that comprehensive excellence; 98 percent career outcome rate for graduating student athletes for the class of 2020, 100 percent career outcomes for the graduating students and student athletes in the class of 2019; and similarly in 2018, 100 percent of the graduating student athletes graduated. At the conclusion of the 2021 season, more than 3,282 community hours were served by individuals at the University of Pittsburgh, and 100 percent of the student athletes participated in the minimum number of hours of community service in fiscal year 2021. In the academic year 2021, Pitt honored 318 student athletes who earned a team GPA of 3.0 or greater, including 42 who achieved a 4.0 GPA. A school-record 316 student athletes were named, as I mentioned, to the All-ACC Academic Honor Roll for a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better; 39 Pitt student athletes were added to the prestigious All-ACC Academic Team for the 2021 academic year. The reason I make these points, Mr. President, while we are happy today to celebrate the success of the football team, I thought it would be important for my colleagues to recognize the tremendous work that the university does through their athletic program under the leadership of Heather Lyke, and, particularly, the football program with Coach Narduzzi to ensure that the students have a quality experience, a comprehensive experience, not just football on Saturday afternoons or Saturday evenings, but rather an academic experience in the classroom that is unparalleled and better than most other schools across this country. So I am very honored today to have Coach Narduzzi here with this beautiful championship trophy and ask if Coach Narduzzi will provide us with a few remarks at the middle podium. Coach?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair invites Coach Narduzzi up to the rostrum to give his remarks.

Coach NARDUZZI. Thank you so much. It is an honor and a pleasure to be here today. Kind of shocked by Senator Costa asking me to come up and speak today, so I really do not know what to say, but I will start by thanking you. Okay, this is your game day here, this is your practice facility, this is where you guys get a lot of work done. So it is always exciting to come to somebody else's field and see how you guys do business. It is impressive. I met a lot of impressive people today and, again,

thank you for all you do, not only for the State of Pennsylvania, but for the University of Pittsburgh; we appreciate it. Someone asked me a question, I had really one question today that I was kind of like, that was a great question--I forget who it was, I met so many people today--but he said, how did you get where you are today? It is kind of like, you know, it is a process, but I just finished our seventh season. Talk about lucky number 7, winning the championship, year number 7, but it is not easy to get there. When I first arrived back in 2015 as head football coach, Chancellor Gallagher, who is outstanding--he is the guy who hired me, just love him to death--he asked, hey, what do you need? I said, we need everybody going in the same direction, okay? I know we have Democrats on this side and Republicans on this side, and I am sitting here thinking about the whole picture here, but at the University of Pittsburgh, me, the Chancellor, and the athletic director, we all have to be going in the same direction. Our coaching staff, our players, we all have to be going the same direction. So the difference this year in the culture we built at the University of Pittsburgh is one of team. When we talk about, at the university, team Pitt, but when you have 120 players and 55 support people in your building all trying to win that championship there, we all have to be going in the same direction. So our kids played as a team. We did it together. It was not one guy, it was not just Kenny Pickett, because if the offensive line does not block, Kenny is going to get sacked and he will throw for no yards and we will lose. So it really comes down to teamwork and getting it done. That is what I am proud about, how our kids stuck together and played together to win a championship. So thanks for having me today, and hail to Pitt.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will go at ease.

(The Senate was at ease.)

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 purposes of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Labor and Industry to be held in Room 461, followed by a Republican caucus.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Labor and Industry to be followed by Republican and Democratic caucuses, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Corman, and legislative leaves for Senator DiSanto, Senator Langerholc, and Senator Martin.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Hughes.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Gordner requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Corman, and legislative leaves for Senator DiSanto, Senator Langerholc, and Senator Martin.

Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Hughes.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

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

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 137 (Pr. No. 110) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in budget and finance, establishing the Drug Recognition Expert Training Fund.

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

SB 137 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 137, Printer's No. 110, 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 221, HB 245, SB 322, SB 457 and SB 573 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 598 (Pr. No. 567) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of February 2, 1966 (1965 P.L.1860, No.586), entitled "An act encouraging landowners to make land and water areas available to the public for recreational purposes by limiting liability in connection therewith, and repealing certain acts," further providing for definitions; and providing for recreational user's claim for property rights and for the substitution of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a party in litigation.

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 676, SB 703, SB 704, HB 723, SB 745, SB 775 and SB 846 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 862 (Pr. No. 1062) -- 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 primary and election expenses, further providing for residual funds.

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

SB 862 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 862, Printer's No. 1062, 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 866 (Pr. No. 1066) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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 present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 889 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 891 (Pr. No. 1143) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

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 present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 934, SB 935, SB 967, SB 992, HB 995, HB 996, HB 1224, HB 1560, HB 1660, HB 1823, HB 1849 and HB 2051 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 118 and SB 152 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 200 (Pr. No. 1276) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 225 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

HB 232 (Pr. No. 2715) -- 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 school districts, further providing for how constituted.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 284 (Pr. No. 904) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 27 (Environmental Resources) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in environmental protection, providing for bonding for alternative energy production projects; and, in special programs, providing for solar forced labor prevention.

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

SB 284 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 284, Printer's No. 904, 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 471, SB 527, SB 597, SB 815, SB 892, HB 951, SB 956, SB 965, SB 977 and HB 987 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 991 (Pr. No. 1301) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 11 (Cities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for preliminary provisions and providing for city classification.

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 1016 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 1020 (Pr. No. 1322) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act authorizing the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, with the approval of the Governor, to grant and convey to Kyle A. and Tamara J. Boltz certain lands situate in Union Township, Lebanon County, in exchange for Kyle A. and Tamara J. Boltz's granting and conveying certain lands to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, to be added to those existing lands at Swatara State Park.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 1027 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 1028 (Pr. No. 1374) -- 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, providing for Purple Star School Program.

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

SB 1030 (Pr. No. 1337) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for suspension of the Pennsylvania Heavy-Duty Diesel Emissions Control Program and for expiration of suspension.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 1031 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 1043 (Pr. No. 1366) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 3, 1978 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Steel Products Procurement Act, further providing for payments under contracts by requiring centralized portal for electronic submission of documentation.

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

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

SB 1047 (Pr. No. 1375) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in State Armory Board, repealing provisions relating to composition and general functions, providing for definitions and for composition and general functions, further providing for erection of armories and for management of armories, providing for management of buildings and structures at Fort Indiantown Gap, further providing for purchase or lease of ground for armories, for donation of land by political subdivisions, for donation of property and services by political sub-

divisions, for sale of unusable armories and land and sale or lease of timber and mineral rights, for payment of armory rentals by Commonwealth and for rental of armories, providing for rental and lease at Fort Indiantown Gap and further providing for property in armories of units in Federal service, for State Treasury Armory Fund and for maintenance, construction and repairs.

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 1051, SB 1053, HB 1096, HB 1248, HB 1312, HB 1500, HB 1737 and HB 1801 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator GORDNER.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

HB 2143 (Pr. No. 2536) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in county correctional institutions, further providing for establishment.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

Senator BARTOLOTTA, from the Committee on Labor and Industry, reported the following bills:

SB 569 (Pr. No. 606)

An Act providing for guidelines and procedures governing certain investigations and interrogations of correctional and forensic employees; authorizing certain civil suits by correctional officers; and providing for impact of collective bargaining agreements and for summary suspensions.

SB 993 (Pr. No. 1287)

An Act amending the act of December 5, 1936 (2nd Sp.Sess., 1937 P.L.2897, No.1), known as the Unemployment Compensation Law, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions.

HB 129 (Pr. No. 2718) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of December 5, 1936 (2nd Sp.Sess., 1937 P.L.2897, No.1), known as the Unemployment Compensation Law, in determination of compensation, appeals, reviews and procedure, further providing for rules of procedure and for place of hearing.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator BARTOLOTTA. 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 569, SB 993 and HB 129.

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, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

10:30 A.M.	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (to consider Senate Bill No. 1057)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
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 Bedford
Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider House Bill No. 232)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	FINANCE (to consider Senate Bills No. 230 and 622; and House Bill No. 2058)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
Off the Floor	JUDICIARY (to consider Senate Bill No. 845; and House Bills No. 1003 and 1665)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider Senate Bill No. 739; and certain Executive Nominations)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to consider House Resolution No. 173)	Room 461 Main Capitol

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022

1:00 P.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (public hearing on bipartisan election reform)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off. (LIVE STREAMED)
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PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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 not only does today mark 5,693 days since the Commonwealth's legislature last raised our embarrassingly low minimum wage, but it also is the day of the Governor's last budget address. Mr. President, I have been here for my fair share of governors, but under Governor Wolf, I am more optimistic for the future of our Commonwealth than I have ever been. Our Governor has taken countless actions, with and without the legislature, to strengthen and grow Pennsylvania's workforce, and one thing that Governor Wolf has called for countless times is raising the minimum wage, just like he did for all Commonwealth employees, contractors, and recipients of grants.

But as time has passed, our legislature has failed to rise to the standard the Governor has set and pass meaningful minimum wage legislation. Just like Governor Wolf has raised the minimum wage for Commonwealth employees, to begin the new year, 56 cities, counties, or States raised the minimum wage, with many of those reaching or exceeding \$15 an hour. In addition to those 56 areas that raised the minimum wage in the new year, at least 26 more jurisdictions are set to raise their minimum wage during 2022, and, hopefully, we can add Pennsylvania to that list and finally provide the relief our lowest earners so rightfully deserve.

Mr. President, by the end of 2022, 49 jurisdictions (2 States and 47 cities or counties) will meet or exceed a \$15 minimum wage. Opponents of raising the minimum wage will argue that raising the minimum wage will cost jobs and increase poverty, but time after time and study after study show, including one published by Nobel Prize-winning economist David Card, Mr. President, that it is beneficial to both employees and the economy to raise the minimum wage. Rising wages provide workers with more discretionary money to spend on the things they want, which boosts the local economy and lowers the cost of government services.

That is why I introduced legislation that currently sits in our Chamber's Committee on Labor and Industry. Because I not only see the damage caused by our embarrassingly low minimum wage, but I also understand the immeasurable good we will create by increasing our Commonwealth's minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Let us pass Senate Bill No. 12 once and for all and ensure that all Pennsylvanians earn a dignified wage, not the poverty level wage we currently allow.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Franklin, Senator MASTRIANO.

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the 31st anniversary of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Thirty-one years ago this month, the ground war began. In particular, I am focusing on Pennsylvania's contribution to Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. On August 2, 1990, the Iraqi army invaded Kuwait. President George Herbert Walker Bush responded to the invasion by deploying nearly 700,000 of our men and women to the region, backed by a quarter million allied and coalition military personnel. The first half of the deployment was called Operation Desert Shield, focused on the defense of Saudi Arabia. Then, Operation Desert Storm encompassed the offensive operations to liberate Kuwait. That began on January 17, 1991, with an air campaign to reduce the capacity of the Iraqi forces occupying Kuwait.

The ground attack began on 23 February 1991 with my own regiment, the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, leading the attack into Iraq. Our objective was Saddam Hussein's elite Guards. Many of our American armored units deployed out of Germany, where we served during the Cold War ready to defeat the Soviet Socialist empire that had just recently collapsed. My unit, the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, deployed out of Germany and arrived in Saudi Arabia in December 1990. The ground war for

us began at 1 p.m. on February 23. There were several obstacles we faced, of course. The fear of Iraqi chemical weapons; the Iraqis had used chemical weapons against their own people, the Kurds, as well as against the Iranians, in an 8-year war that ended in 1988. We assessed that we would lose 10 percent of our soldiers in the event of an Iraqi chemical attack, the chemical weapons were present at that time; they did exist. The thing benefitting the use of Iraqi chemical weapons was the direction of the wind, which blew from Iraq into Saudi Arabia. Something interesting happened as we engaged the targets in front of us on the Iraqi border and entered Iraq, the winds miraculously shifted from blowing in our faces to our backs, and it stayed that way until the minute the ceasefire went to effect on February 20 at 0800. Absolutely, a miracle by God, and we were blessed by that, and clearly an answer to many of our prayers from across the State.

The ground offensive kicked off the next day and resulted in the complete liberation of Kuwait by 28 February 1991. It was an incredible fight where the heroism of American men and women was at the forefront. Those who remember one of the biggest tank battles of the last century, the Battle of 73 Easting. In that engagement, of course, we faced several armored divisions, including the Iraqi Tawakalna Mechanized Division, who were waiting for us. As a tank battle began a shamal, a sandstorm, suddenly appeared and blinded our enemy and enabled us to break through, although being outnumbered 3 to 1. I was blessed by having a Pennsylvania flag sent to me to fly on our vehicles during the war by Senator Robbins out of Mercer County, and I flew that proudly. He ended up mailing that to me when I complained to my wife that I only saw Southern flags on the tanks during the war. So, we had a Yankee flag represented there during the war, which was fantastic. I still have that flag with me and, obviously, I treasure it.

Operation Desert Storm was a stunning display of military operational planning based upon years of study to not repeat the errors made during the Vietnam War. Sadly, those same lessons we forgot, it seems, in 2003, in Iraq part two as well as in Afghanistan 2001. More importantly, it is the single most important unification point for the American people since Vietnam. We often forget how divided and broken our spirit was in the aftermath of the Vietnam War. The people of our State and nation were united in their support of our military personnel. This included a spontaneous prayer movement around the nation where people said "pray for our troops" and put yellow ribbons on the trees and generously sent care packages to us in Saudi Arabia when we were pre-positioned to move forward to engage the Iraqi forces. This was a unique time for our nation, and the unity was incredible. My squadron, the 4th Squad and 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, had 24 churches across Pennsylvania praying specifically for our protection. Those prayers were answered and all 500 men in my unit returned safely to their families. That was a miracle, because we did lose several of our helicopters during the operations and our people in every case walked away from it.

In one case I remember, around 5 o'clock in the morning, one of our Cobra attack helicopters took off for a mission fully loaded. I heard its engine stall and it crashed to the ground, exploded, missiles and rounds were popping off, and there was no way--although I was praying for the two men in that helicopter--they could survive, but they both walked away from it; and I asked one of them, how did you get out of that? He says, I have

no idea, one minute I am crashing, the next minute I am standing outside my helicopter and it is exploding and I came to my senses and ran. Clearly, a miracle and a blessing and an answer to so many prayers.

The effort to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial in Washington, D.C. was started about a decade ago and will soon finally come to fruition. The memorial will be located in the shadows of the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This location on the National Mall will ensure that millions from around the world will learn about this historic event and its lasting legacy, especially honoring those who served and sacrificed, for those who gave the last full measure of devotion. But the cost to liberate Kuwait was high for Pennsylvania, and we honor the sacrifice of all Pennsylvanians who fought the good fight for freedom and put their lives on the line. Pennsylvania sent thousands of its sons and daughters to serve in Operation Desert Storm and suffered the highest loss of life in a single attack when an Iraqi Scud missile exploded in Saudi Arabia in Dhahran, killing 13 of our soldiers and wounding 43, all members from the Greensburg-based 14th Quartermaster Detachment. It is for these heroes that this resolution is given.

May we never forget those who served during Operation Desert Storm and, especially, let us pause and remember those from Pennsylvania who paid the last full measure of devotion in the cause for freedom. As to the single greatest loss to Pennsylvania that occurred on 25 February 1991; the unit was hit by an Iraqi Al Hussein Scud ballistic missile and, as I mentioned, exploded in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. This Greensburg, Pennsylvania-based 14th Quartermaster Detachment suffered 81 percent casualties. The 14th Quartermaster Detachment, in its loss, was 13 soldiers and 43 wounded; absolutely horrific. These great men and women of Pennsylvania gave their all in defense of liberty and freedom, and we cannot forget their sacrifice.

In that vein, I am going to read each name. The first list is those who lost their lives in combat-related operations. The first is: Mark Alan Connelly, United States Army from Lancaster, losing his life on the last day of the war, February 28; Anthony Erik Madison, United States Army from Monessen; James Frank Walls, United States Army from Hawthorn; Eric James Waldron, United States Marine Corps from Jeannette; Vincent Richard Wolverson, United States Army from Latrobe; Thomas John Boxler, United States Army from Johnstown; Brent Alan Craver, United States Army from Penn Hills; Steven Eric Atherton, United States Army from Templeton; August John Boliver, Jr., United States Army from Monongahela; Julius Stephen Siko, United States Army from Youngstown; Writner Duane Hollen, Jr., United States Army from Bellwood; Christine Lynn Mayes, United States Army from Rochester Mills; Sue Beverly Clark, United States Army from Armagh; Joseph Phillip Bongiorno III, United States Army from Hickory; Scott Frank Keough, United States Army from Huntingdon.

The next lists are non-combat related deaths: Daniel Lupatsky, United States Navy from Centralia; Clayton Daniel McKinsey, United States Navy from my district, Hanover; John Jeffrey Bnosky, United States Army from Tamaqua; Michael Edward Codispodo, United States Marine Corps from Philadelphia; Jeffrey William Speicher, United States Army from Camp Hill; Corzere Monray Carrington, United States Navy from North Braddock; Howard John Gillespie, United States Army

from Philadelphia; Joseph Thomas Moran, United States Marine Corps from Cornwell Heights; Arthur Fredrick Reid, United States Air Force from right here in Harrisburg; Michael Craig Wallington, United States Army from Gibsonia; Sean Michael Smith, United States Army from Erie; Carl William Brace, United States Army from Bath; Dennis Michael Cooke, United States Marine Corps from Montgomery; Thomas Donald Murphy, Jr., United States Army from Munhall. May we never forget their sacrifice.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator BROWNE. Mr. President, I rise today to offer some comments, reflections, and observations on the events of today, and that is Governor Wolf's proposal of his fiscal year 2022-23 General Fund and Associated Fund budget request. In doing that, I first wanted to acknowledge the Governor, his staff, Budget Secretary Greg Thall, for their and their team's hard work during the last several months in pulling this proposal together. Any time you are putting together an \$80 billion budget proposal with many departments and agencies and different initiatives, there is a lot of work, and they definitely deserve acknowledgment for the commitment and the efforts they put in on behalf of the citizens of this Commonwealth.

Mr. President, I think it is fair to say that in public financial management or fiscal affairs that conditions that affect it often repeat themselves, because the things that affect our budgeting, our economic conditions, run in cycles. I think it is also fair to say that the experiences of managing those fiscal affairs, we might want them to repeat themselves, depending on how they went. As we begin to consider Governor Wolf's budget proposal and work this spring to finalize the fiscal year 2022-23 spending plan, I believe it is imperative that we reflect on those past experiences. We find ourselves today in a similar situation--those who were in service at that time--to the one we were in at the end of the Great Recession in 2011. Like today, our Federal partners provided stimulus funding to help the Commonwealth weather the storm of the Great Recession, the greatest economic downturn since the 1920s and 1930s. Like today, that was short-term funding to provide financial stabilization when our coffers were not generating the necessary revenue to provide the services and programs that were necessary, and continue to be necessary, to serve our common citizens. Like today, we had the difficult decision of whether to use remaining Federal stimulus funding for one-time allocations for needs in the neighborhoods of Pennsylvania, or appropriate it in the event that our revenues failed to meet our expenditures--a so-called fiscal imbalance, structural imbalance--to ensure our financial position was stable when the financial assistance had run out at the end of the stimulus period. Unfortunately, because the financial footing at the end of the Great Recession did not recover in the timeline the predictions had foresaw, was not solid enough, the Commonwealth faced more than a decade of budget deficits that hamstrung our ability to fund programs and services. Many sacrifices were made in many agency budgets and programs in order to pass balanced spending plans. Fortunately, thanks to the sound fiscal management led by this Chamber on a bipartisan basis, we were able to weather the storm of budget deficits.

Entering 2020, Commonwealth revenues were finally outperforming estimates and keeping pace with our expenditures. Our

fiscal outlook had not been this clear in more than a decade because of the solid fiscal management working together in this Chamber. Then, as we all know, our whole world was shaken as the worst pandemic in our State's history halted that progress. Now, we have been fortunate that despite the early challenges of the pandemic, our economic performance has been remarkably strong thanks to our family-owned businesses and citizens who have, notwithstanding the pandemic, continued to work through the challenges to produce goods and services to work through the pandemic. That is the primary reason why we have seen the performance that we have. It is easy and understandable to look favorably at the current financial position we find ourselves in. Receipts are coming in at higher than projected numbers, and our budgets have started to produce revenue surpluses. It is equally unquestionable that these favorable revenue numbers lead to a desire to use the rest of the Federal funding to support one-time appropriations. However, this is in the language and the intent of the Federal Act that has provided us the basis for Federal stimulus that is within our financial position now. It is important to reflect on the decisions that were made the last time we were in this situation, and remember the financial challenges the Commonwealth faced following the Great Recession and the predicament that followed. While this year's revenues continue to outpace estimates, which is good for short-term spending, the long-term financial picture for the Commonwealth remains uncertain. If we do not approach these fiscal uncertainties with caution and fiscal restraint, once the Federal funding is no longer available to us--once it must all be appropriated by the end of 2024--our projections indicate that we will face budget deficits for the succeeding year. These deficits are also contained and projected by the Independent Fiscal Office as part of their reports to us.

Now, respectfully, given the current precarious financial position of the Commonwealth, the spending proposal by Governor Wolf, we believe, based on historical trends and reasonable projections, is not sustainable and unrealistic. While the revenue and expenditures projected in the Governor's budget show a \$1.6 billion surplus at the end of the 2026-27 period, show a surplus at the end of the stimulus period, which is how this needs to be judged; it is oftentimes that we evaluate a spending proposal on a one-year basis. This year we cannot do that because we have Federal stimulus money that is propping up our financial position, and how well we manage that over the next several years will determine how strong these proposals are. At the end of the stimulus period with projected deficits without these dollars, are we achieving fiscal balance at the end of the stimulus period? The Governor's proposal, what he is presenting to us, shows that it is. The end of stimulus period 2024-25 is showing a \$35 million surplus, that is what he is presenting to us. However, adjusting the predictions of revenue for revenue and spending levels to more traditional rates of growth, we predict a vastly different financial picture. Based on the growth rates that are in line with those used by the Independent Fiscal Office, the Commonwealth will likely see, with the Governor's spending proposals, a negative balance in its General Fund of over \$1 billion next year, \$5.2 billion negative balance at the end of a stimulus period. If we try--and given the importance of the programs we appropriate to, and we have joined the Governor appropriating for human services and education--given the scale of his proposals, if we try to sustain them, a \$13 billion negative balance at the end of 2026-27

if all of these spending proposals become law. This is a \$15 billion difference in the financial outlook between our two viewpoints.

The Governor's predictions on revenue are far above what we have experienced in the past. He is predicting a 5.2 percent rate of growth several years from now--we have not seen that for years--our other revenue estimators have not predicted that. His rate of spending growth for this budget cycle is 16.6 percent, where the average over the next several years, he is predicting, is about 1 percent. This is not a level that has been sustained through the last several years, because just our mandated obligations to human services, before we talk about anything else, outstripped that spending level. In working with Governor Wolf over the last 7 years, that rate of spending growth is not something that he initially would be willing to agree to. Yet he is predicting that as a spending rate of growth after his term, into the next governor's term. This is the premise on which we believe that his proposal, fundamentally, is out of balance. Given these projections, if his proposal is enacted, it is likely, especially something that sees \$13 billion given the sacrifices that would need to be made, the challenges that would present, the damage it would do to systems, it would require our consideration. We got through some of the most challenging times in State history, the period of 2009 through 2020, without considering this, looking within ourselves, finding savings, finding efficiencies. Given what the Governor is presenting to us, it would require a consideration, a \$13 billion deficit, of a large tax increase to Pennsylvanians and our job creators to meet this level of spending in the wake of the most serious challenges, the challenges of the pandemic, that they had to experience. As is often the case, if we fail to learn from our past experiences, we are likely to repeat them.

Mr. President, I think it is fair to claim that any governor's legacy will not only include the initiatives and the priorities that are contained in the budget, but will include what financial condition he or she will leave State government after their tenure is over. What condition an administration has passed on to the next administration to serve the citizens of this Commonwealth. During his tenure, and we all recall this, Governor Wolf has often stated that fiscal stewardship, fiscal balance, and fiscal responsibility are important to him. That has been something he has stated as one of his priorities, and we have worked with him through some challenging times to try to sustain that position. Well, we will and we always have, as part of our appropriations hearings through negotiations, take seriously and give fair consideration to the initiatives he has put in front of us. We call on him to work with us to advance a spending plan through this budgeting cycle that is based on realistic, responsible, and predictable assumptions. It is only this way that his initiatives have been adopted and whatever amount we agree to would ever be sustainable in future years. It is only this way to secure the future financial position of our Commonwealth to properly serve the families of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, for the people of Pennsylvania, I just want to be clear. The sky is not falling. The economics of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are strong; the budget dollars are secure; our finances are secure. It is within that security that allows Governor Wolf, who has stewarded Pennsylvania's finances to this moment, for the last 8 years, to propose in his budget address today the largest increase in education funding in the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He has done that because, in spite of all the work that we have done over the last 8 years under his leadership, Pennsylvania still lags dramatically with respect to how it inadequately funds public education and, unfortunately, how public education is funded still in a discriminatory fashion.

Let me go back to the first point, on the issue of whether our finances are secure or not. We are pursuing on the path, by June 30 of this year, to have a budget surplus of about \$6 billion. The largest in the history of the Commonwealth. We have currently, as it exists right now, Mr. President, \$2.8 billion sitting in the Rainy Day Fund. Unspent, on hold, in case there is an economic crisis. So we currently have \$2.8 billion sitting available to us in case there is an economic issue 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 years down the line. We have, Mr. President, \$2.25 billion of unspent American Rescue Plan funds. American Rescue Plan funds were provided to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania--thank you, President Biden; thank you, Vice President Harris; and the good folks in Washington D.C.--to assist us with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, as we speak, we have \$2.25 billion that are unspent. So, we are sitting on \$2.25 billion of unspent money, which needs to be spent; we are sitting on \$2.8 billion of Rainy Day Funds, which need to be held in case there is an economic downturn; and we have projected in front of us \$6 billion in surplus by the end of this year.

Now, Pennsylvania citizens, people who are watching Pennsylvania, the good stewardship of Governor Wolf and, in fact, the Senate and General Assembly and the House of Representatives, have put us in a position to be in a good financial situation. Full stop right there. Our economics and finances are secure. So secure, Mr. President, that Governor Wolf, in his budget proposal today, was in the position of making a decision. We can hold and do nothing, in spite of the fact that we have an overflow of dollars available to make good investments in the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We can hold, and do nothing, or we can make the investments necessary to keep the security and to propel Pennsylvania forward. He chose the latter. Propel Pennsylvania forward. How is he choosing to propel Pennsylvania forward? Real simple; it is not complicated. He is proposing to us to invest almost \$2 billion in our basic education system from kindergarten to the senior year in high school. Why is that necessary? Well, it is necessary, Mr. President, because, unfortunately, Pennsylvania still woefully and inadequately funds our K-12 students. Why is it necessary, Mr. President, that over \$1.2 billion of that money going to basic education will go through the fair funding formula? Because still we have schools that are funded based on their zip code, where they are located, and not on what their needs are.

Just this past week, Mr. President, we stood out in front of Plymouth Whitmarsh High School, one of the State's best high schools--fully-loaded high school, has everything that they need,

all that they could want, all of the resources necessary in that great high school; and I commend those students, families, teachers, and everybody who works in that high school for doing such an incredible job--but not 5 miles to the east there is a high school in the city of Philadelphia where students are being funded \$6,000 less per student. They do not have the resources, teachers, and or the class size appropriate to teach effectively. The books are old, the schools are falling apart, and that is an unacceptable reality that these students and this Commonwealth has been suffering under for far too long. Governor Wolf said in his budget proposal today that we cannot ignore this issue any longer. We must have a historic response, paid for by historic extra resources, to deal with a historic moment. It is our moral responsibility to make these investments, and we have the funds to do it. To do it and not harm the financial future of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania if, in fact, we make the right investments. That we invest in people like our healthcare infrastructure, our nurses, those who work in our hospitals, our home healthcare workers. If we invest in them, in our nursing homes, bus drivers, and frontline workers, if we provide them the resources and the support necessary, we are investing not just in them as individuals, we are investing in the whole Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, because it is the people who are this Commonwealth. These workers are our future. They are our Commonwealth. They are our State, no matter which county they come from, they are us, and we must invest in them. We have the resources to make that investment now.

This budget, Governor Wolf stood on the floor of the House of Representatives and offered up 5 percent increases for our colleges and universities, the opportunity to make college free and affordable for college students that go to our State system schools, invest in community colleges, make the smart and wise investment in the nation's oldest HBCU in the Keystone Honors Program. It is a lifeline for our students to attend college and to realize their dreams, because we surely need it. They need it as individuals, but we need it as a State, because it is the people who make up the State, and the resources are there to do it.

Let us not kid ourselves, it is Governor Wolf's proposal to once again raise the minimum wage, and here is the smart budgetary responsibility for raising the minimum wage. This is how it connects, because, aside from the embarrassment of being the State, the Keystone State, Mr. President, the nation's first, the foundation of our freedom, this State must deal with the fact--and the people of this State, because it is the people who make up this Commonwealth--the people of this State have to deal with the reality that the people in New York have a higher minimum wage. The people in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, and Ohio have a higher minimum wage--we are surrounded by States where they value their workers and their people more than we do here in Pennsylvania, because the majorities in the House and the Senate refuse to raise the minimum wage for our workers, our people. They look the other way, they turn their back on them. But what does that have to do with the budget? Well, it is simple. When you raise the minimum wage, you are also yielding about \$77 million in new tax resources for the bottom line here in Pennsylvania. A higher paid person makes a higher wage; they are then in a position to pay their fair share. It makes sense for them as individuals. It makes sense to the bottom line here in Pennsylvania. We cannot escape that. We need to invest in that.

Once again, let me assure you, and let me assure the people of Pennsylvania, that our finances are secure, both now and into the future. Do not ignore the fact that we sit on \$2.8 billion in the State's Rainy Day Fund. Do not ignore the fact that money prescribed for us, if we do it wisely, can be invested in the people of Pennsylvania--\$2.25 billion of American Rescue Plan Funds can be invested in the people of Pennsylvania--to grow the State of Pennsylvania, to secure the State of Pennsylvania, and to make Pennsylvania last into the long, bright future. We have \$6 billion dollars of anticipated extra resources. Thank you once again, President Biden and Vice President Harris.

So let me finish here, Mr. President. We thank Governor Wolf for seizing the moment, understanding that we have a historic opportunity, and with that historic opportunity, we must be in the position of making historic investments, not wasteful spending, but investments, historic investments, in the people of Pennsylvania: the people who teach our children; the people who drive them from home to school, the bus drivers; the people who provide the healthcare for all of us in Pennsylvania, including those who work on the floor of the Senate of Pennsylvania. We have a responsibility to make these investments, to invest in the innovators in Pennsylvania, which Governor Wolf's budget proposal talks about doing, I believe another \$18 million for the Ben Franklin Technology Fund. To make the investments that are credible, necessary, and that our people deserve to have. What would we say to the future? What would we say to the children of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania when they ask us: well, you did not make the investments in our schools and our classrooms, you did not remove the lead and asbestos from our schools and our classrooms, and you did not reduce the class sizes in our schools and our classrooms when there was not any money there, but you did not make those investments when there was money there. What do we say to them? What is that message? What is that answer we say to them when the money is sitting right there and we choose to look the other way? How do we look at them? How do we look at the mirror in front of our face and have some level of comfort?

I was talking to a number of my colleagues the other day on the other side of the aisle about the issue of housing and the crisis that exists with housing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. So many people looking or suffering because they cannot find quality or affordable housing, or the housing that they are in is in terrible condition, or they are being redlined out of getting mortgages because of the color of their skin--talking to them--and we have resources to address that. We can help them. I dare say, Mr. President, if you ask every colleague on the floor of this Chamber, or if you were to go over to the House of Representatives and ask every Member there--Democrat, Republican, urban, rural, suburban, no matter where they are from in all corners of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania--the most difficult problem that they have in their home communities that their district office constituent service providers are having to address is the issue of housing. We are presented with the moment because we have the resources to address that, and if we address it well and responsibly, we enhance the future not only of those individuals, but of this Commonwealth as a whole. We either meet the moment, or we shirk from our responsibilities. I am choosing to meet the moment, Mr. President, and not to shirk from our responsibilities of addressing the needs of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, because our finances are secure, we are in a robust

position, and we are charged to provide robust responses to the very dramatic problems that the people of Pennsylvania continue to suffer under. We will have shirked our moral obligation if we turn another cheek and say "no" when we have the ability to assist. Let us be intentional, as the pastor said earlier today when he was praying for us, praying with us. Let us be intentional. Let us get this job done. Let us not operate with fear, let us operate with innovation, ideas, and creativity to help the people who sent us to this Chamber to stand for them and to stand in the breach. Thank you.

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the Senate to **HB 1082**.

SENATE BILL RETURNED WITH AMENDMENTS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 739**, with the information the House has passed the same with amendments in which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The PRESIDENT. Pursuant to Senate Rule 13(c)(2)(i), the bill will be referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the President pro tempore has made the following appointment:

Ms. Diane Svec-George as a member of the Board of Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority.

BILL SIGNED

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

HB 1082.

RECESS

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

Senator BROWNE. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 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 4:08 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.