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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

SESSION OF 2022 206TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 13

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, April 6, 2022

The Senate met at 11 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend SARAH WEISIGER, of Trinity Presbyterian Church of Berwyn, Berwyn, offered the following prayer:

Thank you for the privilege.

Let us pray together.

Eternal God, we are grateful for this day. Great and wonderful are Your works, wondrous are Your ways. Thank You for the many-splendored variety of Your creation. Thank You for the many ways we affirm Your presence and purpose and for the freedom to do so. Forgive, O God, our violation of Your creation. Forgive our violence toward each other. We stand in awe and gratitude for Your persistent love for each and all of Your children--Christian, Jew, Muslim, as well as those of other faiths and those without faith. Grant to all, and our leaders, attributes of the strong, mutual respect in words and deed, restraint in the exercise of power, and the will for peace with justice for all. Remind us that our labor requires of us not only righteous behavior, but accountability, humility, patience, and forgiveness. May those who lead today in this State we call home, therefore, strive for the greater gifts in order that they might serve as examples through their conduct in this Session. Hear us, O Lord, we pray by the grace of that majestic name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Weisiger, who is the guest today of Senator Kearney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

April 6, 2022

Senators DUSH, KEARNEY, PHILLIPS-HILL, BROWNE, MARTIN, BARTOLOTTA, FONTANA, SCHWANK,

COLLETT, BROOKS, COMITTA, KANE, MUTH, BAKER, STREET, MENSCH, COSTA, PITTMAN, J. WARD, HUTCHINSON and STEFANO presented to the Chair **SR 260**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of April 10 through 16, 2022, as "Local Government Week" and April 13, 2022, as "Local Government Day" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, April 6, 2022.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator YAW, from the Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy, reported the following bill:

SB 1038 (Pr. No. 1359)

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

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

SB 959 (Pr. No. 1250)

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the executive, further providing for disaster emergency declaration and management.

SB 1018 (Pr. No. 1555) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration system, further providing for SURE system; in voter registration, further providing for approval of registration applications; in changes in records, further providing for death of registrant; in provisions contingent on Federal law, further providing for removal of electors; and making a related repeal.

SB 1122 (Pr. No. 1457)

An Act designating Hershey's Kisses as the official State candy of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

SB 1166 (Pr. No. 1508)

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing for redistricting by court.

HB 1614 (Pr. No. 2938) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, in ballots, further providing for number of ballots to be printed and specimen ballots.

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

SB 145 (Pr. No. 1554) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in size, weight and load, further providing for restrictions on use of highways and bridges.

SB 1094 (Pr. No. 1419)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in motor carrier safety, repealing provisions relating to findings and declaration of policy and further providing for definitions and for Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee.

SB 1186 (Pr. No. 1544)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration plates, further providing for USA semiquincentennial registration plates and establishing the Semiquincentennial Restricted Account.

RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator YAW, from the Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy, reported the following resolution:

SR 229 (Pr. No. 1451)

A Resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study of the economic, environmental and health impacts relating to development of the critical mineral industry in this Commonwealth.

The resolution will be placed on the Calendar.

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 Mastriano, and legislative leaves for Senator Browne, Senator Mensch, and Senator Yaw.

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

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

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

Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Haywood.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of November 8, 2021; November 9, 2021; November 10, 2021; and November 22, 2021, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of November 8, 2021; November 9, 2021; November 10, 2021; and November 22, 2021.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that further reading of the Journals be dispensed with and that the Journals be approved.

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

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

YEA-48

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

**GUESTS OF SENATOR TIMOTHY P. KEARNEY
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Kearney.

Senator KEARNEY. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce today's guest Chaplain, Pastor Sarah Weisiger. Pastor Weisiger joins us today from Trinity Presbyterian Church which is located in Berwyn in my district. Sarah is a graduate from the Harvard Divinity School, graduating with her master's of divinity in 2009. She then served in a variety of churches throughout New Jersey and southeastern Pennsylvania, most recently serving at the First Presbyterian in Philadelphia before joining Trinity on August 9, 2020. I am happy to have her here today and thank her for her wonderful opening prayer this morning. I ask my colleagues to join me in our usual warm Senate welcome. She is accompanied by her daughter, Amelia.

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

(Applause.)

**GUESTS OF SENATOR SHARIF T. STREET
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise to recognize and welcome to the Senate two young people who have interned in my office and have worked diligently to help the people of the 3rd Senatorial District and also people throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These two young people are, in fact, rising stars.

The first young person I will mention is Yasmina Richardson. Yasmina is a senior majoring in communications and graphic design at the historic Howard University, where she served in the executive leadership of the Philadelphia Club and created team-building programs and events to promote academic enrichment and scholastic achievement to maintain university retention and matriculation. She has dedicated herself to serving others through her experience in the nonprofit world through the arts and the initiatives she has worked on in my office. Yasmina has done work on the Pennsylvania Farm Show, our crime prevention town hall, and our annual Thanksgiving turkey drive, where she helped to ensure thousands of Philadelphia families had meals for the holidays. When Yasmina was told she was going to work on the Thanksgiving project, I think she thought that did not sound too overwhelming, but we literally order thousands of turkeys--I think we had between 3,000 and 4,000 turkeys this year. I extend thanks to my colleague, Senator Argall, whose farm grows the turkeys for us and helped put together an event that fed literally tens of thousands of Philadelphians. Daily, Yasmina exerts herself working on constituent services, assisting with press releases, and helping to write numerous Senate Citations. Looking ahead, Yasmina hopes to be a leader in the industries of communications, health and wellness, and education, where she specifically wants to focus on the importance of intersectionality and how it develops positive change in the world.

My second intern, Nathaniel Gordon, "Nate," has worked as a legislative intern in my Germantown and Jefferson district offices, where he focused on creating civic engagement curriculum for school-aged children and designed a bookmark to encourage self-guided learning. Nate was first awarded a paid internship in May 2021 through the Community College of Philadelphia's Gateway to College program, where he also maintained a 3.96 GPA. He has worked with CCP Votes, raising awareness about local elections; Conversations to Remember, providing emotional support to our elders suffering from dementia; Philly Reading Coaches, where he mentored elementary school children on their reading skills; and the Community College of Philadelphia Institute for Community Engagement, where he participated in community cleanups and food drives. He has also served on the student government, where he helped to organize student events and clubs. Nate has recently been accepted to my law school alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania, and I look forward to watching him continue his journey as well. Members of the Senate, if we could please rise and welcome my guests, Ms. Richardson and Mr. Gordon, who have worked as interns in the Senate.

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

(Applause.)

**GUESTS OF SENATOR CRIS DUSH
AND SENATOR SCOTT E. HUTCHINSON
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Jefferson, Senator Dush.

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, Senator Hutchinson and I want to recognize a gentleman. Ken, if you would, please stand. Ken Burkett is a guest on the Senate floor today as he is the recipient of the Society for American Archaeology's 2022 Crabtree Award. The Crabtree Award is a national award and only one person in this nation is annually chosen. The Society for American Archaeology presents the Crabtree Award to an outstanding avocational archaeologist in remembrance of the singular contributions of Don Crabtree--a highly skilled, self-taught flintknapper, he brought experimental archaeology and lithic technology to prominence among archaeologists.

Ken is a remarkable individual. At a very young age, he recruited his brothers to help do archaeology work and, along with the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, they--as I said, he had them doing the shoveling, about 79,000 square feet of dirt that they uncovered--and in 1975, still only 23 years old, Ken made a remarkable historical discovery of a Native American cultural location dating back to A.D. 1330. That is now housed in the Carnegie Museum. His avocation carried over; we found out today it also impacted his wife. He had part of the remains of a burial site underneath his bed for a period of time. As he said, if she is willing to stick with him for 50 years, it is a remarkable accomplishment. It is his passion that has driven some remarkable things with the Jefferson County Historical Society, getting markers up to record Native American and early U.S. history in our region. Now he is going to be embarking, very soon, on the petroglyphs around the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in order to get them on the National Historic Register. Ken is accompanied today, seated with him at the front are his brothers, Jack and Barry, who, as I said, excavated all that dirt and assisted him. In the gallery we have Randy Bartley, Brian Fritz, Kat Lyons, Tracy Metherd, Jamie Popson, David Taylor, Chuck Williams, Janet Jackson, and Jim Hebstriit. Several of them are also with the Jefferson County Historical Museum. My thanks to all of them for their partnership with Ken and their partnership with the community. He has had an impact throughout the region, it is not just Jefferson County, but Clarion, Venango, up and through the whole mid-Appalachian region here in the Commonwealth. I would appreciate a warm Senate welcome and congratulations to Ken Burkett.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Dush and Senator Hutchinson please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

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

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

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, good morning and thank you. I am really delighted and very pleased to welcome more

than 40 students from 11 school districts in my district who are participating in my annual model Senate program. I know that many of my colleagues also have model Senate programs, and I have admired how you have operated them. We have done it for a number of years, and every year I am impressed with the students who decide to participate. The way we do it is, we have three sessions—two at my district office in Muhlenberg Township and the final session here at the Capitol. The students have elected a governor, selected leadership for each caucus, and held committee meetings, where they discussed the legislation that they will be voting on later today after pizza for lunch, of course.

My staff and I have given them an overview of what legislators do and hope to motivate these students to not only get involved in student government—which most of them already are and are in AP classes—but to think about how politics impact their lives and what career paths might be available to them. The majority of the bills that they have introduced, by the way, is legislation that you have introduced, so they are actually looking at real bills. They bring a perspective to me that is always refreshing and rewarding, because they have a different perspective than perhaps many of our adult constituents do. I just find it so interesting. This terrific group of students has something to teach all of us. They have given me confidence that the future of this Commonwealth really is in great hands. So, if the students would please rise, all of you at once please, I would ask my colleagues to please join me in welcoming them to our Senate today.

The PRESIDENT. Would the Senate please welcome the guests of Senator Schwank.

(Applause.)

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SENATE RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Senators GEBHARD, BROOKS, BOSCOLA, HUGHES, MENSCH, LANGERHOLC, CORMAN, REGAN, MARTIN, BAKER, FONTANA, BREWSTER, BARTOLOTTA, KANE, ARGALL, SCAVELLO, COMITTA, CAPPELLETTI, VOGEL, LAUGHLIN, PHILLIPS-HILL, GORDNER, SANTARSIERO, DiSANTO, AUMENT, J. WARD, HUTCHINSON, STREET, YAW, COSTA, K. WARD, DUSH, PITTMAN, BROWNE, ROBINSON, TOMLINSON, YUDICHAK, STEFANO and MASTRIANO, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 261**, entitled:

A RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and service of Lebanon City Police Lieutenant William Lebo.

WHEREAS, Lieutenant William Lebo was a 40-year veteran of the Lebanon City Police Department; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, Officer Lebo received a commendation for action beyond the call of duty when he and another officer were the first responders to a murder and a suicide; and

WHEREAS, Officer Lebo and the other officer performed CPR on the victim until medical help could arrive; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, Officer Lebo was promoted to the rank of lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, On March 31, 2022, Lieutenant Lebo was responding to a domestic disturbance call in Lebanon City when a gunman shot three of the officers at the scene; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Lebo sustained fatal wounds and the other two officers at the scene were injured; and

WHEREAS, At the time of his death, Lieutenant Lebo had been set to retire in just 31 days; and

WHEREAS, The funeral procession in his honor went from Allentown to Lebanon City; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of individuals mourned Lieutenant Lebo during his memorial service; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the life and service of Lebanon City Police Lieutenant William Lebo; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the selfless acts of police officers to keep residents of this Commonwealth safe; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Senate extend condolences to the family and fellow officers of Lieutenant William Lebo.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Gebhard.

Senator GEBHARD. Mr. President, good morning, colleagues. I stand here today with a heavy heart. This is the second week in a row that we have had to have a moment of silence for a fallen law enforcement officer in our Commonwealth. On Thursday, March 31, Lieutenant William Lebo of the Lebanon City Police Department was killed in the line of duty. By all accounts, Lieutenant Lebo was a very kind, soft-spoken, and honorable man. He was well-respected, well-liked, and a beloved police officer in our community. Lieutenant Lebo spent four decades serving our community, and this past Thursday his life was taken responding to an emergency call in the city of Lebanon. It breaks my heart to report that he was scheduled to retire in just a few weeks, on May 1. I admire the courage and the selflessness of Lieutenant Lebo and all of our law enforcement officers, as they put their lives on the line every second of every day to keep us safe.

Two other Lebanon City officers were also wounded in the shooting that day. Let us keep officers Derek Underkoffler and Ryan Adams in our prayers as we wish them a speedy recovery. Please join me in a moment of silence for Lieutenant William Lebo, and please join me as we pray for his family, friends, and colleagues as they deal with this tragic loss. Thank you and God-speed, Lieutenant Lebo.

The PRESIDENT. All those in favor of the resolution will please rise for a moment of silence. Staff and guests will also please rise.

(Whereupon, the Senate en bloc stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect to the memory of Lieutenant WILLIAM LEBO.)

The PRESIDENT. With the demonstration of a moment of silence, the Chair declares the resolution unanimously adopted.

RECESS

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a Republican caucus to be held in the Rules Room.

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

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

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of 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.

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1, SB 137, HB 221, SB 322 and SB 358 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 457 (Pr. No. 488) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Joint Resolution proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for qualifications of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General and for disqualification for offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

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

SB 457 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 457, Printer's No. 488, 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 573, SB 676, HB 723, SB 745 and SB 775 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 797 (Pr. No. 1552) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 20, 2000 (P.L.949, No.130), known as the Neighborhood Improvement District Act, further providing for definitions, for creation of neighborhood improvement district and for powers of neighborhood improvement district management association.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-48

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

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 862, HB 889, SB 934, SB 935, SB 962, SB 967, SB 991, SB 992, HB 995, HB 996 and SB 1043 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1184 (Pr. No. 2928) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 8 (Boroughs and Incorporated Towns) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in creation and alteration, further providing for definitions, for contiguous areas, for applications, for borough advisory committee, for adjustment of indebtedness, for judicial adjustment, for judicial adjustment award proceedings, for compensation, expenses and costs, for territory located in multiple counties and for bond issues and taxation; in associations and organizations, further providing for associations and organizations for mayors; in elections of officers, further providing for eligibility; in powers, duties and rights of appointed officers and employees, further providing for appointments and incompatible offices and for police serving under cooperative agreement or contract; in corporate powers, further providing for specific powers; in taxation and finance, further providing for investment of funds; providing for solid waste collection and disposition; and, in ordinances, further providing for ordinances and resolutions and for publication.

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

KEARNEY AMENDMENT A3916 OFFERED

Senator KEARNEY offered the following amendment No. A3916:

Amend Bill, page 1, lines 2 through 8, by striking out "in creation and" in line 2, all of lines 3 through 7 and "counties and for bond issues and taxation;" in line 8

Amend Bill, page 1, lines 22 and 23, by striking out "200, 201, 202, 202.1, 213, 214, 215, 217, 218, 219,"

Amend Bill, page 2, lines 2 through 30; pages 3 through 9, lines 1 through 30; page 10, lines 1 through 11; by striking out all of said lines on said pages

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

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Kearney.

Senator KEARNEY. Mr. President, this amendment would remove the language that was added on the House floor allowing boroughs to break off of cities and other boroughs and bring this bill back to its underlying form. As you know, the original legislation was a Local Government Commission bill and was unanimously supported by the bipartisan, bicameral commission members, as well as the entire Senate, as we already passed Senate Bill No. 480, which was the Senate version of the underlying legislation here. I would like to get the original legislation passed for the Pennsylvania Boroughs Association, which respected the process for making updates to the Borough Code by making formal requests to the Local Government Commission and working with commission staff and members to get the language correct. They did not ask for the controversial language and were not consulted when it was added. They do not deserve to have their language vetoed because of an unnecessary poison pill. Let us respect the commission process, and if we want to have a real debate about creating more municipalities, let us consider the issue on its own. I respectfully ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote.

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I ask for a negative vote on this amendment. Thank you.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

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

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

YEA-21

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

NAY-27

Argall	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Aument	Gebhard	Mensch	Vogel
Baker	Gordner	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy

Bartolotta	Hutchinson	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brooks	Langerholc	Regan	Yaw
Corman	Laughlin	Robinson	Yudichak
DiSanto	Martin	Scavello	

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

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?
It was agreed to.

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

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Kearney.

Senator KEARNEY. Mr. President, I respectfully ask my colleagues to vote against this legislation as it now stands. In Pennsylvania, we have around 2,500 municipalities, many of which cannot find people to fill their elected and appointed offices and are struggling to get by as it is. Many municipalities are already failing to provide basic services required under law and need to cooperate intergovernmentally with other bodies just to get by. There are hundreds of fragmented municipalities in each metropolitan region that increase administrative costs to taxpayers and create real deficiencies and headaches for businesses and the public when it comes to big, municipal responsibilities like land use planning and road maintenance. I think there are some real risks we need to consider, like how municipal fragmentation leads to blight and sprawl, before we consider a major expansion of borough incorporation law. Many of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle have acknowledged the reality of having too many municipalities and too much fragmentation.

I think we ought to consider the formation of boroughs as a separate bill and not jeopardize the rest of the original legislation, which we all agree upon. Why is this substantive change needed? What is driving this amendment? What is the affirmative argument for this? I ask genuinely, because I have not heard a good explanation for it to date. This bill was originally introduced by members of the Local Government Commission. In fact, I sponsored the Senate version, Senate Bill No. 480, along with all of the Republican and Democratic Members of the commission. As you may recall, we sent it to the House unanimously last year.

The Local Government Commission is a great problem-solving body, ably and responsibly chaired by our own gentleman from Venango County, and it operates by consensus when it comes to the legislation that we all introduce together. The legislature relies on the commission and its staff to introduce bipartisan, technically-correct updates and modernization of our Municipal Codes and complex local government laws. It is completely nonpartisan and is one of my favorite things about the legislature. We depend upon the commission a great deal when it comes to these technical issues, and I would like to respect the work product of the commission members and, more importantly, the commission staff. With the House amendment that allows boroughs to form out of cities, boroughs, or any other type of municipality now added in, this bill now disparages collaboration and the process. The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs for-

mally requested that the commission take on the original bill. I do not think it is right to compromise the changes they requested with a veto threat by throwing in a substantive and controversial amendment that they never asked for.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise to oppose this bill, as amended. With all due respect to the original intent that the Local Government Commission had and the eloquent nature of the normal process that my colleague just outlined, what we have today before us is something very different. This bill would allow any municipality to be broken up, including America's oldest and, dare I say, greatest city, the city of Philadelphia. Breaking up the city of Philadelphia would create chaos. It would create economic chaos that would affect the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as Philadelphia drives a significant chunk of revenue—I believe the most net revenue, it is the largest net contributor of revenue to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It would create havoc inside of the city, as residents who broke off would not have fire department, police, water/sewer, or a number of other services. Additionally, Philadelphia is both a city and a county, and county government is not segmented in a way that anticipates there would be multiple municipalities under that government.

For instance, our county commissioners' sole role is to administer elections. All other functions are handled by municipal government, including human services contracts with the Commonwealth, and many other functions. The disbursement and the rulemaking process that the county commissioners would normally engage in is currently done by city council. In so many ways, the amendment in the House that would allow for all municipalities to be broken up, including the city of Philadelphia, is both irresponsible to the lives of the people who might unwittingly break off, creating endless complications for themselves, and it would create a disruption in Pennsylvania's economic engine. This is not mere trivia. This would disrupt the Commonwealth in significant ways. One of the Commonwealth's most significant engines of revenue is the corporate franchise taxes. Where are the corporations that pay those taxes? Comcast, Aramark, many of Pennsylvania's largest corporations, all headquartered in the center of the city of Philadelphia. Creating havoc and chaos in Pennsylvania's largest city and county, with folks having to deal with these kinds of unnecessary challenges, is irresponsible and grossly reckless.

Finally, when you look at the challenges that would be faced by our law enforcement, police departments, and first responders, who would feel an obligation to serve people who they would no longer have a duty to serve; this would also create a challenge. In conclusion, there would even be a challenge with respect to the workforce, as municipal employees in the city of Philadelphia are required to live in the city, and if the city were to be broken up, those employees would probably have to move. I could go on for hours talking about all the chaos this would create. Allowing this to move forward, including the city of Philadelphia, is something that we cannot support. I therefore urge a "no" vote, and should it pass, encourage the Governor to veto this.

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, some of us in this General Assembly do not simply think of us as Democrats or Republicans. We actually think of ourselves as members of a group of responsible Pennsylvanians. We are trying to represent the interests of folks who we live with, and certainly there are times, spaces, and places where we do not agree, but this is simply not that space. For those who are watching us—because I am not sure that this is about persuading anyone—I want you to understand that we sit in a State that is under-resourced. We are taxing hardworking Pennsylvanians in extraordinary ways while inflation runs rampant. I do not care whether you are rural, suburban, or urban Pennsylvania, we are all stretched to the neck. Whoever thought of this idea, in the middle of spiraling inflation, a continuing pandemic, and the potential of a recession, obviously is not looking at reality. Creating another governmental structure—especially when people in Pennsylvania say they want less government, not more—creates another barrier to your voice.

So I want people to understand, whatever your party affiliation is, wherever you hail from in Pennsylvania, we in the Pennsylvania Senate, collectively, will probably decide to put another burden upon your back. Nothing to pound your chest about or be proud of, because we now get to rename our street by ourselves. For those who are in Philadelphia County who thought it smart enough to put their name in, Philadelphia County included, it is the dumbest idea I have ever seen in the General Assembly, the dumbest. You will create a borough in Philadelphia, named something different than Philadelphia, so that you can have the bragging rights to say, we got you out of the problem so that, by the way, people like me can tax you because you do not have a police department, fire department, or recreation department. You do not have a way to check your streams and your air. Yes, you will come to us in Philadelphia to say, can you do that for us? You will pay for that. The people who thought of doing that, who say they are representing your interest in parts of Philadelphia, are actually working against your interest. It is the greatest irony that I see in politics today. We scream into the obvious and illogical, and I will say I am proud of this body, because I know that there are Members on both sides of the aisle who feel exactly the way I feel about some of the things we spend our time on that do not relate to anything that Pennsylvanians need. This is one of those wasted moments. This is absolutely a wasted moment.

We will go through a budget cycle where everybody, whether they like it or not, will clamor up to the Governor to figure out what deal they can strike to save the folks in their district and all of us will come begging, all of us. To suggest adding another layer of government—and people want to talk about, brag about, we want a leaner, cleaner, meaner, sleeker government. No, you do not. You want an incredibly complicated, convoluted, over-taxing, overbearing administration because you are going to add another layer of government, and I dare anyone else to stand up and deny that. Explain that; you cannot. All you can simply do is stand up and say it is us versus them. That is all this is about, us versus them.

I do not know about you, but most of my constituents are sick and tired of it. They are sick and tired of hearing Democrats and Republicans argue over nothing that changes their lives. So, today, congratulations; another absolutely wasted moment in Pennsylvania history on the Senate floor in Pennsylvania that denies access to resources for Pennsylvanians wherever you are.

Dumber and dumber we seem to get. If I cannot underscore dumber, let me do it again: dumber and dumber. Dumb idea, dumb thought, dumb execution, wasted moment. God bless Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, as probably one of the longest-serving Members on the Local Government Commission, I want to make a different argument about this issue that is before us today. As I stand here and look out at this body and all of my colleagues, I see many of you who have served on the Local Government Commission as well. I think I have been on almost as long as I have been a Senator. In my background in local government, from being a county commissioner and serving as the president of a nonprofit that looked at municipal governance and land use, I truly understand that this bill is a huge mistake. But, as a Member of the Local Government Commission, I want you to understand, we are setting a dangerous precedent here no matter what the bill was about.

Most of us sitting here, probably, if we hear from the Member who is introducing the bill, that this is a Local Government Commission bill, we figure it is something that is worth voting for, right? Oftentimes, they are very, very technical. They are about the "in the weeds," so to speak, issues that are related to municipal government, but they are important to those local governments, which is why the League of Cities came out against this; why the mayor of Philadelphia also said, hey guys, you are going to make a big impact here by doing this. What we are doing is subverting a process that a government commission that has been in place since 1935, that has been doing the work to try to make Pennsylvania communities work the best that we can. Remember, we are a Commonwealth, and we all need to work together to make that Commonwealth function as best as it can. You are setting a precedent of changing a bill for political reasons. That has to be all that it is, because nobody--as my colleague and friend from Delaware County said--nobody has explained exactly what is the underlying reason behind this. So, the only thing I can surmise is that it is something political. But when I work on the Local Government Commission, and when I decide or ask to sponsor a bill, I do it out of the best interests for the communities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In this case, Members have--and I am disappointed in the Members who have done this, who are Members of the Local Government Commission--amended a bill that had good purposes and turned it into something that could have far-reaching impacts. It is disappointing, it is really wrong to take this process and subvert it in this way.

If this is a concern about making more municipalities--which we do not need, by the way, Pennsylvania has the third-highest number of municipalities in this whole country--we do not need it. However, if that is what you want to do, bring it to the Local Government Commission. We have a process. We will have a committee that will look at this, similar to what we did with real estate assessment, which is a long, involved process, but good work came out of it. This is a mistake, friends and colleagues. I would ask for a negative vote. Thank you.

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 Baker, and a legislative leave for Senator Argall.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Kim Ward requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Baker, and a legislative leave for Senator Argall. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-27

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

NAY-21

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

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 1660, HB 1849 and HB 2051 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 24 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 118 (Pr. No. 89) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sentencing, further providing for sexual offenses and tier system.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

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

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 225 (Pr. No. 948) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, in quality healthcare accountability and protection, further providing for definitions and for responsibilities of managed care plans, providing for preauthorization review standards and for preauthorization costs, further providing for continuity of care, providing for step therapy, further providing for required disclosure and for operational standards and providing for initial review of preauthorization requests and adverse determinations, for preauthorization denial grievances and for access requirements in service areas; and making an editorial change.

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

SB 225 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 225, Printer's No. 948, 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 SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 230 (Pr. No. 1389) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 27, 2006 (1st Sp.Sess., P.L.1873, No.1), known as the Taxpayer Relief Act, in senior citizens property tax and rent rebate assistance, further providing for definitions.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

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.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 297 and **SB 471** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 527 (Pr. No. 1329) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

SB 527 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 527, Printer's No. 1329, 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 OVER IN ORDER

HB 581 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 597 (Pr. No. 801) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for water and wastewater asset management plans.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 750, SB 815, SB 845, SB 892, SB 907, HB 951, SB 956, SB 960 and SB 965 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 987 (Pr. No. 1000) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in licensing of drivers, further providing for suspension of operating privilege.

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

HB 987 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 987, Printer's No. 1000, 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 993, SB 1016, SB 1027, SB 1031 and SB 1032 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 1037 (Pr. No. 1545) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 44 (Law and Justice) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in other officers and officials, providing for coroners; and making a related repeal.

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

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

SB 1040 (Pr. No. 1356) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1051, SB 1053, SB 1057 and SB 1083 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 1096 (Pr. No. 1128) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in human trafficking, further providing for civil causes of action.

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1162 and SB 1167 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 1172 (Pr. No. 1549) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for access to treatment for sexual assault survivors and for duties of the Department of Health.

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

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

SB 1179 (Pr. No. 1530) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in domestic and sexual violence victim address confidentiality, further providing for definitions, for persons eligible to apply and for application and certification process.

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1180 and SB 1181 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 1248 (Pr. No. 1317) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in lighting equipment, further providing for general lighting requirements; and, in inspection of vehicles, further providing for requirement for periodic inspection of vehicles.

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 1500 and HB 1665 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bills were as follows:

SB 145, SB 959, SB 1018, SB 1038, SB 1094, SB 1122, SB 1166, SB 1186 and HB 1614.

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022

10:00 A.M. URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING (public hearing on housing issues) Independence Visitor Center 599 Market St. 1 N. Independ. Mall West Philadelphia

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022

9:30 A.M. STATE GOVERNMENT (public hearing on Senate Bill No. 982; and House Bill No. 2044) Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

Off the Floor APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 118, 848, 871, 1040, 1047, 1167, 1172 and 1179; and House Bill No. 2058) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

Off the Floor EDUCATION (to consider Senate Bill No. 1191) Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.

Off the Floor STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bills No. 982 and 1200; and House Bill No. 2044) Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022

10:30 A.M. AGING AND YOUTH (public hearing on potential impact on children and youth of legalizing adult-use marijuana in the Commonwealth) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off. (LIVE STREAMED)

10:30 A.M. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (to consider Senate Bills No. 749, 1121, 1124 and 1188) Room 461 Main Capitol

12:00 P.M. COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (to consider Senate Bill No. 1163) Room 461 Main Capitol

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

9:00 A.M. AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS and GAME AND FISHERIES (joint public hearing on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off. (LIVE STREAMED)

10:00 A.M. FINANCE (to consider Senate Bill No. 771; and House Bills No. 199, 324 and 333) Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

10:00 A.M. URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING (public hearing on housing issues) Living Water Church 629 Woodward Avenue Kittanning

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022

10:00 A.M. FINANCE (public hearing on Pennsylvania Film Tax Credit Program) Omni Wm. Penn Hotel 530 William Penn Place Pittsburgh

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, you will not often see me stand here and praise the chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase. But today, he and I agree on something substantial. This week, Mr. President, JPMorgan Chase CEO, Jamie Dimon, said the U.S. "should immediately increase the minimum wage," and I cannot agree more.

After 5,750 days of inaction, the Pennsylvania legislature still has not passed a bill that would raise our embarrassingly low minimum

wage. But like Mr. Dimon said in his letter to JPMorgan Chase shareholders this week, we need "a more equitable labor market that maximizes employment and values all jobs, effective and continuous job training for workers of all ages, and practices that better promote sharing the wealth--i.e., higher minimum wages." Think about that, Mr. President. The head of the largest bank in America, a bank with over \$3.8 trillion--yes, trillion with a "t"--is calling for an increase in the minimum wage to help get additional money into the hands of the lowest earners. This is not just a CEO that talks without acting himself. The bank's lowest-paid workers make, at a minimum, \$15-\$18 an hour. This is not a far-left, super-liberal agenda item, nearly 2/3 of Americans support raising our minimum wage.

That is why I introduced Senate Bill No. 12, Mr. President, because I know in 2022, you cannot survive on \$7.25 an hour. Our constituents and all workers in Pennsylvania deserve better than to make the Federal minimum wage, and Senate Bill No.12 would finally put us on the path to \$15 an hour. Let us bring it to a vote and finally pass Senate Bill No. 12.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize National Library Week and the important work done by librarians and library staff across our Commonwealth. Earlier this month I joined my colleague, Senator Fontana, to introduce Senate Resolution No. 259, which would recognize April 3 through April 9 as National Library Week in Pennsylvania.

Mr. President, libraries are an integral part of our communities across this Commonwealth, offering resources and services that create opportunities for learning, support with literacy, and enhanced education. Libraries are community hubs, connecting people to information and to other people in our communities. First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries of all types across the country every April. The theme for this year's National Library Week is "Connect with Your Library," which promotes the idea that libraries are places to get connected to technology by using broadband, computers, and other resources. Libraries also offer opportunities to connect with media, programming, ideas, and classes, including early literacy programming, nature workshops, and much more.

Mr. President, we need to ensure that we have consistent and adequate funding for our public library system so that all of these great resources are known and stable within our communities. I am lucky enough to live in Royersford, where Royersford Free Public Library is less than a mile from my home, and then I can cross the river, less than a mile, to the Spring City Public Library; two small and amazing libraries full of information, full of people who are welcoming you upon arrival and are very knowledgeable. Growing up, Delmont Public Library and Murrysville Community Library were two of my favorite places to visit, those were the reward for good behavior. There is even a photo of me having a temper tantrum when the library was closed on a Saturday summer afternoon. Libraries are places where you can go to learn something new, find a book, find some peace of mind, and a lifelong place to visit to ensure that one is learning. I am proud to join Senator Fontana to introduce the Senate resolution recognizing this week as National Library Week in Pennsylvania, and I encourage all of you to join us in recognizing and celebrating the libraries across our Commonwealth and always read, read, read. Thank you.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise today to ask for support for legislation that I have recently introduced--again, this Session--along with Representative Dan Frankel that relates to the topic of indoor smoking. Mr. President, many folks believe that this issue has been settled, and it is true that we can no longer smoke in many public places. But, as folks know, there are many exemptions to this rule, and they are still dangerous to nonsmokers.

Exemptions currently allow for indoor smoking in private social clubs, restaurants with food sales under 20 percent, as well as casinos. Legislation we have introduced would eliminate these exemptions in order to protect the workers and nonsmoking patrons in those facilities. Smoking is a personal choice--I recognize that--but, unfortunately, when done indoors, it endangers everyone around them who has no choice in the matter. Since 1964, the Surgeon General's report indicated that 2.5 million adults who were nonsmokers died because they breathed secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke exposure causes more than 8,000 deaths from stroke annually. Secondhand smoke causes nearly 34,000 premature deaths from heart disease each year in the United States among nonsmokers. Nonsmokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke at home or in the workplace increase their risk of developing lung cancer by 20 percent to 30 percent. There is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke causes numerous health problems in infants and children, including more frequent and severe asthma attacks, respiratory infections, ear infections, and even sudden infant death syndrome. Some of the health conditions caused by secondhand smoke--some of which I mentioned--in adults include coronary heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer. Workers in casinos, restaurants, and private clubs, many of whom are nonsmokers, are at risk of these conditions. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, smoking in casinos, for example, was prohibited due to the masking requirements, and casinos continued to operate and bring in major revenue during that period of time. We do not need to bring smoking back to these facilities and can prevent it in many others. Smokers are free to make their own choices in their homes, vehicles, and many outdoor spaces, but they should not continue to threaten the health of nonsmokers in the workplace. I urge my colleagues to join us in this legislation that would close the dangerous exemption to the indoor smoking law.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Jefferson, Senator Dush.

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, I am happy to stand here today to declare that the false narrative that this election investigation by my committee and the Committee on Intergovernmental Operations is about one person and one race--that narrative has been demonstrably proven to be false in the hearing that we held last week, coupled with the decision from the district attorney of Lehigh County acknowledging what we uncovered in the municipal election: 288 ballots were illegally put into drop boxes. That offense could be prosecuted. I promised the people of Pennsylvania we would only bring things forward that could stand in court. The district attorney acknowledged that was the case with this situation. This is about municipal government elections, it is about our State House and Senate seats. We had a seat that was decided by a 121-vote swing in a recount just this Session. Those

288 ballots would be more than double what would have changed that election.

Mr. President, the false narrative that this is about one person and some big lie--the people of Pennsylvania are smarter than that. They have seen through it; so have we. We are going to continue this investigation. We are going to find the stuff that needs to be fixed so that we can take care of this and ensure that every election counts, every legal vote counts, and that we do not compromise municipal government elections or any other election. I thank the people of Pennsylvania who have been supporting us, the people who have been providing us good information. We have collected a lot of stuff and we have a lot of areas to pursue. We have also had a lot of false flag operations that have tried to send us down some really strange rabbit holes. But I am very pleased with my team, and I am happy, like I said, to be able to put the final nail in that coffin about that false narrative. God bless the people of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I was going to rise to follow up on Senator Muth's comments about National Library Week and the importance of libraries. I sincerely was going to rise in the context of libraries as being institutions of knowledge and entities that provide for our children, families, and communities. Really, foundations that provide intellectual conversation and information for all communities. Open and accessible to all. I was going to rise and support that, because in my previous dialogue earlier this week, when we recognized the 54th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King, we talked about education. Education being the light for all of us, and that libraries are consistent with a fully-funded, equitable, and 21st century education system. That is something Dr. King fought for, and it is something that he was assassinated for: his fight for justice, especially education justice.

So, Senator Muth's comments about National Library Week really fall consistent with that. We know that the Republican Majority had council hired to argue in the fair funding case who indicated that a number of our children should be moved down towards the McDonald's track, and that was appropriate for them. In fact, spoke to that in open court. So, Dr. King believed that darkness could not move out darkness, only light could do that. Light is education, education is light, and libraries are consistent in that. So, I wanted to make sure that the legislative week ended in the context of making sure that we not forget why Dr. King was assassinated and we not lose sight of the importance of libraries and education.

However, comments that were just made by my colleague with respect to the, air quotes, investigation, conducted by the Committee on Intergovernmental Operations, really create a false narrative which I believe that the individual is trying to assert, around how the committee conducted itself and the hearing, air quotes around the word "hearing," that was conducted last week. Needless to say, there was no notification to the Democratic side of that hearing and no conversations with the rules and the testifiers that would be provided at that hearing by the Democrats so that we could have some input in that process--which is the norm, the tradition, and the history of this body that there be a bipartisan conversation leading up to a hearing so that both sides could be afforded the opportunity to advance individuals to tes-

tify. The gentleman, this body, and the public should be reminded that the Majority chair of that committee did not allow for individuals who testified to be sworn in. So anyone who testified in front of that committee last week, Mr. President, was not sworn in to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. They were not afforded that. The committee Members who were there did not hear, or the public did not witness, anyone who was sworn to tell the truth. So now you have no bipartisan establishment of the hearing, and then you have individuals who testified who were not sworn to tell the truth--inconsistent with how this body conducts its hearings in every other dynamic.

Let me provide a little bit more color in the lines, Mr. President. The first individual to testify in front of the Committee on Intergovernmental Operations, who was not sworn to tell the truth, just so happened to be the Republican chair of the Lehigh County Republican Party. The chair of the Lehigh County Republican Party was not sworn in to tell the truth, and as I said by title, which he said in front of us, he was chair of the Republican Party. So, we have a partisan take on testimony. A partisan take, not sworn in to be truthful, and not held to appropriate standards. So, I am not sure what the gentleman is talking about--the nail has been shut on that case and is driven home on that case. But, I can assure you, that may be from his perspective, but it is certainly not from our perspective. This ongoing dialogue by the Republican Majority in this Chamber, in the other Chamber, around the State of Pennsylvania, and around the nation, to try to sow seeds that the elections that were had were not legitimate--that those individuals who were elected were not elected legitimately--does one thing: it causes distrust in our process.

The elections have been reviewed. The elections have been certified at the local, State, and Federal levels. The elections have gone to court. They have been adjudicated fair, honest, and legitimate several times in court. Several times certified. This ongoing conversation to try to sow seeds of distrust only does one thing: it goes to hurt the democracy that we put our left hand on whatever religious book we utilize and put our right hand in the air to swear to protect and defend the Constitution, the state of this nation. It is troubling that those who stand up here and say they care about this Constitution and this democracy do anything and everything that they can to undercut it. But, it is par for the course these days. It is unfortunate that the people who need this democracy to be strong, the people who are witnessing what tyranny is like 8,000 miles away in Ukraine, they need this democracy to be strong. It is troubling to see that their elected leaders are doing anything and everything to undercut its value and sanctity.

Thank you, Mr. President.

RECESS

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

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, April 11, 2022, at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 1:02 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.