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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

SESSION OF 2022 206TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 16

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 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 NATE GOODSON, of Prayer Chapel Church of God in Christ, Upper Darby, offered the following prayer:

Good morning. Before I pray, I want to thank Senator Kearney for providing me with the opportunity to be here today. It is a wonderful honor and a privilege, one that I do not take lightly.

Thank you, Senator Kearney.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we pray today for those who serve in the Pennsylvania Senate in these difficult times. We are thankful for President Fetterman, President pro tempore Corman, and all of the Pennsylvania State Senate men and women. Lord, we ask that You encourage, sustain, and protect each of them as You guide them in their service to You and all of the people of Pennsylvania. We pray for their strength and wisdom, that You will guide their decisions, and that those decisions will find their foundation in love first. Father, surround this august body with people of high moral character and spiritual maturity who will assist them in leading our great State. As our State Senators hear the many voices who cry out to them each day, Father, may they hear Your voice above others. Lord, be with them as we seek answers to the pandemic, issues of racial injustice, economic shutdowns, and the many challenges that affect the citizens of the Keystone State. In the face of these many challenges, would You protect their minds as they steer our State through the uncertain paths that lie ahead, and may they be inspired by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Grant, O Lord, to these Senators insight into the needs of our communities and the discernment to make decisions for the benefit of our entire State. Help them to display courage, hope, generosity, and kindness. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Pastor Goodson, who is the guest today of Senator Kearney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

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

SB 895 (Pr. No. 1590) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of December 17, 1968 (P.L.1224, No.387), known as the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, providing for collection, verification and disclosure of information by online marketplaces to inform consumers.

SB 1173 (Pr. No. 1534)

An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.216, No.76), known as The Dental Law, further providing for general powers of the State Board of Dentistry.

SB 1196 (Pr. No. 1572)

An Act amending the act of June 19, 1931 (P.L.589, No.202), referred to as the Barbers' License Law, providing for barber training through career and technical center.

SB 1197 (Pr. No. 1573)

An Act amending the act of May 3, 1933 (P.L.242, No.86), referred to as the Cosmetology Law, providing for cosmetology training through career and technical center.

HB 1103 (Pr. No. 1140)

An Act amending the act of December 20, 1982 (P.L.1404, No.325), known as the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, further providing for owner's lien, for enforcement of lien, for notice, for advertisement of sale and for location of sale.

HB 1594 (Pr. No. 2989) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of December 17, 1968 (P.L.1224, No.387), known as the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, providing for collection, verification and disclosure of information by online marketplaces to inform consumers.

Senator HUTCHINSON, from the Committee on Finance, reported the following bills:

SB 771 (Pr. No. 1589) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in corporate net income tax, providing for a reduction in tax rate.

HB 199 (Pr. No. 2654)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in personal income tax, further providing for classes of income.

HB 324 (Pr. No. 298)

An Act amending the act of May 30, 1984 (P.L.345, No.69), known as the First Class City Business Tax Reform Act, further providing for definitions.

HB 333 (Pr. No. 2656)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in personal income tax, further providing for classes of income.

Senator REGAN, from the Committee on Law and Justice, reported the following bill:

HB 1615 (Pr. No. 2990) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations and liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, further providing for breweries.

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 Browne.

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

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

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

Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Comitta.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of December 14, 2021; December 15, 2021; and January 4, 2022, of the 2021 Session; and January 4, 2022, of the 2022 Session are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of December 14, 2021; December 15, 2021; and January 4, 2022, of the 2021 Session; and January 4, 2022, of the 2022 Session.

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

**GUESTS OF SENATOR KIM L. WARD
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, this morning I am pleased to have in the gallery a young woman, Brielle Davanzo. Brielle is a second grader at St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School in north Belle Vernon, and her favorite classes are math and makerspace. But, Brielle is a softball player and a heck of a softball player. She plays for three teams, covers right field, third base, and the pitchers mound, and she wants to be a softball coach when she gets older. I am so happy to have a future female softball coach here in our gallery, and I will just say to you, reach for the moon, and you are going to land among the stars. Just last night, a 31-year-old young woman by the name of Alyssa Nakken took the field in the third inning of the San Francisco Giants game. She was the first woman to take the field in Major League Baseball as a first base coach. While she was the first woman to take the field as a Major League Baseball coach, we know that she was more than qualified as she helped lead the San Francisco Giants to a 13-2 win over the San Diego Padres. You can do that. You will be able to do that, Brielle. You are going to do that. So, while women like Alyssa Nakken are paving the way for you, you will be taking it to the next level. I am so honored to have you here this morning, Brielle, and your father, State Representative Eric Davanzo. It is nice to have you in the Senate Chamber, and welcome to the Pennsylvania Senate. I ask my colleagues to please give them a warm welcome.

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

(Applause.)

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, today I also have the honor of introducing the Hempfield High School competitive cheer-leading team. Look at you. They are coached by Suzannah

Mayer and Alanna Wilson. I would also like to acknowledge the athletic director, Brandon Rapp, who is here with us, and sideline coaches, Lisa Blahovec and Shannon Lippa. These young women have had quite an impressive year. They are the 2022 PIAA AAA Large champions after competing against 19 other teams in Hershey in the Competitive Spirit Championship held in January. They attended the National High School Cheerleading Championships at Disney World in February. There they won fourth in Super Varsity Division I and third in Super Varsity Game Day Division I. They also won their second consecutive WPIAL championship in Class AAA. We are going to get one more of those, and we are going to be able to seat you all on the floor. You make me so proud. You make our State and our county proud, and you especially make Hempfield Township proud. What you did takes leadership, hard work, and commitment, and those are all things that we need to have to be successful in the future and to lead the way for the next generation. So I am asking my Senate colleagues to give these hardworking ladies a warm Senate welcome.

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

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR JAY COSTA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I guess I would be remiss if I did not mention and congratulate the young ladies and folks from Hempfield--the cheerleaders. I am not going to tell you what year it was, but my bride of 38 years was a Hempfield Spartan cheerleader, back in the day. They, too, were very competitive, nowhere near the success that these young ladies have enjoyed. So, thank you for being here.

Mr. President, I rise today to talk about and recognize someone who has been a great asset to our Senate Democratic Caucus, who is moving on to the next chapter in her life. Brittany Crampsie has been a part of our office for the past 5 years or so, serving as our press secretary and press person not only for me, but also for our Caucus Members as well. Certainly, I am very happy for her, in terms of moving on, because it is a bittersweet moment for us. She is moving on to become a small business owner, starting her own business in the communications space, and to be able to do that is wonderful. But, certainly, I know my colleagues will share this point that we will miss her in our Caucus.

She began her tenure here in the Senate in the Democratic Caucus in October 2017, after already having had a successful career in the communications space, working with a couple of firms in the Pittsburgh area, Triad Strategies, as well as Shelly Lyons, but also being part of the TV communications space in Harrisburg as well. In fact, Brittany was recognized on two occasions as being a "40 Under 40" person of distinction. Again, she did all that before she became 27 years old. So, already a tremendous start to a career. Brittany is very intelligent, articulate, quick to capture the issues, be able to respond, and appropriately drive and deliver messaging for our Caucus. I can tell you many of the things that she brought to our Caucus in terms of communications--the various things that were done over the pe-

riod of just 5 years--I believe, really elevated our Caucus in terms of our communication ability, skills, and the different nature of how we communicate to our constituency in this community. One of the things that we developed, for example, something called, "In the 43rd," where Brittany developed a program that we--now a number of our Members utilize it--go into the community, meet with small businesses and small organizations, and tell their story in a 5-minute snippet about who they are, what they mean to their community, and what they mean to our Commonwealth. It is some of those type of things that I think have really elevated, as I mentioned, our ability to communicate to the public and to our constituents. I really believe that Brittany is one of the best press people we have here in Harrisburg. She is going home to work, establish her business, and, more importantly, she is going to have the opportunity to spend time with her 9-month-old son, Carter. Now, Carter, and Brittany's husband, Sean, are here today in the gallery. I ask that they would stand up, I am not sure where they are at. There is Carter and Sean, thank you. Many of us know Sean from, well, certainly as a Carlisle Borough Council member, but also doing a great job representing APSCUF and their many issues that we have had here over the course of the past several years.

Brittany is a double graduate of Lehigh University, both earning her bachelor's degree and a master's degree there as well, and what folks may not know--some in the Harrisburg area may know--is that she is an accomplished cellist. Am I saying that right? An accomplished cellist, and even she and Senator Kearney, at times, have gotten together and done some things when he had his ukulele. In fact, we had some candidates, who also were accomplished musicians, who did a couple of things with Brittany as well. But, she has just been a wonderful and outgoing person, and I will tell you, I have said this many times to her, I have never met anyone as pleasant, every day, beginning of the day, and at the end of the day. So, I really appreciate the service she provided to our Caucus over the past 5 years, and she will be missed in our Caucus. I want to say, Brittany, thank you for your wonderful service and your friendship, and we look forward to you having continued great success in whatever endeavor you encounter. So, thank you and congratulations.

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

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN M. DiSANTO PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dauphin, Senator DiSanto.

Senator DiSANTO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce an outstanding group of athletes from the Central Dauphin School District, which the Minority Leader may be interested to know that I graduated from in 1978. So, in February, the Central Dauphin High School cheerleaders won gold in the Super Varsity Non Tumbling competition at the National High School Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, Florida.

This team, under the coaches Faith Myers, Lori Feaster, Mary Feaster, and Rachael Rock, demonstrated superior sportsmanship and remarkable athletic skill. The team roster includes Rachel Kelly, Makenzie Bender, Kayla Bishop, Nyla Burston, Marissa Hagy, Alexis Herchelroath, Alaina Hower, Lily Mubbala,

Jennifer Tarlecki, Alexa Ziser, Reese Belkins, Emily Byrnes, Hailey Donmoyer, Lauren Fetterhoff, Erin Hannon, Aries Jamison, Taviana Miller, Isabella Rostalski, Kayla Showers, Ashlyn Wissler, Skyler Clark, Riley Fegley, Carly Fleig, Lizzy Green, Brianna Hoyle, Natalie Kessler, Mason Gray, Olivia Uselton, Jayln Windom, Cassie Zimmerman, Lizzy Bean, Ella Cassivi, Phoebe Eldridge, Carinne Lepley, Vanity Lewis, and Avery Trimble.

Half of the team joins us on the floor today while the other half is in the House. Ladies, please rise, and I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in welcoming the national champion Central Dauphin High School Cheerleaders.

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

(Applause.)

**GUESTS OF SENATOR
CHRISTOPHER M. GEBHARD
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator GEBHARD. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce an extraordinary young man who I am very honored to have visit the Senate. Northern Lebanon freshman Aaron Seidel, who recently won the State title in the PIAA Class AA 106-pound wrestling final. He joins us in the Senate gallery along with his parents, Steve and Martha; sister, Jess; and head coach, Rusty Wallace. Seidel finished an incredible season and a State tournament with a 4-2 win over the defending champion, Louie Gill of Hickory. This extraordinary freshman finished his season 49-1 with section, District 3, regional, and State titles. He is only the second State champion from Lebanon County, both coming from Northern Lebanon High School. When asked about Aaron's work ethic, Coach Wallace is quoted as saying, "He works too hard not to be successful," and "He wants to keep improving every day." Certainly words I think we all could learn from. Aaron Seidel is proof that this hard work does pay off. Mr. President, colleagues, will you please join me in giving a warm Senate welcome to Aaron Seidel, his coach, and family.

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

(Applause.)

**GUEST 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 welcome and thank the guest Chaplain today, Reverend Nate Goodson. For some of my colleagues, his face may seem familiar, as last year he served as the guest Chaplain virtually. I am proud that he could come visit us in person today, and I am happy to welcome him here. Reverend Goodson has become a good friend and community partner. He is a dedicated member of the Upper Darby community, having been appointed as the first African American councilman in February of 2005. He also serves as the founder of the Bywood Community Association and is working with local partners on an action plan for a better Bywood that

will kick off with what we imagine will be a vibrant and beautiful community garden this spring.

Beyond his dedication to the greater community, Reverend Goodson serves as the pastor of the Prayer Chapel of God in Christ in Upper Darby. He was ordained in 1979 and has served with the Prayer Chapel ever since, moving the church in 1998 to Upper Darby, Bywood section. Reverend Goodson has been married for 47 years to his wife, the lady Audrey Goodson. They are blessed with their daughter, Dea Goodson-Jackson, and son-in-law, Kwan Jackson, who also serve at the church. In January of 2007, he was given an increase to his blessings with the birth of a new bundle of joy, his first granddaughter, Layla. I ask the Senate to give Pastor Goodson a warm Senate welcome and, again, thank him for being guest Chaplain in the Senate today.

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

(Applause.)

**GUESTS OF SENATOR MARIA COLLETT
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome two special guests to the Senate from my district, Ms. Abbie Test and Ms. Monica Weninger. Abbie and Monica are here visiting the Capitol to see, up close, how our government works in action. Both women are teachers at Wissahickon Middle School in my district, teaching social studies and science, respectively. Their passion for and commitment to their work is evident. Abbie has been a teacher for 30 years, 21 of those in the Wissahickon School district, and Monica has been teaching in the district for 22 years. I am excited to be able to provide personal insight into the legislative process so they can go back to Wissahickon Middle School and share their experience with their students to continue fostering an interest in civic engagement. I hope we can welcome their students on a future field trip. Who knows, we may have a future Senator among them.

As we are all acutely aware, our education system is experiencing profound challenges. Yet, despite these challenges, educators like Abbie and Monica continue to go above and beyond to support their students. For example, Abbie recently began sponsoring a new GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) group at the middle school to provide a welcoming, inclusive space for LGBTQ+ students. These educators' compassion and dedication are truly inspirational. I am honored to host both Abbie and Monica today and ask my colleagues to please join me in extending our usual warm Senate welcome.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

(Applause.)

**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, it is an honor to rise today to introduce the 2022 Chesapeake Bay Commission president, Maryland State Senator Sarah Elfret, who is seated up in the

gallery. The Chesapeake Bay Commission was created in 1980 through State laws passed in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland with the purpose of being a catalyst for the coordination and leadership of State legislative and policy action to improve the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The leadership of the commission is made up of elected officials from the General Assemblies of all three States. Senator Yaw and I have the privilege of representing Pennsylvania, serving as members of the commission and collaborating with our colleagues from Maryland and Virginia as well as the other stakeholders and the great team that works for the commission.

Senator Elfretth was elected in 2018 to represent Annapolis and southern Anne Arundel County and is the youngest woman ever elected to the Maryland State Senate. Senator Elfretth graduated from Towson University and was appointed by the Governor of Maryland to serve on the University System of Maryland Board of Regents. In addition, Sarah spent 4 years as the Government Affairs Director at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, working on legislation to protect our natural resources and increase public support. Joining Sarah today is Ann Swanson, who has done an amazing job as executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission for over 36 years, and Marel King, who is the Pennsylvania Director for the commission. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join with me to welcome Senator Elfretth, Ann Swanson, and Marel King.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

(Applause.)

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 a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to be held here on the floor, followed by a brief 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 brief caucus as well.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, followed by Republican and Democratic caucuses to be held in their respective caucus rooms, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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 Corman.

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

GUEST OF SENATOR PATRICK J. STEFANO PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator STEFANO. Mr. President, today I am very proud to introduce a good friend of mine and the Mayor of Brownsville, Ross Swords, Jr. Earlier this morning, Ross was awarded one of the 2022 Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence. I cannot think of a more deserving person for this recognition. Ross officially began serving his community at the age of 21, when he started as a volunteer firefighter and was elected as constable. At 27, he became the youngest person ever elected to the position of councilman in Brownsville. For the past 6 years, Ross has served as the mayor. We all know how much time is demanded by being an elected official; Ross has never shied away from his duty despite raising his three children along with his wife. Ross has served his community well, and the award that he received is well-deserved. I ask that we give him our usual warm Senate welcome. Would he please rise.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Stefano please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator K. WARD, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported the following bill:

SB 1020 (Pr. No. 1523) (Rereported) (*Concurrence*)

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; and authorizing the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, with the approval of the Governor, to grant and convey to Erdenheim Farm (EQ), L.P., certain lands situate in Whitmarsh and Springfield Townships, Montgomery County, in exchange for Erdenheim Farm (EQ), L.P., causing to convey to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a tract of land to be added to Marsh Creek State Park.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 1020 (Pr. No. 1523) -- 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; and authorizing the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, with the approval of the Governor, to grant and convey to Erdenheim Farm (EQ), L.P., certain lands situate in Whitmarsh and Springfield Townships, Montgomery County, in exchange for Erdenheim Farm (EQ), L.P., causing to convey to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a tract of land to be added to Marsh Creek State Park.

On the question,
Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 1020?

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 1020.

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

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

YEA-49

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

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1, SB 137, SB 322, SB 358, SB 457, SB 573, SB 597, SB 676, HB 723, SB 745, SB 775, SB 848, SB 862 and SB 871 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

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

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

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

HB 889 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 889, Printer's No. 880, 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

SB 967 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL OVER IN ORDER TEMPORARILY

SB 982 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order temporarily at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 991 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 995 (Pr. No. 2381) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 996 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 1016 (Pr. No. 1320) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in decorations, medals, badges and awards, further providing for authorized decorations, medals, badges and awards.

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.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 1043 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 1167 (Pr. No. 1551) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for legitimate cannabis-related business.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dauphin, Senator DiSanto.

Senator DiSANTO. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 1167. I offer this legislation with my Democratic chair, the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Street, to permit financial institutions and insurers to service the State legal cannabis industry. The bill also protects against State penalties for banks and insurers that service these lawful businesses. This codifies the existing climate of regulatory non-enforcement. Federal prohibition has forced the cannabis industry to deal in cash as proceeds may be considered a Federal crime. This makes dispensaries a target for armed robbery. Improved access to financial

services will reduce this public safety risk and is essential to operate any legal business. Banking this cash in Pennsylvania will grow our economy and lower cost for medical patients. I ask for an affirmative vote. Thank you.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I join my colleague and co-chair, Senator DiSanto, in asking for an affirmative vote. This bill will take the first step in allowing for, and making it more feasible for people in the cannabis business to move away from being a cash business and to use our banking system. This lays the groundwork to removing barriers to entry to eventually allow folks who are small businesspeople who cannot fully finance the business with cash to access financial markets, get small business loans. It clears the way, with additional Federal legislation, to allow folks who are cannabis patients who may not be able to pay for medicine completely out of pocket to use insurance. It is incredibly important that we modernize and move forward with our cannabis program in a way that is not in the Stone Age. People should not be driving around with trucks full of money. It creates risk to people and property and is incredibly inefficient. Secondly, cannabis operating as a sole cash business creates tremendous barriers for small businesspeople who want to enjoy this economy. Finally, it is a challenge to operate in a complete cash system for ordinary people who need to access cannabis for medical purposes, but cannot use any insurance or any financial services in order to access cannabis. So for all those reasons and more, I urge a "yes" vote.

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-46

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

NAY-3

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER TEMPORARILY

SB 1200 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order temporarily at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 1614 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 1660 (Pr. No. 2371) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in duties and powers of boards of school directors, further providing for temporary emergency provisions.

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

HB 1660 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 1660, Printer's No. 2371, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote. The PRESIDENT. The bill will be placed on the Calendar.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 1849 and HB 2051 -- 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 2058 (Pr. No. 2365) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 31, 1965 (P.L.1257, No.511), known as The Local Tax Enabling Act, in consolidated collection of local income taxes, further providing for declaration and payment of income taxes.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

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

Corman Langerholc Scavello Yudichak
Costa

NAY-0

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

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

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

PREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMITTED

SB 1100 (Pr. No. 1436) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act to provide appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022; to provide appropriations from special funds and accounts to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

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

SB 1106 (Pr. No. 1442) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Professional Licensure Augmentation Account and from restricted revenue accounts within the General Fund to the Department of State for use by the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs in support of the professional licensure boards assigned thereto.

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

SB 1107 (Pr. No. 1443) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Workmen's Compensation Administration Fund to the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Community and Economic Development to provide for the expenses of administering the Workers' Compensation Act, The Pennsylvania Occupational Disease Act and the Office of Small Business Advocate for the fiscal year July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

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

SB 1108 (Pr. No. 1444) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making an appropriation from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Small Business Advocate in the Department of Community and Economic Development.

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

SB 1109 (Pr. No. 1445) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making an appropriation from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Consumer Advocate in the Office of Attorney General.

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

SB 1110 (Pr. No. 1452) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Public School Employees' Retirement Fund and from the PSERS Defined Contribution Fund to provide for expenses of the Public School Employees' Retirement Board for the fiscal year July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

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

SB 1111 (Pr. No. 1446) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the State Employees' Retirement Fund and from the SERS Defined Contribution Fund to provide for expenses of the State Employees' Retirement Board for the fiscal year July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

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

SB 1112 (Pr. No. 1447) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Philadelphia Taxicab and Limousine Regulatory Fund and the Philadelphia Taxicab Medallion Fund to the Philadelphia Parking Authority for the fiscal year July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

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

SB 1113 (Pr. No. 1448) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund and from Federal augmentation funds to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for the fiscal year July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

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

SB 1114 (Pr. No. 1449) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the restricted revenue accounts within the State Gaming Fund and from the restricted revenue accounts within the Fantasy Contest Fund and Video Gaming Fund to the Attorney General, the Department of Revenue, the Pennsylvania State Police and the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

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

SB 1100, SB 1106, SB 1107, SB 1108, SB 1109, SB 1110, SB 1111, SB 1112, SB 1113 and SB 1114 -- Upon motion of Senator K. WARD, and agreed to by voice vote, the bills were recommitted to the Committee on Appropriations.

NON-PREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMITTED

SB 1101 (Pr. No. 1437) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Supplement to the act of April 1, 1863 (P.L.213, No.227), entitled "An act to accept the grant of Public Lands, by the United States, to the several states, for the endowment of Agricultural Colleges," making appropriations for carrying the same into effect; providing for a basis for payments of such appropriations, for a method of accounting for the funds appropriated and for certain fiscal information disclosure; and making an appropriation from a restricted account within the Agricultural College Land Scrip Fund.

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

SB 1102 (Pr. No. 1438) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Supplement to the act of July 28, 1966 (3rd Sp.Sess., P.L.87, No.3), entitled "An act providing for the establishment and operation of the University of Pittsburgh as an instrumentality of the Commonwealth to serve as a State-related university in the higher education system of the Commonwealth; providing for change of name; providing for the composition of the board of trustees; terms of trustees, and the power and duties of such trustees; authorizing appropriations in amounts to be fixed annually by the General Assembly; providing for the auditing of accounts of expenditures from said appropriations; providing for public support and capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of bonds

exempt from taxation within the Commonwealth; requiring the chancellor to make an annual report of the operations of the University of Pittsburgh," making appropriations for carrying the same into effect; and providing for a basis for payments of such appropriations, for a method of accounting for the funds appropriated and for certain fiscal information disclosure.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

SB 1103 (Pr. No. 1439) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Supplement to the act of November 30, 1965 (P.L.843, No.355), entitled "An act providing for the establishment and operation of Temple University as an instrumentality of the Commonwealth to serve as a State-related university in the higher education system of the Commonwealth; providing for change of name; providing for the composition of the board of trustees; terms of trustees, and the power and duties of such trustees; providing for preference to Pennsylvania residents in tuition; providing for public support and capital improvements; authorizing appropriations in amounts to be fixed annually by the General Assembly; providing for the auditing of accounts of expenditures from said appropriations; authorizing the issuance of bonds exempt from taxation within the Commonwealth; requiring the President to make an annual report of the operations of Temple University," making an appropriation for carrying the same into effect; providing for a basis for payments of such appropriation; and providing a method of accounting for the funds appropriated and for certain fiscal information disclosure.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

SB 1104 (Pr. No. 1440) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Supplement to the act of July 7, 1972 (P.L.743, No.176), entitled "An act providing for the establishment and operation of Lincoln University as an instrumentality of the Commonwealth to serve as a State-related institution in the higher education system of the Commonwealth; providing for change of name; providing for the composition of the board of trustees; terms of trustees, and the power and duties of such trustees; providing for preference to Pennsylvania residents in tuition; authorizing appropriations in amounts to be fixed annually by the General Assembly; providing for the auditing of accounts of expenditures from said appropriations; providing for public support and capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of bonds exempt from taxation within the Commonwealth; requiring the President to make an annual report of the operations of Lincoln University," making an appropriation for carrying the same into effect; providing for a basis for payments of the appropriation; providing for a method of accounting for the funds appropriated; and providing for certain fiscal information disclosure.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

SB 1105 (Pr. No. 1441) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

SB 1101, SB 1102, SB 1103, SB 1104 and SB 1105 -- Upon motion of Senator K. WARD, and agreed to by voice vote, the bills were recommitted to the Committee on Appropriations.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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 Yudichak.

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 24, HB 118, SB 145, SB 152, SB 225 and SB 297 -- 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

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

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

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 527, HB 581, SB 749, SB 750, SB 815, SB 845, SB 892 and SB 907 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 959 (Pr. No. 1250) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

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 LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 965 (Pr. No. 1354) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

SB 965 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 965, Printer's No. 1354, 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 987, SB 993, SB 1018, SB 1027, SB 1031 and SB 1032 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 1038 (Pr. No. 1359) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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, SB 1083, SB 1121, SB 1122 and SB 1124 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 1163 (Pr. No. 1509) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of August 26, 1971 (P.L.351, No.91), known as the State Lottery Law, in State lottery, further providing for definitions and providing for disclosure of certain prizewinner identities.

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 1166 (Pr. No. 1508) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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, SB 1188, SB 1191, HB 1500, HB 1665 and HB 2044 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED**SB 982 CALLED UP**

SB 982 (Pr. No. 1264) -- Without objection, the bill, which previously went over in its order temporarily, was called up, from page 4 of the Third Consideration Calendar, by Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 982 (Pr. No. 1264) -- 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 preliminary provisions, providing for public funding of elections.

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

STREET AMENDMENT A4013 OFFERED

Senator STREET offered the following amendment No. A4013:

Amend Bill, page 1, line 12, by inserting after "elections":
and for funding for polling places
Amend Bill, page 1, lines 16 and 17, by striking out "a section" and inserting:
sections
Amend Bill, page 2, by inserting between lines 19 and 20:
Section 108. Funding for Polling Places.--(1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), for fiscal year 2022-2023, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of \$18,318,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of State to be distributed to the counties for the purpose of funding the costs of operating polling locations as follows:
(i) each county shall receive no less than \$1,000 for each voting district for the primary election; and
(ii) each county shall receive no less than \$1,000 for each voting district in the county for the general election.
(2) The Department of State shall annually calculate the number of voting districts. If the number of voting districts increases above the number of voting districts in existence on the effective date of this section, the appropriation under paragraph (1) shall increase so that each voting district shall receive at least \$1,000 for the primary election and \$1,000 for the general election.
(3) Fifty percent of the amount appropriated under paragraph (1) shall be used for the primary election in a fiscal year and fifty percent shall be used for the general election in a fiscal year.

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

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I offer this amendment because, while it makes sense for the government to fully fund elections, it only makes sense if we actually do so. Recently, in 2020, 23 counties applied for and were awarded grants to administer the general election. This was due to an unprecedented election where we had a brand-new vote-by-mail system and saw record turnout during a pandemic. While there were Federal dollars allocated, and the State does provide some money, counties simply did not have the money in the time they needed in order to move elections forward. The counties were not doing anything wrong, they were just trying to move forward with their elections. If we are, in fact, going to ban private money, we should, as a government, provide the funding to allow elections to move forward. The maker of the bill may be correct, it is better that private money not be engaged, but that is only the case if we, in fact, as a General Assembly, are going to meet our obligation to provide for elections. Specifically, this bill allocates \$9,159,000 for each primary and general election to be distributed to counties for operating the elections, and it is based on \$1,000 for each of the 9,159 precincts and voting divisions in the Commonwealth.

This amendment is based on a recommendation from the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center and supports the priori-

ties of our counties, the County Commissioners Association of PA, which has emphatically indicated that they need the money in order to conduct elections. This is a good faith gesture to our counties. It is saying to them that we are not going to move forward unfunded mandates and we recognize the valuable work that they do in making sure that we are able to have free and fair elections. This money would go to red and blue counties, rural and urban, small and large. It would be distributed in an equitable manner, and it would allow us to meet our obligation to provide the resources to let elections be funded by the government.

If we are, in fact, going to ban outside money and we are saying--driving home a message--that elections should be funded by the government, we have an obligation to actually provide that funding. It is a fundamental part of what our government does. It is a core function of government, and, therefore, we need to meet our obligation and fund our elections. So I urge a "yes" vote on this amendment.

STREET AMENDMENT A4013 TABLED

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I appreciate some of the points made by my colleague across the aisle, but believe that this issue is better addressed in the budget in June. That is a better place for this to be discussed, and for that reason, I motion to table.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues for a negative vote on this tabling motion. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Kim Ward moves that Senator Street's amendment be laid upon the table.

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

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

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

YEA-29

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

NAY-20

Boscola	Costa	Kane	Schwank
Brewster	Flynn	Kearney	Street

Cappelletti	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Collett	Haywood	Santarsiero	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Hughes	Saval	Williams, Lindsey

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

The PRESIDENT. Amendment A4013 will be laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

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

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

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

The PRESIDENT. Senator Gordner requests a legislative leave for Senator Yaw.

Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Brewster.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

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

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, I firmly believe that the administration of elections is a core function of government, which is why my colleague from York and I have introduced Senate Bill No. 982. It offers a direct, straightforward clarification to the Pennsylvania Election Code simply stating what all of us understood to be fact: government should pay for elections. We must ensure the integrity of our elections and give voters confidence in the process. We must live up to the promises, and those in the State Constitution, to make voting as universal and accessible as possible. Although public funding seems to be a creative response, that does not render it good policy or conducive to restoring public faith in elections free from outside influence and manipulation. While there may not be observable strings attached to such money, there is no accountability in how the money is deployed. No one is going to believe so many dollars will be used evenly, effectively, and without advantage. If we do not shut off this valve now, each side will figure out ways to get their funders to step in, to engineer ways to get more of their votes cast, there is no good government in that. We have all been receiving mail and calls from groups and some individuals who think private funding is okay. The problem is this practice puts what is clearly defined public responsibility, one of the core pillars of our democratic structure, into private hands. It is not a good look today, and if it is allowed to persist, it could taint and it could taint on the rise.

So, what is the answer? The definition contained in Senate Bill No. 982 is clear. The cost and expense to State and local

governments relating to the registration of voters and the preparation, administration, and conduct of elections in this Commonwealth shall be funded only upon the lawful appropriation of Federal, State, and local governments, and the source of the funding shall be limited to money derived from taxes, fees, and other sources of public revenue. This must be a priority, and we must all participate in arriving at a collective solution consistent with our constitutional duty. So I urge an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 982, which is helping to aim and restore faith in the process and foster fairness uniformly across the Commonwealth.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of Senate Bill No. 982, and as a sponsor of this much-needed legislation along with my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Luzerne County, this bill is critical to protecting the integrity of our election process. Let me be crystal clear, our election process must be beyond reproach.

As my colleague so articulately stated, outside funding from third parties is a new phenomenon in our election process. We are not talking about funding candidates, campaigns, or other partisan interests. We are talking about the actual administration of our elections, and that is a significant difference. In a recent election, we watched an outside group fund a core function of government. It is an extremely troubling fact that an outside group can contribute \$22.5 million to fund election operations in our State and in only certain counties. The Committee on State Government held two hearings over the last week on the matter, and to their credit, the Department of State said this funding was open to any county. But email correspondence shows staff within the administration initially reached out to a few select counties to inform their election officials about this funding. So it was made known later to all of the counties, and we saw the hand on the scale early in the process. Again, this is not a hand on the scale for a candidate or a campaign, this is a hand on the scale by the referees for the referees, and that is just plain wrong.

To make matters worse, we still do not know the origin of these funds. The founder and CEO of Facebook and his spouse are obviously the high-profile donors to the entity that contributed to the administration of our elections process. However, that organization has more than just two donors, and we do not know who those people are who are contributing to the actual administration of our elections. The founder and CEO of Facebook is obviously just one individual, but this third-party entity existed before one of the wealthiest individuals in our country gave \$350 million to this nonprofit. There was no guidance for the use of these funds from the Department of State. Our election system, it is meant to serve as an objective referee of sorts. Yet that very system was taking in money from an outside group with partisan leanings. If we allow this new practice to continue, the very bedrock of our republic, our election process, could be open to receiving donations. I read reports this morning of other groups with nice-sounding names, but when you do some digging into their advocacy efforts, there are clear partisan leanings. I do not care if it is the left this year and the right next year or vice versa, every voter, regardless of partisan affiliation, should have full faith that the system that they use to cast their vote is purely objective and not open to outside, partisan influence. We can have

many debates in this Chamber about what are the core functions of State government, but I would be hard-pressed to find one individual in this Chamber, or the one across the Rotunda, in either party, who will say that funding our elections is not a core function of our government.

Finally, I appreciate the dialogue that we have had with our friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle about coming up with a way to move forward to fund our election process. Specifically, I want to give credit to the good gentleman from Philadelphia County, the Democratic chair of our Committee on State Government, for his willingness to engage on this matter. I remain hopeful that, after today, those conversations continue and that we establish uniform parameters across our State. That the letter of the law with regard to our elections is followed, because we have an obligation to every voter in every county in every precinct to guarantee that through the Constitution, their right to free and fair elections is upheld. Let us reaffirm that right to every Pennsylvanian by saying "yes," to Senate Bill No. 982 and saying "no" to partisan, third-party money flowing into our election operations.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, I heartily agree with my respected colleagues across the aisle that funding for our elections is a critical, important function of State government.

In my history, Mr. President, I served 8 years as a county commissioner in Berks County, and I know firsthand how important and how seriously county commissioners take the role of actually operating our elections. When I served in that role as a county commissioner, I always understood that the folks who represented me in Harrisburg, our Senators and Representatives, were my partners in working towards making sure that elections were fully funded. At the point where we are at right now, quite frankly, I feel we should be embarrassed as legislators in terms of how we are supporting counties and allowing counties to be a part of the conversation in terms of what reforms we are looking at.

The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, for the past couple of years--but particularly this year, 2022--have these policy statements that they make, and election reform is among them. One of the things that they talked about is fully funding our elections, but some other things that they talked about: extending the prec canvassing period for mail-in and absentee ballots to allow ample time for counties to prepare the ballots for tabulation so that accurate results could be provided as soon as possible. That is one of them, I will add to that--and I am taking that right from their policy statement--I am of the understanding that at least one county used these outside funds to buy scanners so they could tabulate mail-in ballots. Where were we? Where were we as a State legislature in terms of helping to fund them? We knew these problems, we could have anticipated that this was coming, but we failed to do that. Again, we should be embarrassed. They also asked about moving back the deadline for absentee and mail-in ballot applications to 15 days prior to an election in sufficient time for counties to process the applications and for the ballot to be mailed from the county out to the voter and back again. These are the things that they really want; they want funding, and they want some of those needed reforms that we have all recognized were not made to Act 77; that is what we

should be working on. I am glad to hear that we are very concerned about integrity; I am too, all of us are. But counties resorted to something out of necessity, not necessarily because they wanted to. It was an opportunity, they made good use of it, and I believe that they did so with integrity as well.

So I am glad to hear that we will address this in the budget. I think it is regrettable that my colleague from Philadelphia, his amendment was not considered, I think that would have been a good faith effort to show to our county commissioners and to our voters that we really are serious here in the Pennsylvania State Senate about making sure that we can conduct elections that everybody can believe in.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, look, I certainly agree with those who say that our elections should be funded by our government, that counties should not need private money to run elections, and that the Commonwealth should meet its obligations. That being said, we had an opportunity today to do just that. We had an opportunity to step forward and say we are not going to have private money involved in our elections, but we are also not going to move forward with unfunded mandates. We are not going to pass legislation that, once again, puts additional requirements on counties and then ask them to raise local taxes to pay for it. We had an opportunity to actually do the right thing and make sure that we both pulled out private sector money and paid for elections. To do anything else does create disparities. We all know some counties have greater capacity to be able to afford to pay for elections than others, that some counties have greater capacity to pay for the execution of elections--bringing in new machines, opening up the polls, and making sure that you have electronic poll books. All the other things that are associated with this, all of this costs money. We moved forward with a new system where counties needed to get new voting machines for people to cast ballots on, new machines to count the mail-in ballots, and a myriad of other challenges. And now we say, we cannot be creative about finding outside money, and it has got to be funded with government money, but we are not prepared to say we are going to pay the bill.

It is time that we are going to be serious about funding elections and that we actually do that. If we are going to pull outside money and say the government should fund our elections, we need to do just that. We have a very reasonable proposal in front of us for how we fund elections. We should have money to go along with this legislation. Without funding, this is just another unfunded mandate from Harrisburg directed at our counties, criticizing the way that they conduct county business, but providing none of the assistance needed for them to do their jobs. So, while I truly do believe that the government should be funding elections, and the government solely should be funding elections, I cannot vote for this legislation without the funding components.

So, it is with a heavy heart that I have to urge a "no" vote, even though what we really should be doing is taking out the private money and replacing it with the government funds needed to make sure that the full enfranchisement of every Pennsylvanian, whether they live in a poor or rich county, big or small county, urban or rural county, that those folks have the right to vote. To say to counties, we want you to do it, but you cannot use outside money, and we are not going to give you the money

either, that is replicating inequity based on the ability of counties to come up with the money to run elections fairly, and that is just plain wrong. So I urge a "no" vote.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Mr. President, I certainly respect and understand the concern of my colleague and good friend from Philadelphia, and certainly elections are extremely important, and they need to be funded. I have been in, probably at least since Governor Wolf has been here, every budget meeting that there has been, sitting down at the budget table and discussing the needs of the State budget. Not one time did anyone ever request more money for elections, not our Caucus, not the other Caucus, not the Governor, not the Secretary of State. My friends and colleagues on the Committee on Appropriations said, not one time did the Department of State come in and say we need more money for elections. So, certainly these public dollars have never been part of our elections before, and we funded all of our elections, and elections are a core responsibility of county government, not State government; and certainly before this 2020 election, there was never a concern about not having enough money to conduct their elections. I had my staff do a little search--all the letters we have received from the County Commissioners Association over the years--cannot find a request for more money for elections.

So, look, it is important that elections are funded well because it is the cornerstone of our democracy to perform elections. As a county core responsibility, certainly the State and Federal government lends their assistance, as we should, to make sure that everyone has access to vote, to make sure that everyone believes in the security of the process, and certainly we want to continue to work on that. Just because some billionaire put a bunch of money in 2 years ago, and we are now asking that not be part of it in the future, whether it be the Koch brothers or Mark Zuckerberg, that all of a sudden the counties are not going to have money to run elections. They have been running elections for decades. Again, it is a county core responsibility, and they have not come to us asking for more dollars. If they do, we are happy to hear it. We are happy to be part of that process and, as I think was said, when the budget comes around in June and the County Commissioners Association comes to us and says we need some resources, I think they will get a very sympathetic ear to be part of that. But to, sort of, make it look like they are losing money because we are not allowing private dollars into our elections, I think, is a mischaracterization of the facts. So, we will continue to do our job and assist the county in performing those elections, but it is a cornerstone of government responsibility, and to have private dollars--no matter where they come from--to come in and try to influence how money is spent on this process is wrong, and so, therefore, I support this bill.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I first want to address the comments of the President pro tempore with respect to what role we played in supporting county elections. We did a bond issue in 2019, Act 77, that provided \$90-plus million to our Commonwealth counties to be able to assist them in the implementation of the new voting manner in which we vote here in Pennsylvania today. Act 77, interestingly, it is the same act that a number of

my colleagues, especially on the other side of the aisle, are trying to do away with, and that is Act 77. So, I think the gentlewomen from Berks, Luzerne, and York, and the gentleman from Philadelphia, all spoke about the need for resources, and at the end of the day, we have to make sure that we understand that is our obligation. I was inclined to support this measure based upon what I have heard and the narrative that has been out there, because I do think we have to continue to work to do what we can to restore integrity. But, the best way for us to try to restore integrity in the voting process is by taking action, not deferring action until June 30 or some point, but taking action now.

There is no better message that we can deliver to the constituents of Pennsylvania, that we are putting our resources where we believe they need to be, while we are prohibiting the private investment of elections on one hand, but we recognize--and I would say to you, I believe if we had the opportunity to vote on Senator Street's amendment, if it was not tabled, had we had the opportunity to vote on the gentleman from Philadelphia's amendment, it would have passed in this Chamber. It is obvious, based upon what I have heard, but we were not given that opportunity. That situation was deferred to a later date, and it is not even a certainty that we will get there. I think we all know how this is going to play out. All of you, and some of our Members, are going to vote to support this measure, it is going to pass, it is going to go to the House, it is going to experience the same situation. The Governor is going to veto it; there will be an attempt to override the veto; we will vote to sustain the veto to permit it to be sustained; and, at the end of the day, one of you may offer a constitutional amendment to do an end around the legislative process. That is how this game plan is going to play out, and it is disingenuous to the process. We need to address the situation that is before us, providing the resources to the counties that need it, especially as we go into a primary election where folks are now focused on this election, the gubernatorial race, the senatorial race, the races of the Members in here. Folks are focused on that, and there is no better opportunity for us to put our resources where our mouth is, and that is by voting to add these resources along those lines, but I do think we need to recognize that this is, in fact, a core function. It is something we have an obligation to address. This is on the front end of the electoral process.

We also have to recognize that on the back end of this process; there is an auditing process. So while we are prohibiting private resources coming in on the private side on the front end of the election, we have no discussion--and my colleague, the gentleman from Philadelphia, will be offering an amendment to a different bill--to address the back end process, the auditing process. To me, I believe, and I think some of my colleagues here believe, that the same prohibition needs to apply on how we do our auditing at our county levels. We should not have private resources used in counties as it relates to audits that are being done through this process. The same prohibition should apply. That is not the case with what we have here.

So, for those reasons, like my colleague from Philadelphia, I would have liked to vote for this measure, but I think it should have included the resources for elections and also addressed the audit provisions that I mentioned moments ago. Listen, let us continue to work to restore confidence in our voting process, but let us get it done the right way. This is not the right way to be able to do it, by itself, as a silo, so to speak, in this process. We

need to be more comprehensive. We are not, and I want to move forward along those lines.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I rise today having chaired an election board for 8 years and having been involved with the County Commissioners Association as a board of director for a very long time, and still maintain constant communications with them. If I think anything that the County Commissioners Association would be asking for, is to those direct procedural issues that they would like to see addressed that the gentlewoman from Berks had mentioned. But throughout my tenure as a county commissioner and overseeing an elections process, I can think of two times where we actually sought money outside of our county general fund to run elections. That was back in 2006, with the Help America Vote Act, known as HAVA, to buy new voting machines, for that capital expense; and going into Act 77, in terms of meeting the decertification of machines that the Wolf Administration put in place and counties were left in a bind with a huge capital cost in order to pay for that.

Now, in my communications--and I do advocate for counties, that they should be at the table, they should have a say in the terms of impact on some of the decisions that are made here--but I will say that, to this day, in my communications with them, which are often, I have never heard a request to help fund their operating expenses. There has never been a number given to us when they meet with the former alumni, who were commissioners, who are now in the State Senate. But I will say this, what they want to see is consistency in terms of how the rules are put in place in how elections are conducted. Not to be put in a situation where certain ballots are counted in one county, and in another county they are ruled to be ineligible. That is what they do not want to see.

We also do not want to see outside influence of private money that is given, specifically, first dibs to hand-selected counties and that all counties did not also have the same opportunity, too. So, I really hope that we are dealing with facts, and for anyone who deals directly with our commissioners around the State and hearing what their concerns are or what their requests are, that the record is straight in this matter. I thank the gentlewomen from Luzerne and York Counties for putting this forth. I have heard nothing but broad support across the board as to this being a core function of government to fund and operate elections, and it is long overdue to be addressed from what happened just a few short years ago.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I had no intent to comment, but since we are in this space where facts are kind of in dispute, let me be very clear. We have had proceedings over the last several weeks and months with regard to the issue of integrity of our voting process, and I think they are necessary. What I am going to ask is, rather than people standing up and sort of saying in the air facts--which are not facts, they are fiction--and I take specific exception to the comments which were just last made. Be very clear, there was a reporter who was asked to come and testify in front of our committees. He admitted he is a right-leaning, biased reporter using facts in a certain

manner that arrived at that conclusion, which is okay. But, let us not represent to the public this has anything to do with the integrity, transparency, or fairness of a ballot process. It has to do with an advantage positioning of parties, and I do not think we should be commenting and suggesting to the public that we are defending their integrity and right to truth. That is simply not correct. By the way, as testified by the reporter in front of the committee. What I am going to ask is, going forward, if we are going to have people come to our hearings and these committees, Madam Leader and leaders, we need to have them sworn. There has to be a consequence for not telling the truth in front of us and the public. So I am asking that we as a body, if we want to gain traction with the public as it relates to the election process, that when people give us information that is supposed to be factual, let it be sworn; and the consequences to follow, if not factual, fall upon that individual and upon the institution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Schuylkill, Senator Argall.

Senator ARGALL. Mr. President, I, too, was not going to rise, but I find it necessary. This bill was approved by a bipartisan vote in the Committee on State Government. We held several public hearings over the past week on this legislation, and in several hours of testimony and follow-up questions, no questions were ever raised regarding the truth of the emails which were obtained and disclosed through Right to Know requests. Those emails show a massive effort by members of the Governor's staff to engage with dark money groups from far outside of Pennsylvania and the county election officials to push private grants toward certain counties before the Department of State made the call for all counties to become eligible for these groups. I think we all agree that is not appropriate. That is what we are trying to end, and that is why this bill was approved by a bipartisan vote. At one point, we even learned that the former Secretary of the Commonwealth personally invited her home county to apply for a grant before the department notified all the other 66 counties. It has been said here many times today, it is time to begin to rebuild our trust in the election process. I believe this bill is one step in that direction.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, it has been asserted that the county commissioners have never made a request to the General Assembly, and I had said before that they did, but I will be more specific.

On March 22, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., at the Harrisburg Hilton in the Carlisle Room, at a convening of meetings where all four Caucus chairs were invited and both Caucuses of this Chamber were present, the County Commissioners Association, speaking through its chair and vice chair, gave us a set of priorities, the top priority of which was to have full election funding. It was represented by the county commissioners present at that time that this had been communicated to Members before. I attended, representing the Senate Democratic Caucus; the Senate Republican Caucus was represented as well. It was clearly articulated, and if it had not been articulated to Members before, let me be clear, let me be specific. On March 22, 2022, in the Carlisle Room at the Hilton, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 11:05 a.m., at an agenda that had been present to all four Caucus chairs, from all four committees of the General

Assembly, a request was made for additional funding for elections, and the top request of the priorities of the County Commissioners Association was, in fact, funding. I reiterate, moving forward with making sure that we fund elections is something that should be done. But let it not be said that we did not get a request. All Caucuses of the General Assembly have gotten a request and I have given a specific date and time and both Caucuses of this Chamber were represented in the meeting.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

And the question recurring.
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I just want to bring to the Members' attention that, as part of the Governor's 2022-23 budget presentation that he made to all of us, he very specifically makes a request on page E38-6 of the Governor's Budget Book, right here--talks about some of the issues that we hope to be able to move forward through this process, which supports the claims that Senator Street has talked about and also what our Members have talked about with regard to the amendment he offered. Very specifically, \$2 million for continued voter outreach, \$3.5 million for initiatives including modernization of Pennsylvania's elections and notary licensing and the like. Voter registration education, another \$121 million being appropriated. The point I am trying to make is these requests have been made in the past, and continue to be made, and need to be part of this conversation. While we recognize the importance of what has been presented here today, it is important that we be more comprehensive in our approach to really successfully address the concerns of the public, and that is what we are asking.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, I just want to bring up a couple of points based on previous comments. The election security grants from 2018 to 2020, according to the Election Assistance Commission--the report that was given to them from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania--Pennsylvania received \$28,651,723. The amount still remaining in the State's coffers as of September 30, 2021, was \$20,591,309. This money has been sitting here, and it is not the legislature that doles that out, it is the executive branch.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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-37

Argall	DiSanto	Mastriano	Stefano
Aument	Dush	Mensch	Tomlinson

Baker	Flynn	Muth	Vogel
Bartolotta	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Gordner	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brooks	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Browne	Langerholc	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Cappelletti	Laughlin	Santarsiero	Yaw
Collett	Martin	Scavello	Yudichak
Corman			

NAY-12

Brewster	Fontana	Kane	Schwank
Comitta	Haywood	Kearney	Street
Costa	Hughes	Saval	Tartaglione

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

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

SB 1200 CALLED UP

SB 1200 (Pr. No. 1576) -- Without objection, the bill which previously went over in its order temporarily, was called up from page 5 of the Third Consideration Calendar, by Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 1200 (Pr. No. 1576) -- 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 county boards of elections, further providing for expenses of county boards and of primaries and elections to be paid by county, expenses of special elections and boards to be provided with offices; in voting by qualified absentee electors, further providing for date of application for absentee ballot and for voting by absentee electors; and, in voting by qualified mail-in electors, further providing for voting by mail-in electors.

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

A.H. WILLIAMS AMENDMENT A4021 OFFERED

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS offered the following amendment No. A4021:

Amend Bill, page 1, line 11, by inserting after "elections,"":
in preliminary provisions, providing for public funding of post-election procedures and audits;

Amend Bill, page 1, lines 21 through 23, by striking out all of said lines and inserting:

Section 1. The act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 107. Public Funding of Post-election Procedures and Audits.--(a) The cost and expense to State and local governments relating to any post-election procedures and audits of elections in this Commonwealth, including the examination or counting of ballots or the examination or inspection of voting apparatuses or related electronic security equipment, shall be funded only upon lawful appropriation of the Federal, State and local governments, and the source of funding shall be limited to money derived from taxes, fees and other sources of public revenue.

(b) State and local governments, including their public officers, public officials, employees and agents, may not solicit, apply for, enter into a contract for or receive or expend gifts, donations, grants or funding from any individual, business, organization, trust, foundation, or any nongovernmental entity for any post-election procedures and audits of elections in this Commonwealth, including the examination or counting of ballots or the examination or inspection of voting apparatuses or related electronic security equipment.

(c) This section shall not be construed to apply to the collection of fees authorized by law or to the donation or use of:

- (1) services that are provided without remuneration; or
(2) goods that have a nominal value of less than one hundred (\$100) dollars.

(d) A person who violates this section commits a felony of the second degree.

Section 2. Sections 305(b) and 1302.1(a.3)(4) and (6) of the act are amended to read:

Amend Bill, page 3, line 13, by striking out "2" and inserting:
3

Amend Bill, page 4, line 24, by striking out all of said line and inserting:

Section 4. This act shall take effect as follows:

- (1) The addition of section 107 of the act shall take effect in 60 days.
(2) The remainder of this act shall take effect immediately.

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

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I offer an amendment that would effectively prevent dark money from funding audits in the State of Pennsylvania. That is it, folks.

A.H. WILLIAMS AMENDMENT A4021 TABLED

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I motion to table the amendment.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Kim Ward moves that Senator Anthony Williams' amendment be laid upon the table.

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-29

Table with 4 columns of names: Argall, Aument, Baker, Bartolotta, Brooks, Browne, Corman, DiSanto, Dush, Gebhard, Gordner, Hutchinson, Langerholc, Laughlin, Martin, Mastriano, Mensch, Phillips-Hill, Pittman, Regan, Robinson, Scavello, Stefano, Tomlinson, Vogel, Ward, Judy, Ward, Kim, Yaw, Yudichak.

NAY-20

Table with 4 columns of names: Boscola, Brewster, Cappelletti, Collett, Comitta, Costa, Flynn, Fontana, Haywood, Hughes, Kane, Kearney, Muth, Santarsiero, Saval, Schwank, Street, Tartaglione, Williams, Anthony H., Williams, Lindsey.

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

The PRESIDENT. Amendment A4021 will be laid on the table.

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

FONTANA AMENDMENT A3965
OFFERED AND WITHDRAWN

Senator FONTANA offered the following amendment No. A3965:

[amendment was drafted to incorrect Printer's No.]

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

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

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, we have been having a lot of conversation and debate about the security of ballot drop boxes. I have a very simple solution to that debate--

The PRESIDENT. Senator, we have a technical issue; we have to go at ease.

(The Senate was at ease.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlemen from Allegheny, Senator Fontana.

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, this piece of legislation is about ballot drop boxes, and there has been a lot of conversation, discussion, and debate about the security of these drop boxes. I have a very simple solution, Mr. President, to this debate, and that is to make Pennsylvania a mail-in ballot State, eliminating the need for ballot drop boxes. For more than 20 years, mail-in ballots have been Oregon's standard system for every election, where voters automatically get their ballots through the mail ahead of time. Furthermore, eight other States also permit all elections to be conducted by mail, with many others having some sort of mail-in voting. The amendment I was going to put forward earlier takes the language from my Senate bill, Senate Bill No. 128, which is similar to Oregon's law, and puts this system into effect for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The United States mail is one of the most secure means of transporting information and goods. Again, what do we need drop boxes for if you have mail-in, and, as with every election cycle, the United States Postal Service's primary concern is the security and timely delivery of ballots and other election mail. The success of mail-in ballots is evident since the United States Postal Service processed over 63 million ballots in the 2021 election year, and, because of the changes in our laws, more than to 2.6 million Pennsylvanians cast ballots by mail. So, they feel confident in the mailbox.

Additionally, my amendment would also allow for prec canvassing to take place up to 7 days before an election. This is the request, and this has been referenced earlier, that the Pennsylvania county commissioners have been vocal about, as something they want put into law, along with the fair and equitable funding for elections, as was talked about earlier. Thirty-two States already permit the practice of allowing counties to open

and prepare mail-in and absentee ballots ahead of time of election day. Mail-in voting is safe, convenient, and an effective way of voting. It is time we make Pennsylvania a completely mail-in ballot State, and there will no longer be any need for debate about drop boxes.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Fontana, is there not the matter of the amendment?

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, I am going to withdraw my amendment. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. Duly noted. The amendment is withdrawn.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

It was agreed to.

On the question,

Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, thanks for allowing me to speak on Senate Bill No. 1200. This bill amends the Pennsylvania Election Code and clarifies the process of returning absentee ballots and mail-in ballots. The bill clears up the ambiguities in the current statute that currently exist. Drop boxes were never legislated by the General Assembly. Drop boxes were spawned by a combination of ambiguity in the statute--claimed ambiguity in the statute--and the Governor's emergency declaration due to the pandemic. The pandemic emergency declaration has expired and so has the need for drop boxes. The ballots are called mail-in ballots, not drop box ballots. This is the vernacular we use not only in everyday conversation, but also in statute and the law. Ballots received later with postal concerns can be dropped off at the primary office of the county election board. Voting by mail is a much more accessible form of voting and much more convenient than going to a drop box.

On the subject of the videos that actually spawned this legislation--one of the things we learned from the counties is that if there is no authorization form for the extra ballots that are illegally cast, no number of excuses can change the fact that those are illegally-cast ballots. For counties to look at videos, figure out who dropped off extra ballots, track them down, find out if there was a designated authorization form that somehow went missing out of the drop box, we would never be able to get our elections certified by the deadline. The resources do not exist for that. All of those videos have to be watched and complaints issued before they can even start. For these reasons, I thank you for considering the bill, and I would appreciate an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 1200.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Northampton, Senator Boscola.

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, to me, eliminating drop boxes makes no sense whatsoever. The drop boxes used in Northampton County were more secure and more effective than mailboxes. In Northampton County, the drop boxes were located in government buildings with surveillance. If you think about it, we do not even have cameras monitoring our own mailboxes at the end of the street throughout the Commonwealth, and we cer-

tainly do not have them at a lot of post offices, but we can with drop boxes. With drop boxes, ballots are secured, collected by county workers, and delivered directly to the courthouse. Unlike mailboxes, where the ballots pass through multiple hands, sorting machines, before arriving at the courthouse. With drop boxes, voters can be confident knowing that they have voted by using a conveniently located drop box, ballot box.

Many folks have pointed out to what occurred in Lehigh County. Who said, oh, we had one or two people putting two ballots in the drop box. Well, a lot of people I talked to think that is okay, because you know what? If you are going to a drop box and you have your spouse's ballot, who really cares? It is your child, your grandmother, if there are four people in your house, and you are going to a drop box to drop off four of those ballots. Really? Has common sense really gone out the window in this building?

Most people who voted and dropped it in a mailbox or a drop box applied for their ballot, filled it out, signed and dated it, and returned it. Most people view that provision of the law where you can only drop one off, not your spouse's, as totally impractical and one that should be amended to recognize the realities of life. Members of a household are not individually walking down the end of the street to put their ballot individually in that mailbox, or when they go to the post office, they are in the car, four of them in the car from a family, they are not individually walking into the post office with one. They are doing all four, and I do not think anything is wrong with that, I really do not. So, if my husband could put my ballot in the mail for me, right? If he could, why not drop it off at a county drop box? If he can put it at the end of the street, at the end of the driveway for me, legally, but he cannot put it in a drop box for me, wow. Let us have a little bit more common sense in this building.

Now, I am not saying I am not all about having a conversation about standardizing the way we use drop boxes. Let us standardize the way all these counties use them. But elimination? Come on, no way. I was proud to be the prime sponsor of a bill that brought Pennsylvania no excuse mail-in voting, and I recognized immediately its benefit to the most important part of democracy, the individual voter. That is who we should be concerned about, not the parties, not the politicians, but the people. Through Act 77, we made voting easier, more convenient, and increased participation across all elections, which I think is fantastic. That was a great step forward for Pennsylvania. Let us not go backwards. Let us shore up the progress we made with Act 77. Do not go backwards, and Senate Bill No. 1200 goes backwards. I am not voting for it.

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

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of Senate Bill No. 1200. I was pleased to work with my colleagues, with my fellow prime sponsor, and I express my thanks to the chair of the Committee on Intergovernmental Operations for his work on this important effort to restore Pennsylvanians' faith in our elections in this Commonwealth.

It has become abundantly clear that drop boxes are the least secure way to vote in Pennsylvania. Video evidence, witness testimony, geolocation data, and thorough reviews by law enforcement at the local level all confirm that drop boxes are breeding grounds for suspicious activity. They were never authorized by this legislative body, but were instead created by the courts.

Because they legislated from the bench, there are no proper guidelines or security measures to govern the use of drop boxes. We must stop willingly surrendering our legislative authority to the courts and the executive branch of State government. We here are the people assembled. It is the responsibility of this General Assembly to be their voice, and it is time to reassert our authority on the people's behalf.

Senate Bill No. 1200 will require all ballots to be returned to a single, central location in each county, effectively eliminating drop boxes to streamline the process, prevent tampering, and preserve a strict chain of custody. To be clear, we are here today, legislating this issue, because the Pennsylvania Supreme Court took it upon themselves to use the pandemic as an excuse to create these new guidelines and change the rules in the middle of an election. It is precisely because drop boxes were improperly injected by the courts that they lack adequate security measures. They are applied inconsistently from county to county, and they have become opportunities for ballot stuffing, which is a criminal offense. It was never the intent of this legislature to establish rogue voting facilities on street corners that have no county board of election oversight. It was a huge leap by the courts to construe Act 77 to somehow permit drop boxes even though they are never once mentioned, not once. The overwhelming majority of my constituents find it absolutely absurd that the court would find it appropriate for a county to put metal boxes on playgrounds, without staff or cameras to monitor them, and call it conducting a secure election. The court overstepped, and we are here today to correct that mistake.

Simply put, if we are to have free, fair, and secure elections in this Commonwealth, drop boxes must be eliminated. I ask for the support of my colleagues in the Senate today to pass this important piece of legislation, so Pennsylvanians can be confident when they cast their vote and be confident that their vote will count. Thank you.

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

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Mr. President, I would like to preface this by reminding everybody that the 2020 election was determined to be safe and secure, and that there was no evidence of voter fraud or election misconduct. With the U.S. Postal Service remaining understaffed and unpredictable, ballot drop boxes have been determined to be a safe and secure way to ensure the timely return of mail-in and absentee ballots. Passed as part of Act 77 in the fall of 2019--as my colleague from Northampton County mentioned, she was proud to be a part of that--it was passed long before we had COVID-19, before we even knew what the pandemic was, and before it overwhelmed our society. Drop boxes targeted an increase in voter accessibility. We not only made voting more accessible for all, but it particularly increased voting access for college students, the disabled, elderly, and immunocompromised. Voting is not a partisan issue. I think we all agree on that because, in fact, I would like to remind you that 29 of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle, in fact, voted in favor of Act 77, and that the drop boxes were used for the 2020 Primary Election, which took place on Tuesday, June 2. I do not recall anybody being upset about the illegitimacy of those votes, but it only seemed to occur after the drop boxes were used during the General Election, and that they were negative because, perhaps, they were not working out in favor for the 2020 General Election. I would also like to remind my col-

leagues, including those who are spearheading this legislation, that they, in fact, do work in your favor. Your constituents, regardless of their political affiliation, vote by mail-ins, utilize drop boxes, and they may even use those drop boxes to vote for you. Many of you represent sprawling rural areas where county election offices are largely inaccessible and mail service is significantly slower. I would like to preface by saying even in Montgomery County the general mail is fairly slow, and I often get emails saying this is what I can expect in my mail today, and it is several days later before I actually get that in my mail.

So, by doing this, we are actually suppressing votes, and you may even be suppressing your own votes with this legislation. Instead of doing that, we should be increasing ballot access by allowing the prec canvassing of ballots, expanding drop box access, and extending the mailing of ballots by counties from 14 days to 28 days, because, once again, I would like to remind you that all of us here in this Chamber do, indeed, benefit from mail-in and absentee ballots. Republicans, Democrats, Independents, and nonparty affiliated voters all benefitted from Act 77, and that included the ballot drop boxes. So I stand here in support of every single Pennsylvanian and their right to vote safely and securely, which is exactly what a drop box is, safe and secure. I am voting "no" on this legislation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Schuylkill, Senator Argall.

Senator ARGALL. Mr. President, in support of Senate Bill No. 1200, we should note that facts are indeed stubborn things. As the Senator from Lancaster County noted, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court took it upon itself to approve the creation of ballot drop boxes less than 2 months before the 2020 elections without the deliberation and approval of the House or the Senate: not the way we learned it back in eighth grade civics. Now, despite the dubious legality of these drop boxes, one thing is 100 percent clear, and I am not sure that everyone on the floor of the Senate understands this, it is not legal for any voter to drop off more than one ballot. It might be convenient, it might be, oh, I was on my way to the supermarket, but it is not legal.

Also, at our committee public hearings on this subject, we have shown that dark money groups--again, from far outside Pennsylvania--were pressing county election officials to open up as many of these drop boxes as possible. Also, we need to make this clear: the district attorney for Lehigh County stated earlier this month that hundreds of voters--not just a couple--hundreds of voters just in Lehigh County alone, illegally dropped off more than one ballot. Even the Governor made a mistake. Again, an honest mistake, he and his wife, but it is not legal. Again, as in the prior bill, which passed by a strong bipartisan vote, we should note that it is time to rebuild trust in our election process. This legislation is one more step in that direction.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Santarsiero.

Senator SANTASIERO. Mr. President, a few moments ago, the gentleman from Lancaster County said that this bill needs to be passed so that we can ensure that we will have free, fair, and secure elections. When have we not had free, fair, and secure elections in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania? I am not aware of any evidence produced at all about any of the elections we have had in my lifetime as being anything other than free, fair, and secure. In fact, Mr. President, I think it is probably useful for

this Chamber to remember that just a little over a year ago, the President pro tempore empaneled a special committee--which I, among others, sat on--whose job it was to review how our election process functioned in 2020.

In the course of several months, we had witnesses come in and testify. We had witnesses from outside Pennsylvania, we had witnesses from inside Pennsylvania. We had Democrats and Republicans, all election officials at the county level. And what did they say on the issue of drop boxes to a person, Republican, Democrat, big counties, small counties, Pennsylvania, elsewhere? That drop boxes functioned well and were secure. It worked in 2020 in one of the most heavy turnout elections in the history of the United States and in the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

So, this is a bill, as we have seen from time to time in this General Assembly, that seeks to solve a problem that does not exist. There is no problem with drop boxes in Pennsylvania. Sure, we always have to be cognizant of the issue of security. As the gentlewoman from the Lehigh Valley noted earlier, drop boxes, as they are currently used in every county in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, are more secure than mailboxes. Yet, we do not hear a cry for the abolishing of mailboxes across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

So, why are we here today? We are here today because a handful of unsworn witnesses at a hastily convened committee meeting--who were, by the way, partisan witnesses--came out and alleged that there were some issues with drop boxes without providing any proof that would ever stand in a court of law. By the way, if you do not think it is important that they were not sworn in--the whole reason why we swear in witnesses, whether it is in the proceedings of this Chamber or in a court, is to help us be sure that their testimony is, in fact, factually correct. But that was not done here. So, here we are today, considering a piece of legislation to do away with something that is aimed at making it more convenient for voters to cast their ballots, on the strength of testimony that is suspect at best. It is not an answer to say that voters in every county can simply go to the courthouse and turn their ballot in there because I know that many of my colleagues, particularly on the other side of the aisle, represent counties in parts of the State that are huge geographically. Even we, in Bucks County, have enough geographical area that it is hard. It can take up to an hour, in some parts of the county, to get to the county seat to drop off a ballot. That clearly cannot be the solution if we are concerned about making it easier for people to vote in a secure manner. That is what the current system allows, and if we are going to do away with that, it had better be on the basis of some compelling evidence that suggests that we have to. That is not what we have been presented with. In fact, the evidence has been overwhelmingly to the opposite.

This is a bad piece of legislation, it is unnecessary, and it will only make it harder for people to vote, not easier. In a democracy, in which the right to vote and the desire to get more of our citizens engaged in voting, as a goal, is critically important. We should be encouraging people and making it easier for them to vote in a safe and secure system, which is what we have. This bill undermines that, and for that reason, it should be roundly rejected.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, our electoral process is the underpinning of the foundation of our Constitutional Republic. The reality is, whether our friends on the other side of the aisle want to acknowledge it or not, a significant portion of our electorate has lost faith in our electoral process. Mr. President, it is our obligation as the legislature to establish the time, manner, and place of elections, and as my friend and colleague from Lancaster County pointed out, the time, manner, and place of the election process has been co-opted by our courts and our executive branch.

The legislation in front of us today is very simple; is very direct; is about ensuring the integrity of the electoral process; and is about ensuring the chain of custody for ballots, and how they are processed, and ensuring that the voters who cast those ballots actually distribute those ballots to their election bureaus. So, Mr. President, I think this is very straightforward, commonsense legislation, and it is an important message that we need to send to a significant portion of our electorate, that they can have faith and trust our electoral process. I ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise to oppose this legislation. I will point out that it goes well beyond merely eliminating drop boxes. This legislation also eliminates all county Board of Election offices, except for one primary county Board of Election office. It would say, no matter what the population of a county, it specifically says, no matter what, that each county is entitled to only one primary office where election ballots can be dropped off. In my county, Philadelphia County, where there are 1.6 million people, the county, for all functions, has always maintained more than one county Board of Election office. It does to this day. It did before Act 77, and it would be extremely impractical to have all of the citizens of Philadelphia, 1.6 million people, go to a single office. It would suggest that having one office is sufficient for all counties, even though we know some smaller counties, like Elk County, have only about 29,000 people. Whereas, Philadelphia County has 1.6 million people. I believe that is well over 30 times more people, that might be 45 times more people. It would likely create lines, and there is no chain of custody issue in eliminating these offices. These offices are our county Board of Election offices, owned by county government, staffed by county personnel, and pre-exist Act 77.

What is being done here is an attempt to eliminate access to voting by creating lines, by creating barriers to entry, barriers to access, and it would have a disproportionate impact on the larger counties with more population because those counties would have more people. It is also true that those counties are counties that tend to have people who have historically been discriminated against, have had their access limited through electoral bodies

like this one. In general, State legislators across this country have historically passed laws that have eliminated or made it more difficult for people of color to vote.

For us to simply talk about drop boxes ignoring the fact--and I support drop boxes--that this goes beyond drop boxes but eliminates government offices that have always been in place as a place to drop off your ballots, and it would create lines, it would create backlogs in the counties that have the highest portions of the population of folks who have been historically, by law, discriminated in their ability to vote is unconscionable. We need to understand--we are casting these votes, and we are going to do what we need to do--that the issues that have been discussed around chain of custody do not apply. The issues that have been discussed about security do not apply. These offices are secure, they are in place, they have always been in place, they pre-existed Act 77, and they are being eliminated in this legislation, and it should not, it must not, be ignored.

So, I must emphatically urge a "no" vote on this legislation, because it does not just eliminate drop boxes, which improved access pursuant to Act 77, it rolls back access that always existed, even before Act 77, and will disproportionately impact those communities that contain people of color who have been historically disenfranchised in the voting process for far too long. So I urge a "no" vote, and should it pass, Governor, if you are listening, please veto this legislation.

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I would ask the maker of the bill to stand for a brief interrogation.

Is there anyone who is available to stand in his place?

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, Senator Dush is not available.

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, thank you, Madam Leader.

Mr. President, then I would ask my number two expert, my colleague from Lehigh Valley, to stand for a brief period of interrogation.

The PRESIDENT. Senator, respectfully, I did not hear the last question.

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I would ask that my secondary expert, my colleague from Lehigh Valley, stand for a brief period of interrogation.

Mr. President, am I allowed to interrogate? Am I allowed to proceed?

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will go at ease.

(The Senate was at ease.)

The PRESIDENT. You may interrogate Senator Boscola, assuming she submits.

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. She said, bring it on. So I think that means yes.

The PRESIDENT. I welcome hearing from her.

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Yes, me too.

So, we did not have the benefit of the maker of the bill, but we do have the benefit of your common sense, and I think that since we are going to proceed in theater, as opposed to substance, on behalf of taxpayers today, we need to make sure that the things that you talked about, those who are watching understand that some of us have common sense. So I want to under-

score some things that you said. So, drop boxes in Pennsylvania have cameras on them?

Senator BOSCOLA. I know in Northampton County they did for sure.

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Right. They also have a secondary set of eyes that are legal in nature, so, town sheriffs, etc., those kind of folks also reviewed them, right?

Senator BOSCOLA. Also, right.

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. You also said something to the effect about the mail service, which I thought was particularly important, that everyone understands that for all the suspicious activity that people are sort of suggesting happens around mailboxes--remember those videos that everybody was just talking about that were kind of suspicious in nature, but never got to court? No one ever was prosecuted, to my knowledge, because I was going to ask the gentleman, where is the evidence? But I do not think there is any. So, the insecure concerns that he has, and that those Members have, on the other side of the aisle, for the most profound thing that we have, our right to vote, that they want to secure, we are going to remove a drop box, which has a camera and evidence, and we are going to replace that with a mailbox. So, could you remind us what your concerns were with the mailbox?

Senator BOSCOLA. Well, there are no cameras around mailboxes on people's streets, at the post office, you know, when you are sending mail. Let us also talk about this, because remember this was a time when people were very uncertain about mail delivery. Mail delivery was not happening for weeks, people's bills were not even being paid, you know, because the mail service was so bad. So people would rather have the drop box because the elected officials in that area had somebody from the election office go physically to that drop box every evening to collect those ballots for that day. That is how secure it was. Camera surveillance and somebody that day picking up the ballots. In fact, somebody went directly to the courthouse, right, to deliver their ballot, another person used the drop box. They got, right on their phone, the drop box verification that it got to the county before the one that actually went to the county that day--went right to the county, and they got a notification 3 days later that the county received the ballot. But when they went to the drop box that day, they got a confirmation that very day that the county received the ballot.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Anthony Williams, do you have additional questions?

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I am sorry?

The PRESIDENT. Do you have additional questions, Senator?

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I do, do we have a time limit?

The PRESIDENT. No, no, just--

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. I was just checking, because they do not.

The PRESIDENT. --we are directing it through me and then you--

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. You are absolutely right. I apologize, Mr. President. The other item that I was reminded of--the mail service drop box, can you remind me again, because you know, I am a little fuzzy, I am not that sharp. So, I just need to be reminded. When you drop something off at the mailbox, other people touch it and, in fact, I do believe sometimes people have

been prosecuted or mail has been lost. With drop boxes, how many hands touch it before it gets to the actual person who counts it? One person.

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, you put it in your mailbox, the mail carrier or deliverer has to come, pick it up, and then it goes to the more regional post office area, so there are multiple hands touching that ballot. Unlike a drop box.

Senator A. H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, the other thing I am curious about is my colleague represents a particular kind of community that has a pretty balanced perspective when it comes to both parties. Have you heard from both parties that you represent in terms of constituency about their concern about drop boxes? So have you heard from, say, a Republican who says that they are more comfortable with the mail system as opposed to drop boxes with regard to that or have you heard anything at all?

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, people, Democrats, Republicans, Independents, said they trusted the drop box more, because, remember, the mail system was not working. To be honest, too, I have heard from people who said they would rather go in person to vote. That is perfectly fine by me. But if you want to use a drop box, that is as secure—I do not have any problems with drop boxes and neither does most of the public.

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, thank you, I thank my colleague for standing for a period of interrogation and enlightenment.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I do believe that people have lost faith in the process, and they have lost faith in the process because we do things like this. We stand up and wrap ourselves in the flag, we talk about being concerned about democracy, then we take a vote that says, you know what, we do not want private money to be invading Pennsylvania, but it is okay to have dark money support an audit. Literally, the vote before this vote was a vote to say, you know, we are going to protect ourselves; we do not want outside influences invading Pennsylvania; we want to protect our democracy, wrap ourselves in the flag, do all these things to securitize ourselves, including drop boxes—which are more secure than the mailbox—and we do not want dark money, except for when it is our dark money for audits. You are right. Pennsylvanians have lost faith because we waste time on stuff like this. County council members have said they need more money for elections, and we decided that we are not going to send them more money in a vote just before this. You are right, they lost faith. Dark money to do an audit from a body that says they are simply for Donald Trump. So, we do audits in Arizona and Pennsylvania. You are right, they have lost faith.

POINT OF ORDER

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, point of order, my colleague is speaking of a prior bill and not what we are discussing presently.

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I am discussing my amendment that I offered, the issue of securitizing the election, and drop boxes, which are part of that conversation. It is all connected, and every Member who stood up on this floor, Mr. President, thus far, has talked about things beyond the drop box dur-

ing the course of this presentation. In fact, the last speaker, who was before the person interrogated, talked about securitizing elections. I did not open the door, but now that I am in the room, I am going to kick it wide open. Light will shine.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, my colleague should limit his debate to Senate Bill No. 1200.

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, my debate is directed at that bill, just like the previous speakers have been, and I am going to continue to debate it in the manner that has been precedent and established as such.

(The PRESIDENT motions Senator Anthony Williams to continue.)

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Again, as I mentioned, they have lost faith. They have lost faith because we bring people up here as if they are speaking factually about details—which they say publicly at a hearing that they are biased and for a perspective—and we choose not to swear them in. We have, to date, still not sworn people in. In fact, during the course of this debate, we have talked about people and referenced them. The chair of the other committee, who spoke about the other bill, just now, on this bill, brought that up and chose not to swear in anybody, but used that reporter as if he was factually accurate. You are right, they have lost faith, and of course, common sense, the last point to be made and underscored by my colleague.

Supporting a mail system, that many people on the other side of the aisle have criticized for a long period of time, now becomes a much more secure way to deliver your vote. Not a drop box, which is reviewed and videoed almost daily, and, by the way, suggested in implied evidence that activity around there is swarming all the time. But, because it does not comport to a perspective or a political ideology, or frankly right-leaning or Republican enough, we decide to attack it. You are right. They have lost faith. Ultimately, at the end of the day, we are reducing the number of people, Americans, who want to vote, not simply because we are making it harder—that certainly is a part of this process, to target certain populations and make sure to make it much more difficult to vote. Every Republican pollster puts it in their memos and bylines that if you want to reduce the amount of voting in America, here is the thing that you attack. If we were doing something that would increase the ability to vote, we would deliver the message of the county commissioners who are sworn to take their responsibility to make sure that these elections are fair and transparent, who are Democrat and Republican, who agree on the top five things—one being money—and, by the way, support drop boxes. So, since we are going to have this day of theater, let us just make sure it is complete. Let us just make sure that we also understand that the public is watching for what was mentioned by my colleague, who I greatly respect, she said, evenly, effectively, without advantage. That is what we should be doing. That is not what we are doing.

Be very clear, I supported the last bill, and I guess if I had led with that in my opening comments it would have been okay for me to speak about that, that I support the fact that we should not have private money. I am sure that would be okay, but because I am criticizing what we are doing here today and making very clear to the public, who are Democrat and Republican. And by the way, I am joined by another colleague who does not represent the demographic I do. She is not from urban Philadelphia. She is from an independent district that she fights every single year to make sure that she stands for all Pennsylvanians, and by

the way, she is supported by all types of Pennsylvanians. She stood in front of all of us and gave a true, accurate perspective of what is going on with drop boxes and the process of elections in Pennsylvania that we--in her own words--are going backwards. Not my words. A colleague who represents Democrats, Republicans, Independents, workers, unions, Marines, veterans, disabled, women, a Pennsylvanian who stood up and honestly told what condition we are pursuing in Pennsylvania, that it is to go backwards. So, for me, my addition is simply this: when I introduced my amendment, you noticed I did not make much fanfare about it, give much words, because I knew what the theater was about. I bought my ticket, it is in the back row. I do not have the front row seat just yet, but be very clear, I am a person of faith, and my faith says truth crushed to Earth will rise again.

People, the public, are watching us, and by the way, increasingly, they are not Democrat or Republican, they are Independent. Every campaign cycle we are fighting for them. Every campaign cycle they are getting stronger and stronger about their opinion about the stench in this building. They know hypocrisy when they see it; they know truth when they see it. *Fox News*, *CNN*, or *MSNBC* will not be the barometer by which America will stand upon. It will be the countless folks in the middle who are saying, if you are going to tell me the truth, make sure they are sworn to tell the truth. Otherwise, they are perjuring themselves. If we are going to tell the truth, let us use common sense. Mailboxes are less secure than drop boxes, and if you are going to eliminate drop boxes, you should probably not use the mail service, either. By the way, if you really want to have an election that is fair, transparent, and not affected by dark money, then why are you not making the public pay for it? These are simple, honest requests that are not partisan in nature. The manner in which we manipulate this conversation, to suggest that we are doing something transparent and fair for the public, is just simply wrong and not honest. For me, I am not going to sit down and be quiet in those spaces. Senator Baker stood up. I am for that. This is disrespectful to the institution, and most importantly, it is disrespectful to the Constitution upon which Americans stand, and that is our right to vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Mr. President, I have said on numerous occasions recently that the cornerstone of any healthy democracy is the ability and access to vote because that is one time where we are all truly equal. Whether you are a CEO of a big, high-tech company, or you are a farmer, schoolteacher, nurse, whatever, your vote is equal to the other person's vote. So it is imperative that we make sure everyone has that freedom and that access to vote to express that day of equality in deciding who is going to represent them at whatever level of government that particular election is going to have.

The second part of a truly healthy democracy is after the election that we have belief in the results. That we believe that the election was conducted in a fair way and in a way that produced a result that we can all--whether you agree with or voted for that person or not--can agree with the results. That is really important because we have wave elections; 1994 was probably the first wave election I can remember, Republicans swept Congress for the first time in decades. In 2006 and 2008 were big wave elections for the Democrats, not only here in Pennsylvania, but for

Washington, D.C. as well, and Nancy Pelosi became the Speaker of the House for the first time. In 2010, the cycle went back the other direction, people were upset with Obamacare, and the wave went the other direction. So, that happens, and it will continue to happen for the rest of time, that elections will go back and forth. Sometimes Republicans will win, sometimes Democrats will win, and that is fair and that is the way it is supposed to be. Because, what is important in that is the belief that you can effect change at the ballot box. People could rally--are unhappy with their representation--they could go and rally, they could get together, get the votes, and change their representation, and we have seen it as I just mentioned, the times we have seen it. That is so imperative because if you do not believe you can effect change in your government at the ballot box, well, then, you are going to try to effect change in a much more negative way, possibly a violent way. Then you do lose your democracy.

Look, last few elections, not just Republicans--I saw a clip recently, Hillary Clinton talking about how she was cheated out of the 2016 presidential election. Now, Pennsylvania was obviously key in that election. She is still espousing that--whether it be Russian collusion or something else--that election was stolen from her. Obviously, if you look at my call logs, there is no issue that I have gotten more comments about than the 2020 election and all that went into that. President Biden made the comment with House Resolution No. 1 in the U.S. Congress--which is a Federal takeover of our elections--stated that the 2022 election will not be fair and secure unless the Federal government takes it over. So clearly there are concerns, and as policymakers--I am certainly opposed to the Federal government taking over--but as policymakers, it is our job to put into place provisions to make sure that you do have that belief. No matter who wins, we have to believe that it was fair.

Look, I cannot think of anything that is more unsecure than a drop box. It has been proven. The very respectable district attorney in Lehigh County showed, said that look, far more ballots were cast than people showed up to vote at the drop box. We have seen videotape of it happening. Whether you think it is convenient or not, it is against the law. If it was done as a provision because of COVID-19 and the mail problems, okay, fine. I disagree, but guess what? COVID-19 is gone for the most part, and the post office is not having issues anymore. So, if that was a remedy for the COVID-19 problem, well then, that is gone, and this should go away as well. So, everything that we have tried to do here is, again, to add faith, to make people believe. And I am going to just say one more thing, and it is a repeat in a lot of ways of what I said last week when we debated the merits of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Alliance. As the institutional officer of this body, the Senate matters. We are the people's house. The Senate and the House matter in creating public policy on all matters of government, particularly elections. We were not included in this invention of drop boxes. We did not have any hearings, we did not have any votes, we did not try to put measures into play. We were excluded.

My great friend and colleague from Philadelphia said this is a disrespect to this institution, a disrespect to the Constitution. I would argue that doing this without the legislature is the disrespect to this institution, the disrespect to our Constitution, that we get to vote on these issues. This is a matter for the legislature to pass, to debate, and the Governor to sign. We did not get involved, we did not have a say, the people's house had no say; that

is wrong. I know most people back home do not care if the Senate had its say. I do, and I will be here for a few more months, and I am going to continue to fight for this institution, that the executive branch should not make these decisions without us. The court should not make these decisions without us. This is our job. Whether you like the policy at the end of the day or not, you should stand up for this institution because it is wrong to circumvent the legislative process. Anytime you do that for political expediency to achieve an end, you are taking away a little stone of this building and the freedoms that go along with our Constitution.

So, I think this is a good bill that adds to the security of the voting process which is so important. It is the number one issue if you poll it out there right now. I think we are taking all good steps here today. But, again, the Senate matters, and we should stand up for the Senate every day.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, we are here today, we are discussing this bill, because we, the legislature, did not put drop boxes into our Act. The Supreme Court did that. I would like to go through a little timeline with you just briefly here. On October 29, 2019, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill No. 421, and the Governor signed the Act 2 days later, providing revisions to the Election Code that would take effect on the next year's Primary Election. On July 10, 2020, after the Primary Election and seeing the results of the Primary Election, the Pennsylvania Democratic Party filed in Commonwealth Court for emergency relief to seek that county election offices would not be limited to central offices; they wanted other locations to return ballots to be permitted. On August 16, 2020, Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth Boockvar applied for extraordinary relief in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court of the same Pennsylvania Democratic Party case. On September 1, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court took over the case. On September 17, 2020, less than 2 months before the General Election, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that the Pennsylvania Democratic Party's case, along with Secretary Boockvar's support for those arguments, were correct in their eyes, and they changed Pennsylvania law to expand beyond the General Assembly's intent.

They are judges. Our Constitution says, by law, that the General Assembly does the Election Code, not the courts. They are not legislators. We have elections right now. If they want to be legislators, they could be running for governor, Congress, State Senate, State House. They are judges, it is not their job to change our legislation. We are here today to grab back the power that we are granted, that we should have. It is a balance of power. When they did those drop boxes, I remember saying, what is a drop box? When they put them in, they did so without parameters. Sure, some of them were under a camera, they were in Westmoreland County, they did it properly, but the judges put no parameters on these drop boxes. They could have been driven around in a van, put on a street corner or in a bowling alley, and they may have been. We have no idea where those drop boxes were. There were no parameters, there were no cameras, there was no physical presence to watch them, and it was not stated that they should be in any kind of county election office. They went into a sports center. This was wrong. They put out drop boxes, meaning anybody can vote anywhere, without saying they

had to be safe. I know other States have drop boxes, they absolutely do, but I can bet those other States have parameters on them, and they were probably legislated. They went through the proper channel to get them there. If we want drop boxes, we should be legislating drop boxes, we should be taking votes on that, and the governor should have a say, not the Supreme Court. They should not be changing our laws. It has caused so much mistrust when we saw the case 2 weeks ago--the D.A. from Lehigh--there are problems here. We are not saying over here that there were problems enough to overturn an election; we do not know that. There are problems; we need to fix this going forward. It cannot be that people think there are no safeguards. So what they are doing, when I go to vote at a poll, when you go to vote at a poll, you have to sign a book; you cannot just walk in and say, I am going to vote, you have to sign a book. For years we have had absentee ballots, and they used mailboxes. Yes, you know, the post office was having a hard time, that is beside the point. We have to make it right. It is everybody's job, including the post office, to make it right. I support this bill 100 percent. If you want drop boxes, put in legislation for drop boxes. Not saying it is going to pass, but it would be the proper channel, not through the Supreme Court. So I ask for a "yes" vote on this bill. Thank you.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, if I may, it was not my intention to speak, but I would like to have some comments and response. Thank you. A couple of things, Mr. President, with respect to the Majority Leader's comments about the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court did what it has to do; 219 years ago, *Marbury v. Madison* said that the courts interpret the legislative activity, and that is exactly what they did in this instance. They interpreted Act 77, combining it with Act 12 and with respect to the regulations that the Department of State put out. That is what they did. So to suggest that they enacted a new law and we have to give them the authority to do that is not the case. Their responsibility is to interpret statutes that we enact. They did that and found that this opportunity existed within what we said in the language and the content of that particular statute.

With respect to the concerns that the President pro tempore raised about this entity and this legislature, and I agree that we have to take steps to ensure that our voice is heard in the overall governance of our Commonwealth, our governance in the sense that we are the legislative branch and there is an executive branch and a judicial branch, obviously; we know that. And as it relates to that the legislature should have its opportunity to participate and have its voice heard, that is what we should be doing, and no other attempt to do other things should override that voice that we have expressed in this body. I find it troubling that in instances these past couple of years--when we decided to legislate by constitutional amendment--that that argument falls flat on its face. Because there are many instances where we have acted here in this General Assembly, this body, the House, its respective duties with respect to passing legislation, the executive branch exercises constitutionally-given ability to veto something. When we are not happy with that, we turn and we shift our focus on a different attempt to nullify the executive branch's authority that they have. So what we are accusing the courts or the administration of doing, Members of this body have proposed things that do the exact same thing. So if we are going to respect

the process, the democracy that we have with our executive, legislative, and judicial branches, then we must be sincere to our words and do what we say, do what we would like to have done in order to earn the respect for this body. When we go outside those bounds of respecting the process, that is when we begin to undermine the public's faith in our General Assembly, in addition to the things we talked about with regard to the voting conversation that we are having here today. So, I just felt obligated to put those comments on the record as we go forward on this measure. I ask for a negative vote. Thank you.

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, we have had absentee ballots since at least 1937, and never, in all of its history, has the Supreme Court ever said we are going to have drop boxes and we are going to change where it is that you can vote. I ask for an affirmative vote on this bill.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, very quickly, we had an entirely different set of circumstances. We were in the middle of a pandemic. We were also dealing with the issue with respect to the postal service, which had ramped significantly down, which hampered what was taking place with the ability to enact and implement a new law in Pennsylvania. That is how the measure ended up in the courts and being done what needed to be done. Thank you. I ask for a "no" vote on this measure.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I ask for a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Regan, and legislative leaves for Senator Baker 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 Haywood.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Kim Ward requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Regan, and legislative leaves for Senator Baker and Senator Martin.

Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Haywood.

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-29

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

NAY-20

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

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator COLLETT. 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 771, SB 895, SB 1173, SB 1196, SB 1197, HB 199, HB 324, HB 333, HB 1103, HB 1594 and HB 1615.

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 14, 2022

10:00 A.M.	URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING (public hearing on housing issues)	Living Water Church 629 Woodward Avenue Kittanning
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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022

10:00 A.M.	FINANCE (public hearing on Pennsylvania Film Tax Credit Program)	Omni Wm. Penn Hotel 530 William Penn Pl. Pittsburgh
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THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022

12:00 P.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (public hearing on Senate Bill No. 690 and Luzerne County Special Election Issues)	Hazleton City Hall Council Chambers
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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022

11:00 A.M.	APPROPRIATIONS and EDUCATION (joint public hearing on Act 50 update from the State System of Higher Education)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off. (LIVE STREAMED)
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MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022

1:30 P.M. TRANSPORTATION (public hearing to collect testimony on safety and sustainability of public transportation in Pennsylvania) SEPTA 1234 Market St. Philadelphia

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022

10:00 A.M. JUDICIARY (public hearing on juvenile justice reforms) Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off. (LIVE STREAMED)

12:15 P.M. TRANSPORTATION (to consider House Bill No. 1560) Room 461 Main Capitol

Off the Floor APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 230, 622, 811, 960, 1038, 1058, 1094, 1163 and 1186) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

Off the Floor RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider certain Executive Nominations) Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022

10:00 A.M. LABOR AND INDUSTRY (to consider Senate Bill No. 1147) Room 461 Main Capitol

10:00 A.M. LAW AND JUSTICE (to consider Senate Bills No. 669 and 1212) Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

10:30 A.M. EDUCATION (to consider Senate Bill No. 1244; and House Bills No. 972, 1041 and 2169) Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

11:00 A.M. AGING AND YOUTH (to consider Senate Resolution No. 288) Room 461 Main Capitol

11:00 A.M. BANKING AND INSURANCE (to consider Senate Bills No. 1222 and 1235; and House Bill No. 2419) Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

12:30 P.M. AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (to consider Senate Bills No. 1236 and 1237) Room 461 Main Capitol

12:30 P.M. FINANCE (to consider Senate Bill No. 321) Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

12:45 P.M. CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE (to consider the nomination of NazAarah Sabree for Small Business Advocate; and the nomination of Patrick Cicero for Consumer Advocate) Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Blair, Senator Judy Ward

Senator J. WARD. Mr. President, I am pleased to speak in recognition of May 6 through 12 as Nurses Week in Pennsylvania. This annual observance is held in conjunction with Florence

Nightingale's birthday, the founder of modern-day nursing. The goal of Nurses Week is to emphasize and celebrate the nursing profession and the critical role they play in healthcare. We are truly blessed in the Commonwealth with more than 228,000 registered nurses, making it the largest licensed healthcare profession in the State. Nurses are found in several different settings, whether it is in an emergency room or operating room, to pediatrics, geriatrics, home care, and hospice. They are a pillar of medicine, supporting patients and helping physicians and other healthcare professionals. I have been a registered nurse for nearly 38 years, so I am very much aware of the important role nurses play in our healthcare system in providing quality care on a daily basis to our residents across the Commonwealth. The last 2 years have been extremely difficult for nurses, and I want to thank them for all that they have done to help their patients. I therefore ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the week of May 6 through May 12, 2022, as Nurses Week to recognize the heroic service of our nurses and the overall importance of quality nursing care. I wish to thank all the nurses for their hard work. Please know that what you do every day is appreciated.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, I rise today to offer remarks in support of Senate Resolution No. 279, Senate Resolution No. 278, and Senate Resolution No. 276, which declare May 6 through 12 as Nurses Week in Pennsylvania; May 12 [11] as School Nurse Day; and May 8 through 14 as Skilled Nursing Care Week in Pennsylvania, respectively. As the two nurses currently serving in the Senate, Senator Judy Ward and I are proud to stand in support of the more than 200,000 nurses across the Commonwealth who have given so much to serve the health and safety of their patients, even before a global pandemic tested their resolve and the strength of our healthcare system. I am thankful for Senator Judy Ward's partnership and collaboration on these resolutions. Nurses Week, culminating in Florence Nightingale's birthday on May 12, is meant to serve as a time when we can all recognize the significant contributions nurses have made on our communities now and throughout our history. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it all the more clear how deeply important nurses are to the healthcare profession and community health, and these professionals deserve our respect and gratitude for all they have done during this trying time.

School Nurse Day celebrates the crucial work of school nurses across the Commonwealth, who work to keep students and staff healthy and safe. With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, school nurses have found themselves on the frontlines, responsible for keeping their students, teachers, and fellow staff safe while upholding CDC and State guidelines surrounding the pandemic.

Finally, Skilled Nursing Care Week celebrates the staff at skilled nursing care facilities, where at-risk populations, who reside in long-term care facilities, are cared for by these dedicated healthcare professionals. This year, the theme of Skilled Nursing Care Week is "Creating and Nurturing Connections," which celebrates the essential role that skilled nursing care centers and staff play in creating and nurturing connections for their residents. As nurses, Senator Judy Ward and I know exactly how vital each and every nurse is to the care of a patient, regardless

of the setting. Nurses ensure that everyone in their care is safe, happy, and healthy. We are proud to take this moment of reflection to celebrate the contributions of nurses across our great Commonwealth for all they have done to get our communities to the point we are today: on a viable path to recovery and rejuvenation following the past 2 years of COVID-19. I hope that we will take the time to thank a nurse in our lives for the important role that they play in keeping Pennsylvanians healthy, whether that be in our communities, at a school, a hospital, a skilled nursing care facility, or any other setting.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

Mr. President, I rise today to support the resolution that I introduced with my good friend, Senator Kane, designating the month of April 2022 as Alcohol Awareness Month in Pennsylvania. Approximately 15 million adults in the United States suffer from alcohol use disorder, or AUD. Nearly 700,000 Pennsylvanians suffer from AUD annually. This number includes children 12 years old and above--and we must not forget the thousands of children who are exposed, often traumatically, to alcohol every year.

As many of my colleagues know, I have been in recovery from alcohol addiction for 19 years. Every day for these past 19 years, I have had to make the conscious effort and decision to stay sober. Some days are harder than others, but as anyone in recovery will tell you, there is rarely ever an easy day in recovery. Most adults in the United States who drink alcohol do so moderately and without complications. With that being said, we must make it clear that it is always okay to ask for help. For those struggling with alcohol addiction or who think they are drinking a little too much or a little too often, now is the time to reach out and ask for help. Asking for help is a courageous, noble act that needs to be celebrated, not shamed. Had I not asked for help 19 years ago, I probably would not be here today. I was also fortunate enough to have the financial ability to fund the beginning of my recovery since my insurance took so long to approve the treatment. Most people struggling with AUD do not have this luxury, which is why I will always fight any barriers to accessing treatment. Let us continue to fight the stigma that people with AUD face. Let us make it easier, not harder, for people to access treatment when they need it and are ready for it. Let us designate April 2022 as Alcohol Awareness Month in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I rise because today marks 5,757 days since our Commonwealth's legislature last passed an increase in the minimum wage. That means for nearly 16 years, our Commonwealth's lowest earners have seen no reprieve from the continuous inflation that our nation has experienced since 2009. It is no secret that inflation is rising, and prices are going up on goods and services across the country. From the cost of food to clothing and gas, costs have skyrocketed over the last few years, in part driven by the supply chain issues driven by the global pandemic, and now by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But, Mr. President, another cause of the inflation we are all seeing is corporations raising prices, not because of a need to offset their rising costs, but instead, corporate greed and their desire to make as much profit as possible in an already struggling economy.

Anyone who has been to the grocery store knows costs are soaring, and meat is behind much of the rise in our grocery bills. Beef in now nearly 20 percent more expensive than it was, while pork is up 14 percent and chicken around 7 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. All while meat producers are recording record profits. According to the White House, net profits for the top meat producers are up over 300 percent since 2019. One large meat processing firm told

investors on an earnings call that by increasing the price of beef by 35 percent, it made record profits in the fourth quarter of 2021, despite selling less beef than a year earlier. To quote a White House statement, "...the meat price increases we are seeing are not just the natural consequences of supply and demand in a free market--they are also the result of corporate decisions to take advantage of their market power in an uncompetitive market, to the detriment of consumers, farmers and ranchers, and our economy." All of these price increases and inflation are directly hurting our lowest earners.

Since 2006, our minimum wage earners have been stuck at \$7.25 while the cost of living around them has soared. But Mr. President, we have a way to help the families struggling to make ends meet. Senate Bill No. 12 is right now sitting in committee, waiting for a vote. We must bring it out of committee, onto the floor, and send it to the Governor. Senate Bill No. 12 would ensure all Pennsylvanians have access to family-sustaining wages. Let us pass Senate Bill No. 12.

Thank you, Mr. President.

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE BILLS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 478** and **SB 479**, with the information the House has passed the same without amendments.

BILLS SIGNED

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

SB 478, SB 479, SB 1020 and HB 2058.

RECESS

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

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, May 23, 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 3:25 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.