SENATE
WEDNESDAY, May 25, 2022

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

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend SYLVIA KING, of Christ Centered Community Church, Johnstown, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal, all-wise, and everlasting God, we thank You for the privilege and opportunity for this beautiful day that You have given us. Lord Father, we pray for unity; we pray for peace, O God. We pray, Lord, that You will prick our spirits, hearts, and minds, O God, so that we, Father, will be directed in the way that You would have us to go. We ask that You bless this Senate, O God. We ask that You, Father, would bless our town, that You would bless our State, that we would, Father, just follow Your dictates, and Father, do the things that You would have us do, Father, so that we can progress and move forward. Father, we ask Your blessings upon each and every person that made their way here today. We ask You to bless those who are on their way. Father, we just ask that You would lay across this entire State, this entire town, this nation, O God, a blanket of peace, harmony, and unity so that we may be drawn to one another, O God, and lift one another up as we continue to lift You up. We ask Your blessings upon this Session today for the sake of Christ, we do pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair thanks Reverend King, who is the guest today of Senator Langerholc.

PLEDGE

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

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

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

May 24, 2022

HB 398 and 2441 -- Committee on Health and Human Services.
HB 1486, 1571, 2139, 2437 and 2550 -- Committee on Transportation.
HB 1731 and 2214 -- Committee on Aging and Youth.
HB 2255 -- Committee on Education.

HOUSE RESOLUTION FOR CONCURRENCE

The Clerk of the House of Representatives presented to the Senate the following resolution for concurrence, which was referred to the committee indicated:

May 24, 2022

HR 129 -- Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness.

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE BILL

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate SB 291, with the information the House has passed the same without amendments.

BILL SIGNED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Jacob D. Corman III) in the presence of the Senate signed the following bill:

SB 291.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

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

SB 1127 (Pr. No. 1684) (Amended)

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for judicial administration.

SB 1175 (Pr. No. 1609)

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in organization of departmental administrative boards and commissions and of advisory boards and commissions, further providing for State Planning Board.
SB 1182 (Pr. No. 1568)

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for the selection of the chairman of the Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

SB 1209 (Pr. No. 1621)

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, prohibiting the Legislative Reapportionment Commission from adjusting the population data for the Commonwealth as determined by the Federal decennial census for any group quarters population.

HB 2496 (Pr. No. 2992)

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Department of Agriculture and the Governor, to grant and convey to Wyoming County, certain lands and improvements situate in the Township of Tunkhannock, Wyoming County; and authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Department of Corrections and the Governor, to grant and convey to John Bradley Wimer, certain lands, buildings and improvements situate in the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County.

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

SB 1093 (Pr. No. 1685) (Amended)


SB 1171 (Pr. No. 1535)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in size, weight and load, further providing for permit for movement during course of manufacture.

SB 1183 (Pr. No. 1686) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in forfeiture of assets, further providing for asset forfeiture; and, in snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, further providing for operation on streets and highways.

SB 1199 (Pr. No. 1606)

An Act amending the act of December 14, 1992 (P.L.818, No.133), known as the Port of Pittsburgh Commission Act, further providing for commission and governing body.

HB 773 (Pr. No. 1022)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in driving after imbibing alcohol or utilizing drugs, further providing for grading and for penalties.

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVES**

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Street, and a legislative leave for Senator Costa.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Kim Ward requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Browne and Senator Mastriano, and legislative leaves for Senator DiSanto and Senator Yaw.

Senator Anthony Williams requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Street, and a legislative leave for Senator Costa.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

**LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

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

**JOURNALS APPROVED**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journals of the Sessions of January 24, 2022; January 25, 2022; and January 26, 2022, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of January 24, 2022; January 25, 2022; and January 26, 2022.

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-47

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journals are approved.

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

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Browne and Senator Mastriano, and legislative leaves for Senator DiSanto and Senator Yaw.
holder for the world's youngest professional opera singer, Victory Brinker. But it does not stop there for the 10 year old. She was also a top 10 finalist on season 16 of "America's Got Talent." She so impressed Simon Cowell--which we all know is very difficult to do--and the other "America's Got Talent" judges that she received the golden buzzer, which automatically advanced her to the live show. Victory is 1 of 11 children. Some of her siblings are here with her today. When she was six she wanted to sing and she said to her mom, what is the highest note I can hit? So, her mother gave her a note and she said, I am going to be an opera singer, and her mother said, you could do that someday. She goes, I am going to do it now. Her beautiful smile and her bright eyes alone are enough to elevate our spirits, but just wait until you hear her sing. Her angelic voice is so powerful it uplifts communities, brings us together, and provides hope. Thank you, Victory, for spreading so much joy to our community, and it is an honor to have you and a few of your family members here with us today, including your parents, Eric and Christine, and your siblings, Eternity, Judah, and Titus. So, Victory, I think it is time.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. I would ask all the Members to give Victory your undivided attention. Please keep all conversations off the floor.

(Victory Brinker sings "Der Hölle Rache" by Mozart.)

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will be at ease.

(The Senate was at ease.)

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I know we were at ease, and now we are back. Is it appropriate for those of us who are still in awe to ask for an extended period of ease? Because I do not know about her, but I need a photograph at least, or two.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will be at ease.

(The Senate was at ease.)

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Mercer, Senator Brooks.

Senator BROOKS. Mr. President, I would like to thank the Majority Leader for bringing this lovely young lady to the Senate Chamber. I think we all agree that she serves as an inspiration to all children and all Pennsylvanians--and I think everyone across the country--that if you have a dream and work hard, you can make it possible. So, Victory, I want to thank you for that, but I also want to let you know that my husband watches "America's Got Talent." When I got home from Harrisburg one week, he said to me when I came in the door: Michele, you have to see this one little girl sing; she is just amazing. He had actually recorded your performance, and I watched it. I was stunned, and I cannot wait to show him that I actually got to hear you in person and meet you because he will be so jealous. He was so impressed. So, again, can we give this wonderful young lady a round of applause?

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR WAYNE LANGERHOLC PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cambria, Senator Langerholc.

Senator LANGERHOLC. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce and thank our guest Chaplain, Reverend Sylvia King, from Christ Centered Community Church in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Her words and prayer are always timely and meaningful. I first got to know Reverend King many years ago when she was first elected to Johnstown City Council. We have worked on several projects and initiatives together. We are lucky to have her as a councilwoman. Her involvement and advocacy on behalf of the community are second to none. She is deeply respected by her colleagues, and I look forward to her service on city council for many years to come. She is joined here today by Reverend Antoinette Allen.

Again, Mr. President, I thank our guest Chaplain, Reverend Sylvia King, and ask for our warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would Reverend King please rise, and the guests of Senator Langerholc, so we can give you our usual warm welcome.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR MARIA COLLETT PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, today I am honored to recognize and welcome to the Senate some guests from my district, Mr. Timothy Knowles; his wife, Sumi; and their three daughters, Emma, Charlotte, and Evelyn. Tim is a partner at the law firm of Warren McGraw and Knowles in Blue Bell, where his practice includes all aspects of civil litigation. As a committed steward of the legal profession, Tim has been a member of the Montgomery Bar Association's Leadership Academy and the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Bar Leadership Institute. He is also the co-chair of the Montgomery Bar Association's Pro Bono, Access to Justice, and Community Service Committee. Tim serves on the board of directors of the Cheltenham Center for the Arts and is a dedicated supporter of the Wissahickon Valley Public Library.

Sumi Knowles is a piano teacher, dedicated to inspiring the next generation of talented musicians in southeastern Pennsylvania--we will just bring a piano onto the floor when her next student is ready to play for all of us. Emma, their eldest daughter, is interested in art, perhaps we will be seeing her work featured at the Carnegie or Philadelphia Museum of Art soon enough. Charlotte is interested in animals and gymnastics, and I cannot wait to see how she incorporates those two interests together. As for Evelyn, she is interested in fashion--so watch out Senator Browne, I am sure she will be joining your brother in New York Fashion Week soon. Mr. President, I am happy to welcome the Knowles family to the Capitol today, where they will learn more about our State government, the history of the Commonwealth, and get to view the Senate in action today. Please join me in offering them our usual warm Senate welcome.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guests of Senator Collett please rise so the Senate can give you our usual warm welcome.

(Applause.)
to recognize the sacrifice and to honor their loved one. I was proud to introduce Senate Bill No. 1164, which was amended into House Bill No. 1560 and passed unanimously out of the Senate yesterday. This legislation will designate a portion of Route 19 between Ivory Avenue and Cemetery Lane in Ross Township in my Senatorial District as Chief Vernon Moses Memorial Highway, recognizing Chief Moses’ sacrifice and honoring the department’s 100-year anniversary. I thank the Ross Township Police Department for reaching out to me to share their story, especially Sergeant J.J. Serowik, who really championed this project; and Officer Albert Elway, who assisted with getting it over the finish line; and to Chief Joseph Ley and Lieutenant Randy McAllister for their assistance in making sure we got the details of Chief Moses’ story right. I thank the Ross Township Board of Commissioners; their president, Dan DeMarco; their township manager, Ron Borczyk; and assistant manager, Adam Ravenstahl, who also helped.

Please join me in extending a warm Senate welcome to my Ross Township police officers.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guests of Senator Lindsey Williams please rise so the Senate can give you our usual warm welcome.

(Applause.)

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Phillips-Hill.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Kim Ward requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Phillips-Hill. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

PERMISSION TO ADDRESS AND MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, we all watched the news last night and this morning about the most horrendous act at Robb Elementary School: 19 children and 2 teachers were killed. I cannot even--and I know you are joining me in this--think about the depth of the pain that caused these families, and it tears at your soul. It really tears at your soul. So I ask that we have a moment of silence for the members of the families, those communities, and everyone who had to witness and be involved in one of the most horrific things that I have ever heard in my life. It makes you think about never sending your children to school, it is that scary.

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I certainly am appreciative of my colleague acknowledging the loss of life, the gravity of that, in ways that all of us, who have loved ones, can never imagine. The pain across the faces of parents who went to school wondering if their child had survived, or a loved one of a teacher who valiantly tried to protect those children and lost their life. The consequence of the moment that America stands in is certainly felt in this moment, in memory, of silence. But I would be remiss if not to reflect upon the fact that there are many people
across this country who are taking their moments of silence to a moment of action, and we have the power, in this space, as men and women, who are Americans, who acknowledge that we love our families, have the power to do something about that. I would be remiss if not to state the obvious: we do not need to sit on our silence. After we reflect upon those humble souls who have lost their lives, we need to get about the human beings’ business of making sure we are protecting and sustaining life. I hope that we can take that into consideration. I do not want to disrespect the intent, the heartfelt pain, or reflection that my colleague is providing for us. I have to say that we have to be thoughtful of this moment, what America, what Pennsylvanians are waiting for us to do.

Thank you, Mr. President.

(Whereupon, the Senate en bloc stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect to the memory of the ROBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING VICTIMS.)

REQUEST FOR RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Republican caucus around the podium, followed by a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Comitta.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Anthony Williams requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Comitta. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For purposes of a brief caucus around the Republican rostrum, followed by a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to be held on the Senate floor, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 1 (Pr. No. 911) -- 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 preliminary provisions, providing for advertising and for mandate waiver program; in pupils and attendance, providing for transfer of attendance records to another school entity or nonpublic school; in terms and courses of study, further providing for agreements with institutions of higher education; in opportunities for educational excellence, further providing for definitions and for concurrent enrollment agreements; in charter schools, further providing for definitions, for powers of charter schools, for charter school requirements and for powers of board of trustees, providing for duties of administrators, further providing for establishment of charter school, for contents of application, for term and form of charter, for State Charter School Appeal Board, for facilities, for enrollment, for school staff and for funding for charter schools, providing for fee prohibition, further providing for tort liability, for causes for nonrenewal or termination, for multiple charter school organizations, for provisions applicable to charter schools, for powers and duties of department, for cyber charter school requirements and prohibitions, for establishment of cyber charter school and for State Charter School Appeal Board review, providing for payments to cyber charter schools and further providing for applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations; and, in educational tax credits, further providing for definitions, for qualification and application by organizations, for application by business firms, for tax credits, for limitations and for opportunity scholarships.

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

SB 1 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 1, Printer's No. 911, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 137, SB 322, SB 358 and SB 457 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 573 (Pr. No. 612) -- 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 district election officers, further providing for appointment of watchers; and, in penalties, further providing for refusal to permit overseers, watchers, attorneys or candidates to act and for hindering or delaying performance of duty.

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

SB 573 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 573, Printer's No. 612, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 597 and SB 676 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.
BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

HB 723 (Pr. No. 3155) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 18, 2001 (P.L.949, No.114), known as the Workforce Development Act, further providing for title of act; in preliminary provisions, further providing for declaration of policy, for definitions and for lobbying; in board, further providing for establishment, for membership, for conflicts of interest, for plan, functions and responsibilities and for State performance management system and providing for performance accountability system; in local workforce investment areas and boards, further providing for establishment, for membership, for conflicts of interest, for plan, functions and responsibilities and for local performance measures; in critical job training grants, further providing for purpose, for definitions, for program operation and for grants; in workforce leadership grants, further providing for innovative programs; in industry partnerships, further providing for definitions, for industry clusters, for grant program operation, for interdepartmental cooperation and for industry and labor market research and providing for dissemination of industry and labor market research to educational institutions; in miscellaneous provisions, further providing for construction; and making editorial changes.

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

HB 723 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that House Bill No. 723, Printer's No. 3155, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 745 (Pr. No. 862) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law, in procedure, further providing for exceptions for public records.

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

SB 745 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 745, Printer's No. 862, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

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

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

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-47
Argall D iSanto Laughlin Schwank
Aument Dush Martin Stefano
Bartolotta Flynn Mastriano Street
Boscola Fontana Mensch Tartaglione
Brewster Gebhard Muth Vogel
Brooks Gordner Phillips-Hill Ward, Judy
Browne Haywood Pitman Ward, Kim
Cappelletti Hughes Regan Williams, Anthony H.
Collett Hutchinson Robinson Williams, Lindsey
Comitta Kane Santarsiero Yaw
Corman Kearney Saval Yudichak
Costa Langerholc Scavello

NAY-0

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 960, SB 967, SB 991, HB 996, SB 1058, SB 1094, HB 1614, HB 1660 and HB 1849 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 24, HB 118, SB 145, SB 152, SB 225, SB 297, SB 321, HB 333 and SB 527 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 669 (Pr. No. 1674) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in municipal pensions, providing for pension service credit for prior service with police department.
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 749 and SB 750 -- 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 845 (Pr. No. 1038) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known as The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, further providing for definitions.

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 892, SB 895, SB 965, HB 972, HB 987, SB 993, SB 1018, SB 1031, SB 1032 and HB 1041 -- 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 1057 (Pr. No. 1383) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in powers and duties of the Department of Health and its departmental administrative and advisory boards, providing for administration of COVID-19 antigen tests.

Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator K. WARD.
Pursuant to Senate Rule 9, the bill was laid on the table.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 1103 and SB 1122 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator K. WARD.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 1147 (Pr. No. 1673) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 5, 2012 (P.L.1086, No.127), known as the Public Works Employment Verification Act, further providing for verification form and for enforcement and sanctions; and establishing the Public Works Employment Verification Account.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
SB 718, SB 956 AND HB 284
TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 718, Printer's No. 818; Senate Bill No. 956, Printer's No. 1286; and House Bill No. 284, Printer's No. 282, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bills will be placed on the Calendar.

RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SR 230 (Pr. No. 1434)

A Resolution adopting a temporary rule of the Senate relating solely to amendments to the General Appropriation Bill and other appropriation bills for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, including any amendments offered to or for supplemental appropriations for prior fiscal years.

The resolution will be placed on the Calendar.

MOTION NOTWITHSTANDING SENATE RULE 29

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, as a special order of business, I call up Senate Supplemental Calendar No. 1 and move that the Senate proceed to consider SR 230, notwithstanding the provisions of Senate Rule 29(b).

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the motion?
A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 230, ADOPTED

Senator BROWNE offered Senate Resolution No. 230, entitled:

A Resolution

Adopting a temporary rule of the Senate relating solely to amendments to the General Appropriation Bill and other appropriation bills for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, including any amendments offered to or for supplemental appropriations for prior fiscal years.

RESOLVED, That the Senate adopt a temporary rule to read:

TEMPORARY RULE
I. Budget Amendments on Senate Floor
1. Floor amendments to the General Appropriation Bill or other General Fund or special fund appropriation bills for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022, or for any prior fiscal year shall be in order on second or third consideration only.
2. Any amendment offered on the floor of the Senate to the General Appropriation Bill or other General Fund or special fund appropriation bills or other budget implementing legislation (which collectively comprises and shall be referred to as the 2022-2023 Budget) that proposes spending from the General Fund or any special fund for the Commonwealth fiscal year, or any prior fiscal year, at a level different from the amount contained in the 2022-2023 Budget as reported from the Appropriations Committee shall not be in order and may not be considered unless the amendment contains sufficient revisions or reductions to that 2022-2023 Budget so that the amendment does not result in a net increase to the total spending and yields a balanced budget based on current and projected revenues. Where a proposed alteration in the General Appropriation Bill is balanced, in whole or in part, by a change in other appropriation bills or other budget implementing legislation, the amendment shall have appended thereto a "statement of intent" setting forth the proposed adjustment to the other appropriation bill or bills that will result in no net increase in the total spending from the General Fund or any special fund contained within the 2022-2023 Budget as reported from the Appropriations Committee.
3. For the purpose of this temporary rule, the Legislative Reference Bureau, in drafting any amendment to the General Appropriation Bill or any other appropriation bill, shall append the "statement of intent" required for a proposal which involves more than one bill.

II. Suspension
This temporary rule may be temporarily suspended only by a vote of the majority of the members elected to the Senate.

III. Expiration
This temporary rule shall expire upon the enactment of a General Appropriation Act for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

YEA-47
Argall DiSanto Laughlin Schwank
Aument Dush Martin Stefano
Bartolotta Flynn Materiano Street
Boscola Fontana Mensch Tartaglione
Brewster Gebhard Muth Vogel
Brooks Gorthner Phillips-Hill Ward, Judy
Browne Haywood Pittman Ward, Kim
Cappelletti Hughes Regan Williams, Anthony H.
Collett Hutchinson Robinson Williams, Lindsey
Comitta Kane Santarsiero Yaw
Corman Kearney Saval Yudichak
Costa Langerholm Scavello

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The resolution is adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Senator AUMENT, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported communications from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, recalling the following nominations, which were read by the Clerk as follows:

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC

April 11, 2022

To the Honorable, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:
In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 14, 2022, of Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr. (Public Member), 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Chiropractic, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Miriam Woods, Maple Glen, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

April 7, 2022

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated December 10, 2021, of Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 1408 Rose Lane, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Secretary of the Commonwealth, to serve at the pleasure of the Governor, vice Kathy Boockvar, Doylestown, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

SECRETARY OF CORRECTIONS

April 7, 2022

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated December 20, 2021, of Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice Shelley Robins New, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

April 7, 2022

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 14, 2022, of Betsy Phillips, 3607 North Fourth Street, Harrisburg 17110, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Optometry, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Carl Ursbaski, Mountain Top, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

April 7, 2022

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 12, 2022, of Elizabeth Empson, 610 Willow Street, Apt. J, Highspire 17034, Dauphin County, Forty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Nursing, to serve until June 2, 2022, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Jenine Diaz, Harrisburg, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE COMMONWEALTH

May 23, 2022

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 14, 2022, of Rebecca Dombrowsky, 669 Rockwood Drive, Elizabethtown 17022, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Optometry, to serve until February 5, 2022, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Davis Haire, Meshoppen, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

April 7, 2022

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated December 20, 2021, of Rebecca Dombrowsky, 669 Rockwood Drive, Elizabethtown 17022, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Optometry, to serve until February 5, 2022, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Davis Haire, Meshoppen, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

April 11, 2022

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 14, 2022, of Betsy Phillips, 3607 North Fourth Street, Harrisburg 17110, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Optometry, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Carl Ursbaski, Mountain Top, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

April 11, 2022

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:
MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

April 7, 2022

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 4, 2022, of Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice new position created by Act 78 of 2021.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA PAROLE BOARD

April 7, 2022

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated December 20, 2021, of Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Parole Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than sixty months beyond that period, vice John Wozniak, Johnstown, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

April 7, 2022

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 14, 2022, of Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Randy Litman, Lansdale, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS, DEALERS AND SALESPERSONS

April 7, 2022

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated December 20, 2021, of Rebecca Dombrowsky, 669 Rockwood Drive, Elizabethtown 17022, Lancaster County, Thirty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Beaver, Magisterial District 36-3-02, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable C. Douglas Loughner, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

April 7, 2022

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated December 20, 2021, of Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17012, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Parole Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than ninety days beyond that period, vice Maureen Barden, Philadelphia, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE COMMISSION

April 7, 2022

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 4, 2022, of Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than sixty months beyond that period, vice new position created by Act 78 of 2021.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

April 7, 2022

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated December 20, 2021, of John Wozniak, Johnstown, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor
cember 20, 2021, of Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Chester, Magisterial District 15-3-06, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Michael Cabry, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE
April 7, 2022
To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated December 20, 2021, of Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Delaware, Magisterial District 32-1-22, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Spencer B. Seaton, Jr., resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE
April 7, 2022
To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated November 29, 2021, of Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 1408 Rose Lane, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Monroe, Magisterial District 43-4-04, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Richard Claypool, resigned.

TOM WOLF
Governor
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE
April 7, 2022
To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated December 20, 2021, of Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of York, Magisterial District 19-1-03, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Dwayne A. Dubs, deceased.

TOM WOLF
Governor
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE
April 7, 2022
To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

The nominations will be returned to the Governor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator YUDICHAK, from the Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development, reported the following bills:

SB 643 (Pr. No. 722)
An Act amending the act of December 19, 1988 (P.L.1262, No.156), known as the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, in club licensees, further providing for distribution of proceeds.

SB 1159 (Pr. No. 1507)
An Act amending the act of December 19, 1988 (P.L.1262, No.156), known as the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, in club licensees, further providing for distribution of proceeds.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator PITTMAN, 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 643, SB 1093, SB 1127, SB 1159, SB 1171, SB 1175, SB 1182, SB 1183, SB 1199, SB 1209, HB 773 and HB 2496.

And said bills having been considered for the first time, Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for second consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

The following announcements were read by the Secretary of the Senate:

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
COMMITTEE MEETINGS
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022

12:00 P.M. VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to consider the following PA National Guard Officers for promotion: Colonel to Brigadier General; Col Leland Blanchard (PA Army National Guard), Col Raymond Hyland (PA Air National Guard), Col Richard McMullen (PA Air National Guard); Brigadier General to Major General; Brig Gen Terrence Koudelka (PA Air National Guard), BG James McCormack (PA Air National Guard), Brig Carl Reese (PA Army National Guard), BG Michael Wegscheider (PA Army National Guard); and consideration of the following legislation Senate Bills No. 1141 and 1265; and House Bill No. 2097)

Off the Floor APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 522, 597, 1027, 1147, 1183, 1196, 1197, 1235 and 1236)
### PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Mercer, Senator Brooks.

Senator BROOKS. Mr. President, I am pleased to sponsor Senate Resolution No. 301, designating the month of May 2022 as Lyme Disease and Tick-Borne Illness Awareness Month in Pennsylvania. Mr. President, Pennsylvania leads the nation in Lyme disease cases with 33 percent of the cases in the United States. In 2019, 8,998 cases of Lyme disease were reported in Pennsylvania, but the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates underreporting by a factor of 10, making occurrence rates more accurately near 90,000. According to our Department of Health in 2019, the following counties represent the top 10 case counts of Lyme disease reported: Chester, Westmoreland, Butler, Bucks, Montgomery, York, Allegheny, Centre, Lancaster, and Berks Counties. As you can see, this is not just a rural issue. This is a statewide health crisis that we need to do more to combat.

Lyme disease is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected blacklegged tick. It is important to note, however, this is not the only tick-related disease that poses a serious threat to the health and quality of life of residents in this Commonwealth. Symptoms can include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic rash that looks like a bullseye. If left untreated, the infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system, thus causing lifelong impairment or even leading to death. But there is hope, because these illnesses are preventable and treatable through increased education on ticks, tick testing, timely diagnosis, and appropriate treatment options. It is not enough to just inform Pennsylvanians about watching for ticks. We need to respond to the underlying problem, such as how Pennsylvania has now embarked on groundbreaking tick mitigation efforts to try to reduce the tick population, but also reduce the transfer of tick-related diseases. I want to thank East Stroudsburg University for their partnership with the State on this pilot program. I also encourage those who find a tick on themselves or a pet to send it to the Tick Research Lab at East Stroudsburg University for free, fast, highly-rated, and laboratory-quality tick testing, as early clinical diagnosis and appropriate treatment can greatly reduce the risk of chronic symptoms. Please visit ticklab.org for instructions on mailing the tick in for testing. This program is free of charge and has been made possible with a partnership between the Pennsylvania Department of Health and East Stroudsburg University.

My hope is that this resolution and our preventative measures will help to continue providing awareness of the prevalence of tick-borne illnesses in Pennsylvanians and the efforts underway to expand our research, testing, and treatment options, and to provide insurance coverage in making these resources available to all Pennsylvanians. This is why I have sponsored Senate Bill No. 1188 to ensure thorough testing and insurance coverage for Pennsylvanians in combating these tick-related diseases. Thank you, colleagues, for your support of this resolution and your continued partnership in combating this health crisis in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator Scavello, I would like to offer remarks in regard to a resolution at the request of the gentleman from Columbia, Senator GORDNER. on behalf of the gentleman from Monroe, Senator SCAVELLO.:)
Mr. President, I rise to speak on the following resolution designating May 15 through 21, 2022, as Public Works Week in Pennsylvania, to coincide with National Public Works Week. This year marks the 62nd annual commemoration of National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association, and the theme for 2022 is “Ready and Resilient.” Public works professionals work behind the scenes to make our communities healthier, safer, and improve the overall quality of life of our citizens in Pennsylvania and across the nation. It is important to recognize those individuals whom we may not always see, but we know they are hard at work, because public works is evident in everything we do and everywhere we go. These public works professionals are comprised of individuals from State or local agencies, to engineers, consultants, contractors, inspectors, and vendors who work for these agencies. They are the men and women who make our quality of life better and improve the communities in which we live everyday by providing core services such as planning, building, managing, and operating public works systems. Everywhere you look, from our streets to our sewer systems, water systems, building maintenance, wastewater treatment, solid waste collection, airport operations, and many other duties within our local communities has a public works professional working behind the scenes. This resolution is being offered in honor of those individuals who work in the public works field, and I ask all of you to join with me in recognition of the contributions and accomplishments made by public works professionals across the Commonwealth and across the nation, and to encourage all citizens of the Commonwealth to give the same recognition. Thank you.

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

Senator ARGALL. Mr. President, May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. According to the CDC, physical activity provides valuable physical and mental health benefits for all age groups, both immediate and long-term. Moderate and vigorous activity has proven to immediately improve sleep quality, reduce stress, reduce anxiety, and lower blood pressure. According to a study by the Harvard School of Public Health, running for 15 minutes a day or walking for 1 hour reduces the major risk of depression by 26 percent. Exercise also improves heart health by lowering the risk of heart disease—the number one killer of both men and women in America—and reduces the risk of developing various forms of cancer. I want to thank my constituent, Lynn Kreider of Womelsdorf, the owner of LJ’s Fitness, for bringing this issue to my attention.

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

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, I feel compelled to rise today to offer remarks on the shooting in Uvalde, Texas, that took place yesterday. On a personal note, I do not like to let my emotions get the better of me, but I am absolutely gutted—devastated by what happened. I am sure we have all heard about the news, and we can look on our phones as we do, and we can see how many victims there are. From Columbine High School; to Sandy Hook Elementary School; to the King supermarket in Boulder, Colorado; to the Tops store in Buffalo, New York; and then to the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina; and in my own home community, the Tree of Life synagogue in Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. These senseless acts of violence have become all too common in the United States. So common that I fear we are desensitized to them. In a few hours—well, maybe, in a few days, because this is so devastating—we will move off of this news cycle, and there will be something else horrible that has happened that we will be talking about. But I do not know how we move on and how we think of this as just an afterthought in the weeks and months to come.

These shootings can happen anywhere and at any time, as we have seen over the past 2 decades, if not longer. Make no mistake, there but for the grace of God go we here in the Commonwealth. I want to ask my colleagues today, God forbid, if we were to see another tragedy like what happened in Uvalde here in the Commonwealth, would we feel confident that we did everything in our power as lawmakers to prevent it? There have been 27 school shootings this year, and it is not even June yet. Two of the 27 actually happened here in Pennsylvania, in Erie and Pittsburgh. We are averaging over five school shootings each month so far in 2022. Let that sink in for a moment.

There are countless bills introduced by Senate Democrats that seek to address gun violence. Each and every one of these bills is in committee and will likely remain in committee if we use history as our guide. No rationale is needed as to why they are not worthy of a debate, let alone a vote. Seems to me like we can name bridges and roads, but we cannot get done the work that we really need to do here in the Commonwealth. This is a plea to my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to come to the table and work. I know each and every one of us, on a personal level, was affected by yesterday’s event, you could not be. Let us put parties aside for the side for once and help us make sure our children and all Pennsylvanians are protected from senseless acts of violence. Please, let us open our hearts and our minds. Consider things that you would not consider before; it is beyond time for all of us to do that. Come to the table with our Members, all of us, and let us work something out with renewed purpose. Our prayers and thoughts should be offered, this is the time to do that, I have no doubt about it. But, after that, we must take action. That is where we need to be when we return here, when we come back in June. For once, let us live up to the expectations of our constituents and be the deliberative body that we proclaim to be and that we should be. I ask this humble request.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I would like to submit remarks for the record on behalf of Senator Tartaglione.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 A.H. WILLIAMS, on behalf of the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator TARTAGLIONE.)

Mr. President, I rise because today marks 5,799 days since the Commonwealth’s legislature last passed an increase in Pennsylvania’s minimum wage. For more than 15 years and 10 months, our legislature has failed the workers of this Commonwealth by allowing employers to continue paying them $7.25 an hour.

But, Mr. President, the failure extends to unintended and unexpected places. Workers from nearly all industries are susceptible to the effect the stagnant minimum wage has on workers. Even members of our Pennsylvania National Guard are experiencing wages that are barely above that of our minimum wage, and wages that, if we passed Senate Bill No. 12, would be sub-minimum wages. Think about it, Mr. President, members of our National Guard can earn as little as $100 a day for their service...
with blood because we have decided that we are going to make this issue around guns a political argument rather than a human argument. There is not a Democrat or Republican whom I know of who cannot tell you of either a suicide, homicide, or an accident that has not led to some level of tragedy that could have been prevented if we had just followed some logical policies and laws as it relates to guns.

Think about this and underscore it in your mind. It is easier to get a gun in America and in Pennsylvania than it is to get access to baby formula. You can get a gun before you can get baby formula, but we are going to stand in silence out of respect for those babies who were slaughtered yesterday. With all due respect, that is hypocrisy, political dancing, and is nonsensical and disrespectful to those folks who just died, who we stood up for. If we are going to stand in a moment of silence, respect those souls that were lost, and collect those individuals from Buffalo, Texas, Sandy Hook, and across America, then we should be doing something as a government. I saw a coach of a basketball team yesterday—I am a sports fan. Steve Kerr was magnificent. He took his time in front of America to talk about a basketball game and how trivial it was in comparison to the events that we wield in power and influence. He took the time he spent with the press to explain to them what most of America was feeling: revolt, revulsion, disgust, disdain, frustration, and, frankly, anger. Anger at the fact that he knows, as most Americans know, 90 percent of them are supportive of background checks. That means no matter what party affiliation you are in, where you come from, where you are in this country, most of us are for sensible policies as it relates to gun legislation. But for some, they are not allowed to come out of the cave as it relates to this issue because the politics are not right. I am not quite sure what politics they are talking about. Talk to the people in your districts; to the people who are registered in another party than me; to the people who do not look like me; to the people who understand that a veteran who is sitting on the side of his or her bed, who is being affected by post-traumatic stress disorder, and has a gun in their hand legally because we have not done anything to protect them from them.

I, like Steve Kerr, am sick and tired of our pontifications, avoidance, and negligence in the pursuit of power. It seems to be if we are in the Majority, that is the most important thing, or if we are reelected, that is the most important thing. When we retire from this place or the place retires us, we quickly become quite aware of what our priorities should have been when we were here, and that is the people's business. That is a requirement that we take an oath every 4 years when we step here and say we are going to do the people's business with fidelity, and fidelity is a standard that exceeds compromise. Fidelity is truth based on fact, integrity, honor, and trust, and we are not operating in that manner. I can only say to those folks who stand with me on this issue—and I am grateful that there are Members of this General Assembly who come from communities that hunt, from rural Pennsylvania, who do not look like me—they get it, and frankly, I tip my hat to them because it is not easy to do. But I respect them because before party and politics, it is about people, and if it is anything about those 14 souls that were mowed down with a weapon that we could have controlled, I can simply say thank you for standing up for them. I simply cannot acknowledge the fact that all we are going to do today is leave this floor at about 1 o'clock, and the most we will have done is stand in silence. When those children
were murdered, they did not hear silence. They heard a gun, and they were scared and frightened, and they did not understand. There is nothing innocent about this building, this place, or this moment, but it is filled with possibility and promise.

I would hope that tomorrow would reflect upon the actions which were required when we return. I hope that we do not get caught up in the triviality of polling politics and running divisive issues simply because we know that it is now to get us reelected. I hope that we would stand up to the podium and say enough is enough. Those children did not die in vain. Those of us who believe in the sanctity of life would do something about preserving life and protecting those children who have yet to be slaughtered or those veterans who have let themselves be taken off life support. Those who are involved in criminal activity with no real understanding of who they are, I would hope that we would take some action to protect all of them with the power that we have. God bless those families, those children, our Commonwealth, and the United States of America.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I rise today, not only in my role as a State Senator or as chair of the Committee on Education, but also as a father of young kids. As I know, any parent or anyone who has watched what has occurred here over the last 24 hours in our country is utterly appalled, heartbroken, and it is a call for action. Mr. President, years ago this body came together to address the safety and security of our children in our schools, and it is something we should all be very proud of: when we worked together to create the school safety and security programs, to look at the hard infrastructure at our schools, and to have evaluations done by professional individuals who focus on securing or what kind of programs could be put in place to keep our kids safe. We also came together out of a grave concern that we wanted to hear the voices of our children who were struggling or who may witness threats on social media, in a classroom, or on a school bus. We came together in a bipartisan fashion to create the Safe2Say program to the benefit of our kids. What that taught us, though we received many indications from students willing to speak out in terms of potential threats that they may face, are many kids who are crying out for help with various mental health conditions, examples of bullying that are going on in our schools.

So I rise today, Mr. President, really to say—out of this tragedy, that we may not be able to speak to the rules or laws that are in place in Texas as many of those things come to light—but let us focus on what we can do better here in Pennsylvania. Let us realize that our efforts should never be something that is once and done, but needs to continue to be a long journey of how we can do things better and how we can improve. What are the results of the investments that we made, because in the end, our children's safety is at stake, and that is a battle that we should always be looking to pursue and to better and to keep them safe.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Saval and Senator Hughes.