

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023

SESSION OF 2023 207TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 8

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, January 18, 2023

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

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Austin A. Davis) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Vicar LIBBY BAKER-MIKESELL, of St. James Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, everlasting Creator, and eternal Redeemer, we call You by many names, but we gather together in one Chamber on this Wednesday morning. In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., you must use time creatively in the knowledge that it is always right to do right. Give our State Senators the creativity to use their time today efficiently and the courage to do right when it is easy to choose another path. We ask that You especially be with those newly elected to this Chamber. Guide them as they step into new shoes of responsibility, and may their time be marked with service to You. Bless all gathered here today. Guide all hearts and minds to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with You. To be the glory and honor forever. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Vicar Baker-Mikesell, who is the guest today of Senator Judy Ward.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

**RECALL COMMUNICATIONS
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

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

SECRETARY OF COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

January 17, 2023

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 the nomination dated December 8, 2022, of Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Secretary of Community and Economic Development, to serve to serve [sic] until January 17, 2023, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Dennis Davin, Pittsburgh, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

January 17, 2023

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 the nomination dated December 8, 2022, of Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Insurance Commissioner, to serve until January 17, 2023, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Jessica Altman, Harrisburg, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

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

ADJUTANT GENERAL OF PENNSYLVANIA

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Major General Mark J. Schindler, 38 Tree Line Avenue, Fredericksburg 17026, Lebanon County, Forty-eighth Senatorial District, for reappointment as Adjutant General of

Pennsylvania, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

SECRETARY OF AGING

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Jason Kavulich, 1134 Saint Ann's Street, Scranton 18504, Lackawanna County, Twenty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as Secretary of Aging, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Robert Torres, Middletown, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Russell Redding, 600 Cavalry Field Road, Gettysburg 17325, Adams County, Thirty-third Senatorial District, for reappointment as Secretary of Agriculture, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

SECRETARY OF BANKING AND SECURITIES

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Sarah Hammer, 310 Brentford Road, Haverford 19041, Montgomery County, Seventeenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Secretary of Banking and Securities, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Richard Vague, Philadelphia, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Albert Schmidt, 7520 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia 19128, Philadelphia County, Seventh Senatorial District,

for appointment as Secretary of the Commonwealth, to serve at the pleasure of the Governor, vice Kathy Boockvar, Doylestown, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

SECRETARY OF COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Frederick Siger, 6206 Sellers Street, Pittsburgh 15206, Allegheny County, Forty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as Secretary of Community and Economic Development, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Dennis Davin, Pittsburgh, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

SECRETARY OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Cynthia Dunn, 271 Hillcrest Road, Camp Hill 17011, Cumberland County, Thirty-fourth Senatorial District, for reappointment as Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

SECRETARY OF CORRECTIONS

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Laurel Harry, 1920 Technology Parkway, Mechanicsburg 17050, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Secretary of Corrections, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice John Wetzel, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

SECRETARY OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAMS

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Latika Davis-Jones, 15 Lacebark Court, Pittsburgh 15239, Allegheny County, Forty-fifth Senatorial District, for appointment as Secretary of Drug and Alcohol Programs, to

serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Jennifer Smith, Jonestown, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Khalid Mumin, 555 South Goddard Boulevard, King of Prussia 19406, Montgomery County, Seventeenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Secretary of Education, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Noe Ortega, Hummelstown, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Richard Negrin, 990 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois, 60611, for appointment as Secretary of Environmental Protection, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Patrick McDonnell, Harrisburg, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

SECRETARY OF HEALTH

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Debra L. Bogen, M.D., 1043 Lancaster Avenue, Pittsburgh 15218, Allegheny County, Forty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as Secretary of Health, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Rachel Levine, Middletown, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Valerie Arkoosh, 530 Spring Lane, Wyndmoor 19038, Montgomery County, Fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Secretary of Human Services, to serve until January 19,

2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Teresa Miller, Harrisburg, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Michael Humphreys, 690 Saint Johns Drive, Camp Hill 17011, Cumberland County, Thirty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Insurance Commissioner, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Jessica Altman, Harrisburg, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

SECRETARY OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Nancy Walker, 752 Baker Street, Lewisburg 17837, Union County, Twenty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as Secretary of Labor and Industry, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Jennifer Berrier, Harrisburg, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

SECRETARY OF REVENUE

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Patrick Browne, 43 South West Street, Allentown 18102, Lehigh County, Sixteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Secretary of Revenue, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice C. Daniel Hassell, Harrisburg, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

PENNSYLVANIA STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Thomas Cook, 249 Stoney Creek Drive, Apt. 65, Mifflintown 17059, Juniata County, Thirtieth Senatorial District, for appointment as Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner, to

serve at the pleasure of the Governor, vice new position created by Act 91 of 2020.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

COMMISSIONER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Major Christopher Paris, 1800 Elmerston Avenue, Harrisburg 17110, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Robert Evanchick, Harrisburg, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

January 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Michael Carroll, 1220 William Street, Avoca 18641, Luzerne County, Twenty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as Secretary of Transportation, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Yassmin Gramian, Downingtown, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

BILL INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

January 17, 2023

Senators HUTCHINSON, KANE, MASTRIANO, PENNYCUICK, BARTOLOTTA, STEFANO and J. WARD presented to the Chair **SB 162**, entitled:

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

Which was committed to the Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, January 17, 2023.

APPOINTMENT BY THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the Majority Leader has made the following appointment:

Senator Devlin Robinson as a member of the Pennsylvania Community Service Advisory Board.

APPOINTMENT BY THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the Minority Leader has made the following appointment:

Senator Judy Schwank as a member of the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

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

SB 115 (Pr. No. 41)

An Act amending the act of July 7, 2008 (P.L.654, No.55), known as the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act, in diesel-powered equipment, further providing for schedule of maintenance.

Senator STEFANO, from the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, reported the following bill:

SB 155 (Pr. No. 23)

An Act amending the act of March 28, 1984 (P.L.150, No.28), known as the Automobile Lemon Law, further providing for definitions, for repair obligations, for manufacturer's duty for refund or replacement and for presumption of a reasonable number of attempts.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Langerholc.

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

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

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests a legislative leave for Senator Langerholc.

Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Anthony Williams.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

SB 84 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, as a special order of business, I call up Senate Bill No. 84 on today's Calendar and ask for its immediate consideration.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 84 (Pr. No. 10) -- 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 professional employees, repealing

provisions relating to religious garb, insignia, etc., prohibited and penalty.

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

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

YEA-49

Argall	Dillon	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	DiSanto	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Farry	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Flynn	Miller	Street
Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Gebhard	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw
Costa			

NAY-0

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

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I rise along with my friend and colleague from the other side of the aisle, the gentlewoman from Berks County, in support of Senate Bill No. 84. Regrettably, we stand here as the very last State in the nation to remove this archaic statute from our education code, a law that traces its origins to the Ku Klux Klan and an anti-Catholic sentiment that was pushed in the late 1800s. Nebraska was the last State to repeal this law 5 years ago. Senate Bill No. 84 would strike Section 1112 from our Public School Code. Section 1112 prohibits a teacher from wearing any garb, mark, emblem, or insignia that would indicate he or she is a member of, or adherent to, any religious order or sect while in the performance of their duties as a teacher.

Current law stipulates that if a teacher violates this section, he or she must be suspended for 1 year or fired due to multiple offenses. This law was the reason a teacher in Indiana County, who wore a necklace with a cross, was forced to remove or cover the necklace or risk losing her job. She was suspended, but eventually rehired after a lengthy Federal court battle. It is a travesty that in a Commonwealth founded by William Penn and built on religious freedom and toleration that this sort of thing can happen. Let us once and for all join every other State in our nation and stand up for William Penn's founding principle. I respectfully request an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator SCHWANK. Thank you, and welcome, Mr. President. I rise today in support of Senate Bill No. 84, which I have had the great pleasure of co-sponsoring alongside my colleague from York County. Every Pennsylvanian and American has the right to freedom of speech and the right to exercise their religious beliefs. That right should be protected for all of us, equally. However, Pennsylvania law currently prohibits teachers from wearing any kind of religious garb, emblem, or insignia in the classroom. This could be something as simple as a necklace with the Star of David, a cross, or a star and a crescent. To be very clear, this bill does not favor one religion over the other. It will allow people of all faiths to express themselves. As my colleague, Senator Phillips-Hill, mentioned, we are the only State that still prohibits religious garb in schools. This legislation, I believe, is a straightforward fix to an outdated law. For these reasons, I respectfully urge my colleagues to vote affirmatively on Senate Bill No. 84.

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-49

Argall	Dillon	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	DiSanto	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Farry	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Flynn	Miller	Street
Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Gebhard	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw
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.

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will briefly be at ease.

[The Senate was at ease.]

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator Ryan P. Aument) in the Chair.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
MEETING PURSUANT TO RULE 9**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, as a special order of business and pursuant to Senate Rule 9, the Committee on Appropriations will meet off the floor immediately in the Rules room during the introduction of guests.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to Senate Rule 9, as a special order of business, the Majority Leader, in consultation

with the Minority Leader, has permitted the Committee on Appropriations to meet off the floor in the Rules room during the introduction of guests. Without objection, the Committee on Appropriations will meet immediately off the floor in the Rules room while the Senate continues with the introduction of guests.

GUEST OF SENATOR JUDY WARD PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator J. WARD. Mr. President, I am honored today to introduce a bright young lady from my district and today's guest Chaplain, Libby Baker-Mikesell. Libby grew up on a farm in Juniata County. She is currently attending seminary at United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg and is currently interning at St. James Lutheran Church in Gettysburg in Senator Mastriano's district. On top of her internship, Libby also serves as the student council president at the seminary. She is finished with her coursework and will be ordained after she completes her internship at the end of the year. After seminary and her internship, she plans to continue her career in ministry. In her spare time, she enjoys running, baking, reading, and exploring the Gettysburg area. Libby was a tremendous mucker for me last week at the feed scurry at the Farm Show. It is unfortunate she did not have a better driver. Thank you, Libby, for the wonderful opening prayer, and best of luck to you on your future as a seminarian and as your seminary experience comes to a close. We are fortunate to have you here today.

Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, Libby.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Would the guest of Senator Judy Ward please rise so that the Senate may give you its usual warm welcome.

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR CAROLYN T. COMITTA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Chester, Senator Comitta.

Senator COMITTA. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome Julie Stinson, Miss West Chester University, and her mother, Jackie Stinson. Julie is a sophomore at West Chester University's Honors College, where she is a business management major with minors in dance and digital marketing. During her time at West Chester University, she has maintained a perfect GPA and has earned a spot on the dean's list each semester. Julie is also a member of the Honors Student Association, the Incomparable Golden Rams Marching Band, university theater, and the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority. During her year as Miss WCU, Julie traveled throughout the greater West Chester community, making more than 35 appearances to promote her platform on the importance of music and arts education and advocate for more funding for such educational programs. Congratulations, Julie, and thank you for your work and advocacy on behalf of West Chester University and all of our students and young people. Please join me in extending a warm Senate welcome to Miss West Chester University, Julie Stinson.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Would the guests of Senator Comitta please rise so the Senate may give you its usual warm welcome.

[Applause.]

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be at ease.

[The Senate was at ease.]

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 95 (Pr. No. 8) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, further providing for use of farm vehicle plates.

SB 114 (Pr. No. 18) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No. 14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, further providing for firefighter and emergency service training and establishing the Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program and the Fire Training Fund.

SB 141 (Pr. No. 17) (Rereported)

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.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 95 (Pr. No. 8) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, further providing for use of farm vehicle plates.

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	Dillon	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	DiSanto	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Farry	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Flynn	Miller	Street
Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Gebhard	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw
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.

SB 114 (Pr. No. 18) -- 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 terms and courses of study, further providing for firefighter and emergency service training and establishing the Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program and the Fire Training Fund.

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	Dillon	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	DiSanto	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Farry	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Flynn	Miller	Street
Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Gebhard	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw
Costa			

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Mercer, Senator Brooks.

Senator BROOKS. Mr. President, I would like to submit comments on Senate Bill No. 114, a piece of legislation I introduced to help our firefighters. We are so grateful for everything that they do for our communities and our families. God bless our firefighters, our emergency responders, and their families. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 Mercer, Senator BROOKS:)

Mr. President, I have been a staunch supporter of finding ways to help our firefighting community, whether through retention, recruitment, or funding for the essential services provided. It is no secret that Pennsylvania is facing a severe shortage of volunteer firefighters, with the current number of volunteers down to less than 15 percent of the number of volunteers in the 1970s. Senate Bill No. 114 establishes the Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program to provide high school students with fire training instruction through a partnership among

school districts, area career and technical schools, intermediate units, or charter schools with institutions of higher education. By encouraging school districts to partner with institutions of higher education, we can help recruit and retain firefighters at a time when first responders are desperately needed. The State Fire Commissioner will select three institutions of higher education from the proposals submitted to offer the fire instruction pilot program to students in at least the ninth grade and leading to Firefighter I certification. If possible, the State Fire Commissioner shall select one institution from the eastern, central, and western regions of the Commonwealth. This legislation unanimously passed the Senate in the 2019-2020 and 2021-2022 legislative Sessions, but unfortunately was not considered by the House. I hope we can get it across the finish line this Session.

The bill also authorizes the State Fire Commissioner to accept monetary donations from individuals and government, business, or nonprofit entities for deposit into a non-lapsing fund in addition to any State appropriations. Any funds appropriated, donated, or transferred under this section and interest earned shall be deposited into the fund. Each institution offering the program shall receive at least \$150,000 for the duration of the pilot program. "Institutions of higher education" are defined as community colleges, rural regional colleges, or a university within the State System of Higher Education. Senate Bill No. 114 also directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a survey of volunteer fire companies in the municipalities surrounding the school districts and area career and technical schools that participate in the pilot program to determine whether the program is increasing the number of volunteer firefighters and to include additional recommendations. The pilot program will expire 4 years from the effective date.

Our volunteer fire companies are in a state of crisis, with the ranks of firefighters available to answer emergency calls dwindling to alarming new lows. I am grateful for the heroism and safety our volunteer firefighters provide to our communities, and it is my hope that we can find a remedy for the growing firefighter shortage and replicate and expand these programs statewide if successful.

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

SB 141 (Pr. No. 17) -- 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Franklin, Senator Mastriano.

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, Senate Bill No. 141, as reintroduced for this Session, to allow our Pennsylvania National Guard to recognize the contributions of our foreign partners and allies around the world during military operations. Through the National Guard's State partnership program, for instance, we have a close relationship with the great nation of Lithuania, spanning almost 30 years. And so, our soldiers, every day, are literally working with Lithuanians in Vilnius or their soldiers here in Harrisburg; a great partnership. The realities of modern warfare and modern military operations is brought forth in our experience over the past 20-some years during the Global War on Terror. I remember in 2003, I was asked to help assemble a multinational coalition to help our forces in Iraq. The meetings began in London and then spent more time in Warsaw, where the Poles would take the lead, and we had 47 nations contribute to our mission in

Iraq after the initial operations kicked off. That is the reality we live in, and so much so is it for our National Guard as well. Our National Guard is constantly working with our NATO allies and other coalition partners, especially in Europe. Even as we speak, we have members of one battalion of our Pennsylvania National Guard working in a multinational environment in Sinai, multinational force observers. This legislation will allow the Pennsylvania National Guard to award the Pennsylvania Distinguished Service Medal and the Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Medal to those members of foreign forces who perform an excellent service in line with our operations. I ask for a positive and affirmative vote on this.

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-49

Argall	Dillon	Langerhole	Santarsiero
Aument	DiSanto	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Farry	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Flynn	Miller	Street
Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Gebhard	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Kane	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw
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.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION**

Senator FARRY. 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 115 and SB 155.

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

11:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (public hearing in accordance with Act 54 of 2022 with the four state-related universities regarding student mental health services)
CANCELLED

Temple Univ.
Fox Sch. of Bus.
Alter Hall
MBA Commons
7th Floor, 1801
Liacouras Walk
Philadelphia

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023

10:00 A.M. VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (public hearing on the Norfolk Southern train derailment on the Pennsylvania border and emergency response efforts)

Community Coll.
of Beaver County
Dome Athletic Fac.
1 Campus Drive
Monaca

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023

10:00 A.M. CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE and ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (joint public hearing on Grid Reliability and Winter Storm Elliot Recap)

Room 8E-B
East Wing
(LIVE
STREAMED)

11:00 A.M. TRANSPORTATION (public hearing to collect testimony on "Hazardous Materials Transported by Rail")

Hearing Room 1
North Office
(LIVE
STREAMED)

Off the Floor ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (to consider Senate Bills No. 144, 211 and 254; and Senate Resolution No. 9)

Rules Committee
Conference Room

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023

11:00 A.M. EDUCATION (public hearing to discuss teacher shortages in Pennsylvania)

Hearing Room 1
North Office
(LIVE
STREAMED)

Off the Floor BANKING AND INSURANCE (to consider Senate Bill No. 8)

Rules Committee
Conference Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023

1:00 P.M. TRANSPORTATION (public hearing to collect testimony on "Charging Electric Vehicles")

Univ. of Pitt.
Alumni Hall
Room 121
4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington, Senator Bartolotta.

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I rise to submit some remarks for the record. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 Washington, Senator BARTOLOTTA:)

Mr. President, I rise to speak about a truly evil crime: human trafficking. The volume of cases in the Commonwealth is sad and surprising.

Because Pennsylvania is a main travel corridor for the entire Northeast, our State continually ranks in the top 10 States for human trafficking. Since the passage of Pennsylvania's comprehensive human trafficking law in 2014, 80 convictions have resulted out of the 174 cases of trafficking in the Commonwealth. In 2020, the National Human Trafficking Hotline identified 221 unique situations of trafficking in Pennsylvania, of which 80 percent were sex trafficking and 20 percent were labor trafficking. This is why we need to improve our understanding and awareness of this insidious crime against humanity. Human traffickers prey on the vulnerabilities of others, intentionally targeting the weakest among us, from children who are living in foster care, to those with a mental illness, to people who are facing homelessness. Human trafficking is a form of interpersonal violence with many of the same power and control dynamics as other abusive relationships. Because of the layers of trauma human trafficking inflicts on its victims, it can take them several attempts before they are able to successfully break the cycle. That is why victims need our help. Legislative efforts to convict the despicable people involved and to protect the victims have been made, but more needs to be done.

By partnering with Senator Phillips-Hill to sponsor Senate Resolution No. 11, designating January 2023 [as] National Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month in Pennsylvania, we hope to raise awareness of this heinous crime and highlight the impact human trafficking has upon its victims. Let us work to combat the stigma that it only happens to people who let it happen to themselves. And with that work, we will more effectively support and protect victims.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I submit remarks for the record.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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, just as I got used to Madam President, we go and change it up again. As an aside, congratulations, Mr. President. I cannot wait to see what the future of Pennsylvania holds for all of us under the new Shapiro-Davis Administration. Over the next 4 years, you will have the opportunity to call on Senator Tartaglione from Philadelphia County quite a few times during Ps and Rs here on this floor. Every day we are here until we finally pass meaningful and substantive minimum wage reform legislation, I will come to this podium and express my outrage, frustration, sadness, and observations for the Chamber to hear. Because, Mr. President, it has been 6,036 days since this Commonwealth's legislature last passed an increase in our minimum wage. That means for more than 16 1/2 years, we have allowed a legalized system of poverty to perpetuate for Pennsylvania's lowest earners.

Over this past weekend I, like many of my colleagues, had the opportunity to participate in acts of service around our communities in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His dedication and the continued fight for economic, social, and racial justice remind us how much more we still need to do. In Dr. King's 1967 book *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?* he said: "We also know that no matter how dynamically the economy develops and expands it does not eliminate all poverty." We still have so much to do. Dr. King's vision was one of a world, and America, where no one experienced poverty, no one experienced racial prejudice, and no one experienced inequality. As our economy expands, we fail to see people lifted from the bottom. We see the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. But we can and must address the root causes. One of which is our poverty-level, starvation wage.

That is why I reintroduced my minimum wage legislation from the last Session. Because as we lift up our highest earners, our lowest earners are left behind and disregarded. We need to raise up the people that need it most, our Commonwealth's lowest earners.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I rise to submit remarks on human trafficking to the record.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 York, Senator PHILLIPS-HILL:)

Mr. President, I too rise to commemorate January 2023 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Pennsylvania. It is hard to conceive of a crime more reprehensible than human trafficking. Victims face the prospect of enduring and unspeakable violence, forced addiction, ongoing threats, isolation, sexual assault, and other atrocities committed by abusers in order to force compliance. This abuse often takes place over the course of months or even years against victims who average between 12 and 14 years of age. Human trafficking continues to be a problem affecting every corner of this Commonwealth. According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, Pennsylvania ranks 9th in the nation for most reported cases of human trafficking, and the Route 15 corridor that runs through central Pennsylvania is a particular hotspot for traffickers.

We must stand with the victims and send a message that we want to fight to end this egregious industry in Pennsylvania. As William Wilberforce, who fought slavery in Europe during the 19th century said: "You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say [again] that you did not know."

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Martin.

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I rise to offer brief comments on a resolution I will soon introduce with my colleague, Senator Dillon of the 5th Senatorial District, to designate the week of January 29 through February 4, 2023, as Catholic Schools Week in Pennsylvania. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." These schools instill a strong sense of values, self-esteem, confidence, and leadership skills among their students. Nationally, 1.7 million students are enrolled in Catholic schools at the elementary and secondary levels. In Pennsylvania, there are approximately 140,000 students enrolled in Catholic schools. I represent many families from the 13th Senatorial District who have children who attend these schools, and I hear from them frequently with regard to their achievements. I owe much of my success to the education I received at Lancaster Catholic High School, a sentiment I hear echoed by parents and alumni on a regular basis. Please join me in designating the week of January 29 through February 4, 2023, as Catholic Schools Week in Pennsylvania, reminding all of us that the Catholic schools are as [sic] important part of the communities across the State as all of our educational options.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Dillon.

Senator DILLON. Mr. President, today I rise to join Senator Martin in offering a resolution designating the week of January 29 through February 4 as Catholic Schools Week here in our Commonwealth. A graduate of Our Lady of Calvary in Northeast Philadelphia, I know firsthand the transformative power of a Catholic education. Catholic schools not only provide an academic foundation, but they also instill in the students the values of faith, excellence, and service. Those values guided me through

my life and were a driving force in my decision to serve my community as a State Senator. During National Catholic Schools Week, we have the opportunity to recognize and celebrate the achievements of Catholic schools and the positive impact they have on the lives of our students and families. I feel that impact on a very personal level. As a proud parent of two Our-Lady-of-Calvary students, I am still part of that OLC community to this day.

Last year, on my birthday, I experienced one of the worst moments of my life: a freak accident triggered by dryer lint, causing my entire home to catch fire and burn to the ground. Thankfully, my family was not hurt, and no other homes were damaged. That fire turned my life upside down for a bit, feeling a little lost and left alone. Not long after that, Sister Mildred, the principal of Our Lady of Calvary, reached out to offer friendship and support on behalf of Our Lady of Calvary. That act of kindness in my hour of need meant the world to me. It also reminded me the sense of community and support that Catholic schools provide not only to their students, but their alumni and families. I urge my fellow Senators to support this resolution and to recognize the positive impact that Catholic schools have made on communities across Pennsylvania, as well as made the impact on me as a colleague [sic] of the Fifth Senatorial District.

Thank you, Mr. President.

REMARKS ON VOTE PURSUANT TO SENATE RULE 20

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Haywood.

Senator HAYWOOD. Mr. President, I rise to make the following remarks and ask that we spread upon the record pursuant to Rule 20. On Wednesday, January 11, 2023, I was voted in error on Senate Bill No. 35, Printer's No. 13. At that time, I was voted in the negative, and I wish to be voted in the affirmative. Please let the record reflect that I wish to be cast in the affirmative on that bill. I fully support that legislation. It is clear to me that more work needs to be done to eliminate the gas tax.

According to the Transportation Revenue Options Commission, which submitted its final report to Governor Wolf in July 2021, gas tax revenues continue to shrink. The gas tax, once a fair and sustainable way to pay for roads and bridges, is antiquated and inadequate. In addition, the gas tax places tremendous burden on everyday Pennsylvanians, particularly those with low and moderate incomes. Pennsylvania is considered one of the "Terrible 10" States in the nation with the most regressive tax structures in the United States. The high gas tax demonstrates the critical need for progressive taxation in Pennsylvania. We must act now to place the Commonwealth on a path to economic stability and sustainability, while providing relief to Pennsylvanians at the pump.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, pursuant to Senate Rule 20, Senator Haywood's remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator HAYWOOD:)

Mr. President, I rise to make the following remarks and ask that they be spread upon the record pursuant to Senate Rule 20. On Wednesday, January 11, 2023, I was voted in error on Senate Bill No. 35, Printer No. 13. At that time, I was voted in the negative, and I wished to be voted in the affirmative. Please let the record reflect that is how I wished to cast my vote on that bill.

I fully support the legislation; it is clear that more work needs to be done to eliminate the gas tax. According to the Transportation Revenue Options Commission, which submitted its final report to Governor Wolf in July 2021, gas tax revenues continue to shrink. The gas tax, once a fair and sustainable way to pay for roads and bridges, is antiquated and inadequate. In addition, the gas tax places a tremendous burden on everyday Pennsylvanians, particularly those with low and moderate incomes. Pennsylvania is considered one of the "terrible 10" States with one of the most regressive tax structures in the U.S. The high gas tax demonstrates the need for progressive taxation in Pennsylvania. We must act now to place the Commonwealth on a path to economic stability and sustainability while providing relief to Pennsylvanians at the pump. Thank you.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, February 27, 2023, at 1 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 11:50 a.m., Eastern Standard Time.