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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023

SESSION OF 2023 207TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 14

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, March 8, 2023

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

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend RON ZEIGLER, State Capitol Minister for Pennsylvania, Ministry to State, Palmyra, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, You are the Giver of all good gifts, the Creator of all things by whom, through whom, and for whom everything exists. Your knowledge is infinite and independent of any created being. I sincerely thank You for this State Senate of Pennsylvania. Thank You for establishing civil governments for the better ordering of society and for the diligent protection of law-abiding people. Thank You for revealing, in Your creation and in Your written Word, all we need to know about You and how You have called for us to live concerning Your authority as our Creator, righteous Judge, and Giver of new life. At the end of the day, let each of us always be ready to give a good account to You of all we have thought, said, and done. I thank You for the men and women who serve in this distinguished body and for their cherished loved ones who sacrifice so much for them to do their important work. In Your loving care, bless and keep these public servants, along with their devoted staff who faithfully serve, to help them make just laws for the blessing and benefit of this beloved and precious Commonwealth. In Your mercy, because of the righteousness of Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit and for Your glory, please empower each Member of this great body to be faithful to their solemn oath of office and be diligent to uphold our State Constitution on behalf of the people they represent, especially amid the many pressures, challenges, and temptations they regularly face. By Your power, enable these dedicated Senators to work well with one another, using their unique talents and abilities in ways they may not have imagined or thought possible, with a common unity of respect, honor, and care for each other, including a genuine love and concern for the dear people of Pennsylvania. Please guide and direct them this day in all that they do, and bless their labor so that all they accomplish is good and pleasing in Your sight, and profitable for the people of this wonderful Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I humbly ask You for all these things in the glorious name of Jesus Christ, for

He is my dear Lord and precious Savior in whose righteousness and love I rejoice and delight upon each and every day. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Reverend Zeigler, who is the guest today of Senator Gebhard.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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:

March 7, 2023

Senators BAKER, HAYWOOD, KEARNEY, COLLETT, KANE, SCHWANK, MILLER, BREWSTER, COSTA, COMITTA, DILLON and SANTARSIERO presented to the Chair **SB 506**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in incapacitated persons, further providing for petition and hearing and independent evaluation and for determination of incapacity and appointment of guardian.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, March 7, 2023.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator COLEMAN, from the Committee on Intergovernmental Operations, reported the following bills:

SB 188 (Pr. No. 86)

An Act amending the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the Regulatory Review Act, further providing for definitions, for proposed regulations and procedures for review and for final-form regulations and final-omitted regulations and procedures for review; and providing for concurrent resolution required for economically significant regulations.

SB 190 (Pr. No. 88)

An Act amending the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the Regulatory Review Act, further providing for definitions and for existing regulations.

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

SB 226 (Pr. No. 195)

An Act amending the act of April 27, 1927 (P.L.465, No.299), referred to as the Fire and Panic Act, further providing for standards for Class VI buildings.

SB 239 (Pr. No. 205)

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

Senator FARRY, from the Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing, reported the following bills:

SB 295 (Pr. No. 269)

An Act providing for the establishment of first-time home buyer savings accounts for first-time home buyers in this Commonwealth.

SB 466 (Pr. No. 384)

An Act amending the act of May 19, 1995 (P.L.33, No.3), known as the Economic Development Agency, Fiduciary and Lender Environmental Liability Protection Act, further providing for definitions.

Senator MASTRIANO, from the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, reported the following bills:

SB 433 (Pr. No. 374)

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, further providing for organization.

SB 508 (Pr. No. 392)

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Train Derailment Emergency Grant Program and the Train Derailment Emergency Grant Fund.

RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator FARRY, from the Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing, reported the following resolution:

SR 45 (Pr. No. 367)

A Resolution urging the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to address the process of porting.

The resolution will be placed on the Calendar.

Senator MASTRIANO, from the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, reported the following resolution:

SR 59 (Pr. No. 389)

A Resolution recognizing the impact of the East Palestine, Ohio, train derailment on residents of this Commonwealth.

The resolution will be placed on the Calendar.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Regan and Senator Dush, and a legislative leave for Senator Kim Ward.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Cappelletti and Senator Haywood.

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

Senator Costa requests legislative leaves for Senator Cappelletti and Senator Haywood.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Senator PITTMAN asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator BROOKS, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of January 13, 2023; January 17, 2023; and January 18, 2023, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of January 13, 2023; January 17, 2023; and January 18, 2023.

Senator PITTMAN. 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 PITTMAN and were as follows, viz:

YEA-49

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS MEETING PURSUANT TO RULE 9

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

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

The PRESIDENT. 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. The Senate will be at ease momentarily while the Members of the Committee on Appropriations report to the Rules room.

[The Senate was at ease.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. GEBHARD PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator GEBHARD. Mr. President, I rise today to thank Minister Ron Zeigler of Palmyra, Lebanon County, for today's opening prayer. Ron currently serves as the State Capitol Minister of Pennsylvania through Ministry to State with a Mission to North America, the domestic missions organization of the Presbyterian Church in America. Before joining us in Harrisburg last year, Ron served two congregations in central Pennsylvania, one as an associate pastor and the other as a solo pastor. From 2014 to 2021, Ron took a sabbatical from his pastoral ministry to focus on homeschooling his three youngest children and to teach algebra at his local Christian high school. In his free time, he also enjoys watching baseball games; freestyle wrestling; collecting vintage Matchbox Cars; writing calligraphy; and when he can, spending time outdoors hiking, fishing, and kayaking. Ron is joined today by his wife, Kathy, and they have been lovingly married since 1989 and are parents of four adult children. Please help me give a warm Senate welcome to Minister Ron Zeigler and his wife, Kathy.

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

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR JARRETT CHARLES COLEMAN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator COLEMAN. Mr. President, this morning I would like to introduce a group of constituents from my district who are

visiting the Capitol today, representing the Ministry to State prayer team from Providence Presbyterian Church in Quakertown. They are accompanying the Senate guest Chaplain, Reverend Ron Zeigler, who are from Senator Gebhard's district. The visitors today include Bob and Carol Lacock; Mel and Kay Farrar; and Ken and Jo Rhodes. Please join me with a warm Senate welcome. Thank you.

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

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR CAROLYN T. COMITTA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Chester, Senator Comitta.

Senator COMITTA. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome Ashley Scott, an intern at my West Chester district office, and her mother, Deborah Scott. Ashley is a junior at West Chester University, where she is majoring in political science and is a member of the honors seminar program. In addition to excelling in academics, she is the vice president of Delta Zeta and president of the French club. Ashley was graduated with honors from Central Bucks South High School, where she captained the varsity volleyball club. On a side note, I first met Ashley in the fall when I participated in a panel discussion at West Chester University on gender and politics, and at that time, Ashley indicated an interest in an internship, and here she is today. While I have only known Ashley a few months, during that time, it has been a pleasure to watch her continue to learn and grow into such a caring and capable young woman. Ashley is doing a fantastic job serving the people of the 19th Senatorial District, and we are thrilled to have her on our team. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Ashley Scott. Welcome to the PA Senate, Ashley.

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

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN M. DiSANTO PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator DiSANTO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce an outstanding group of athletes from Derry Township School District. In November, Hershey High School Boys' Soccer Team won the PIAA Class AAA championship with a 1-0 second overtime victory against Springfield Township. This is the first boys' soccer championship in the school history, and we hope there will be many more to come. The Trojan boys, under head coach, Andrew Maya, and assistants, Andy Briggs and Tanner Therit, demonstrated superior sportsmanship and remarkable athletic skill. The team's roster includes Hannes Budde, Timmy Green, Kaden Farrell, Xander Schambach, Nour Khreisha, Riley Schmidt, Cole Goodman, Josh Fisher, Stefan Verbeek, Bo Shirk, Joey Owsley, Ian McGrorty, Adrian Dahl, Cooper Bouslough, Jake Moyer, Ronan Edris, Brett Moyer, Aidan Miller, Niklas Budde, Jack Zakovitch, Kelan Rowland, Owen Hulays, Miles Bontempo-Tyree, Abdel Khreisha, Brayden McCormick, and Joseph Parks. The team joins us in the gallery today, and I would just like to say, unfortunate timing, most of our Senators, due to a Senate

timing issue, are in the Committee on Appropriations, so there are very few of us here today, but I do not want them to think it is a slight on our part. So please assist me in welcoming our State champions, the Hershey boys' soccer team.

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

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR JUDY WARD PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator J. WARD. Mr. President, I rise to welcome students and faculty from the public health and safety cadet program at Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center to the Senate today for today's Session. The Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center offers secondary and post-secondary career and technical education covering a wide range of fields. The cadet program at the center is specifically focused on preparing students for a variety of employment opportunities including emergency response and preparedness disciplines. This ranges from law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medical services, corrections, probation and parole, and many other fields. The cadets range from 10th through 12th grade and receive a variety of professional certifications. This puts them in a great position to be very competitive applicants in their relevant job markets. Additionally, many cadets are members of volunteer emergency services in their home communities, adding to the opportunities for training, experience, and growth. These students show up, work hard, and learn countless skills that will make them attractive to employers all across the State and set themselves up for a lifetime of success, all while giving back to their communities in service. Thank you to the students for your continued study and work towards these important careers, and to the center for its continued investment in our next generation. Please join me in giving the students and faculty from the Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center a warm Senate welcome.

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

[Applause.]

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will briefly be at ease.

[The Senate was at ease.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR SHARIF T. STREET PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise in what I believe has been a mutually consented-to Special Order of Business in both welcoming guests and introducing a resolution. I am joined in welcoming guests by Senator Tartaglione, and I know that a number of Members will want to speak on the resolution, which relates to the welcoming of our guests. But our guests today are the family of Christopher Fitzgerald, who served and patrolled in Temple University in my district, and he lived in Senator Tartaglione's district. And for those of you who are not aware of the geography of Philadelphia, the distance from one end of my district, to the far end of my district, to the far end of hers is geographically very small. From end to end, our districts are not that

big, and so, we essentially represent a single community. Officer Fitzgerald was the best of us, and he died in the line of duty trying to protect people in the Temple University community. He loved both students and people who worked there and people who lived in the neighborhood. He was everything we say a person should be. They talk about people of color not wanting to become police officers, he came from a police family that had been dedicated to protecting people. Talk about folks not doing policing right; well, his family, his parents, taught him how to do policing right, and he did everything the way he was supposed to do it. And when, in the midst of a carjacking at a 7-Eleven--that I walk in and out of probably 3 or 4 times a week--he ended up pursuing someone and ultimately died in the line of duty. So, we are joined today by a number of his family members, but I will highlight, in particular, his mother and his widow. He was a fun-loving guy who was beloved in our community, and he was a good father, a good son, a good husband. And I will speak more on the resolution, but for further welcoming, I yield to Senator Tartaglione.

The PRESIDENT. Will the guests of Senator Street please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT. For the information of the Members, we are about to consider a condolence resolution. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms see that all doors in the Chamber are closed.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SENATE RESOLUTION No. 64, ADOPTED

Senators STREET, TARTAGLIONE, DILLON, HAYWOOD, HUGHES, SAVAL, and A. WILLIAMS, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 64**, which was read by the Clerk:

A RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and service of Temple University Police Sergeant Christopher Fitzgerald.

WHEREAS, Temple University Police Sergeant Christopher David "Fitz" Fitzgerald was shot and killed in the line of duty on February 18, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Fitzgerald was 31 years of age and is remembered for being a strong cop with a tender heart and a sense of humor, who strived to lead with kindness and respect; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Fitzgerald is survived by his wife, four children, his mother and father, two siblings, two grandmothers, one great-grandmother and a large family of loving aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Fitzgerald was born in Philadelphia and graduated from Stafford High School in Stafford, Texas, before returning home; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Fitzgerald began his career as a corrections officer before entering the City of Philadelphia Police Academy in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduation, Sergeant Fitzgerald served as an officer with the Philadelphia Housing Authority Police Department; and

WHEREAS, In 2019, Sergeant Fitzgerald matriculated at the Philadelphia Sheriff's Department and served in its Guardian Civic League; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Fitzgerald proudly served with the Temple University Campus Police since 2021; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Fitzgerald served the Temple University community with distinction; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, Sergeant Fitzgerald received three merit awards for his service and the 2022 Officer of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Fitzgerald is the first officer of the Temple University Campus Police to be killed in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Fitzgerald was a passionate community service volunteer and a fervent Philadelphia sports fan; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Fitzgerald was an avid runner and ran track in high school; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Fitzgerald was one of the original members of the Swagga House Run Club, which seeks to meet youths by holding group running events monthly through neighborhoods plagued by gun violence; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Fitzgerald believed that keeping neighborhoods safe meant believing in them; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Fitzgerald wore his uniform proudly in his North Philadelphia neighborhood to gain the community's trust; and

WHEREAS, Temple University Campus Police posthumously promoted then-Officer Fitzgerald to the rank of Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Sheriff's Department also posthumously promoted him to the rank of Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Fitzgerald's uncle, Bishop Juan Marrero, eulogized the gift that Sergeant Fitzgerald gave, which was the example that he set and which is summarized as, "we do not fight evil with evil; we defeat evil with good because good overcomes evil all day long"; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Fitzgerald's final patrol through Temple University's campus before being laid to rest led a procession of police, students and community members that extended for miles; and

WHEREAS, There has been an outpouring of support through vigils and memorials as Sergeant Fitzgerald's family, friends and fellow officers and Temple University mourn the loss of a beloved member of their community; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Fitzgerald made the ultimate sacrifice protecting his community and the residents of this Commonwealth; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the life and service of Temple University Police Sergeant Christopher Fitzgerald; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Senate extend condolences to the family, friends, students, university, loved ones and the entire community as they honor the life and sacrifice of Sergeant Fitzgerald.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

GUEST OF SENATOR SHARIF T. STREET
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to note the presence of Representative Malcolm Kenyatta, who will be offering a companion resolution in the House of Representatives as well. So, both the House and Senate intend to recognize Sergeant Fitzgerald.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, much of the biographical information was read as a part of the condolence resolution. So, I want to say this: in a community where folks are no strangers to death, this one hit differently. Officer Fitzgerald is a guy from the neighborhood who was really trying to do the right thing and was raising a family and was an example of everything we want folks to be. We talk about people living in the community and policing, we talk about the force looking like the community, and doing policing in the right way. Being friendly and talking with the kids on the campus and the people in the neighborhood. And he did all of that. This is a family who has dedicated so much to our

community, with his mother and father serving, his uncle is a bishop, and he did everything right. And he was not even killed by the people in the community. He was killed by someone who was rather affluent and who decided to play gangster in our community that already has so much going on.

I have stood on this floor and talked about my office being shot up, and even losing family members, but this one hits just as hard as any other. And it is, it is very unfortunate. We thank his family, who has given so much, and even in the face of his death, have still stood as examples as his uncle spoke out about making sure that love defeats hate. So, he--both in life and in passing--stands as a shining example of the best of what our police department can be and is--and served as a corrections officer, a sheriff deputy, and a police officer. So, he has really done the gamut of law enforcement in his brief years.

So, I just want to sincerely thank Officer Fitzgerald, noted to his wife that we all--and mother and father, who have been with us, not here today, but been with us--that we all feel your loss with you. Not, I am sure, not as intensely as you do, but our community and this Commonwealth mourns with you. We intend to make sure that we continue to support the officers both in the larger police community, but also in the Temple University Police Department that he loved so much, and make sure they have the resources, because he should not have been out there alone, he should have had a partner. And we have an obligation to make sure that other people have the resources they need in the future. So, thank you for all you have given. And I guess I will yield to my cosponsor, Senator Tartaglione.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor a life cut too short. Temple University Police Sergeant Christopher Fitzgerald lived just blocks from me. When we think about the kind of officers we need patrolling our streets and making our communities safer, it is officers like Sergeant Fitzgerald. Sergeant Fitzgerald did it for the right reason, served because he loved his community, loved his city, he loved his coworkers, and most importantly, he loved his family.

We all know how tragic it is to lose a family member, but what makes this loss even more heartbreaking is the senselessness of this cowardly murder. Sergeant Fitzgerald showed us what it truly means to dedicate your life to bettering the society around you. To the family and loved ones of Sergeant Fitzgerald, I offer my most sincere condolences. I cannot imagine the pain and the sorrow that you are feeling right now, but we want you to know that the entire Commonwealth are here for you. We will support you in any way we can, and we will always remember Christopher's sacrifice, and his honor, and his memory. To his coworkers, we see and feel your pain, and we are reminded the risk that each one of our law enforcement officers face each day as they protect and serve our community. As we remember the life of Sergeant Fitzgerald, let us take a moment to reflect on the important work that he and his fellow officers do each and every day. They put their lives on the line to protect us, and we owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid.

Thank you, Sergeant Christopher Fitzgerald, your sacrifice will not be forgotten. Thank you.

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, thank you to my colleagues for introducing the resolution, and thank you for the opportunity to say a few words. I do not know the family, did not know the young man--does not live in my district. But I had to say something because I live in Philadelphia, and I also happen to live in a community that has a significant tension between law enforcement and people of color. And, frankly, sometimes it is misunderstood and certainly misunderstood by many people who report about it. So, let me first start with the young man in question. All the wonderful things that we can say about him are not contained in written documents, will never be extolled in the public domain. Only his family will know the full vault of who he was and how extraordinary he was. For those of us who hold public office, we acknowledge that a person in uniform has been lost and was murdered. And, so, certainly there is outpouring of condolences and moments for a person like that. But I want us to understand--who are starting a new Session--that the intersection of what we are going to do and who he is, is exactly where we should be. A young man of color working in a tough neighborhood, contrary to the stereotype that many people in my community do not want to be officers. I hear the word patriotism a lot in this building. This young man was a patriot. That is what a patriot looks like, and it does not look like a patriot simply because he is a police officer. If you listen to the comments made about him for the last several weeks, he is a patriot because after he took off his uniform, he went back to that same community and tried to make sure young men like him saw a different vision of their future because he was doing it contrary to all the things that people report. And a young man on top of that. You do not get that way and you do not become a hero simply because you are a police officer. You become a hero in that way because of your character.

And, unfortunately, the video today will not capture those who are here from his family, friends, and relatives who are over there, but for those of us who had the opportunity to speak to them, and those who have not, I suggest that you get up and you meet them. You will understand why he was who he was and how he conducted himself. The magnificent grace of his family has been displayed in public ever since his departure. And for people like me, I cannot understand it always, but moments like this require us to understand that we enter into deliberations about things that are important beyond us and our personal moments in ways that we do not stereotype the people who we interact with. This young man died with a message. Not simply: do not pick up a gun. It is not simply that there are senseless murders; it is not simply that people think Philadelphia is a dangerous place. He died with a message of hope, hope that we can see in our circumstances how challenging they are; that this country is the best country in the world; and if you apply yourself, despite the obstacles, you can be whoever you choose to be. And when you become whoever you choose to be, we expect you to go back and give to everybody else. That is not just the message for urban Pennsylvania. That is the message for rural Pennsylvania, for suburban Pennsylvania; that is a message and a story to be told countless times, and I hope that his family received some solace from that, that he will not be forgotten, not simply because he was a police officer--we respect that, we honor that--but because he was a hero because of his character.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, on behalf of all of us here in the Senate, I want to offer our condolences. I am a retired corrections officer, as well as retired law enforcement. Anytime we lose a brother or sister, it is very hard on the community, but the families--I have been at memorial services and the like--our thoughts and prayers are with you. And I would like to echo what Senator Anthony Williams just said. It is obvious here with the family, the character that that young sergeant showed is evident in the family that is here and in the stories that were presented in the resolution. The willingness to go back into one's own community--and I have worked as an insurance investigator, not in law enforcement then at that time, but in that area of Philadelphia--you have got good families down there. And wanting to have, as your son showed, the willingness to come back and be a part of that community--the community policing, but also the community involvement--that speaks very well to the character. And just know that there are a lot of people grieving alongside of you. I know we will not feel the pain that you do, but I am grateful that you raised up such a fine young man. God bless.

The PRESIDENT. Before we vote on this condolence resolution, will the Members, as well as all the staff and guests, please rise for a moment of silence.

[Whereupon, the Senate en bloc stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect to the memory of Police Sergeant CHRISTOPHER FITZGERALD.]

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT. The resolution is unanimously adopted.

REQUEST FOR RECESS

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to be held in the Rules room immediately.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. For the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to be held in the Rules room immediately, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 143 (Pr. No. 388) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preemptions, providing for restrictions on utility services prohibited.

Considered the third time and agreed to,
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

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

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lycoming, Senator Yaw.

Senator YAW. Mr. President, this bill is an energy choice bill, and energy policy can best be made at the State level. Consumers really need to know that they have a common thread for their energy choices or their energy needs, and one of the things that we do not need throughout Pennsylvania is a patchwork of energy policies. We have almost 2,500 municipal governments in Pennsylvania, and just to think that every municipal government could make a choice or dictate energy policy, it would just cause such disarray that it would be virtually impossible to have any kind of an energy utility service to people within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. So, this bill is written to be, it does not favor any particular energy fuel or any particular type of energy, it just leaves it to the consumer. This is a pro-consumer bill, and I ask for an affirmative vote. Thank you.

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

Senator SAVAL. Mr. President, today I rise in opposition to Senate Bill No. 143. In our Commonwealth, municipalities are entrusted with the precious responsibility of meeting the needs of their residents. To do this, local governments have the authority and the obligation to create programs, launch initiatives, and pass legislation necessary to ensure healthy, vibrant, and thriving communities. Senate Bill No. 143 strips municipalities of their ability to safeguard the well-being of their residents, and thus it prevents them from fulfilling their fundamental obligation, and it does so

at the behest of a wealthy and powerful industry that has persistently treated our communities as commodities to be exploited. Senate Bill No. 143 would add Pennsylvania to the list of States whose legislatures have passed preemption laws that fly against local control, public health, and environmental safety by prohibiting their cities from banning gas. These preemption laws are ramping up as home electrification is increasing. The percentage of U.S. homes heated with electricity has increased from 1 percent in 1950 to 40 percent in 2020, and currently, 1 in every 4 U.S. homes is fully electric. This is a matter of public health, reducing particulate matter and volatile organic compounds in our homes that, among other things, increase the risk for children to develop asthma. This is a matter of climate resilience and mitigation, connecting households with a reliable source of energy and immediately reducing emissions. This is a matter of economic health, lowering utility and energy burdens at a time when many households are struggling, and this is a matter of public safety. On a frigid day in December 2019, a gas explosion in the 1st Senatorial District, my district, killed two people, collapsed five homes, and damaged many others all along the block. Two years later in December 2021, another gas explosion in my district injured three people, blew out the windows of the home, and led to the evacuation of other homes on the block. And on New Year's Day of this year, a gas explosion in the Port Richmond neighborhood of Philadelphia destroyed three homes and damaged 43 others. My constituents, all our constituents, deserve local governments that will be forward thinking in protecting their health, their well-being, and their safety. Senate Bill No. 143 is a regressive preemption law that binds their hands to do so. I urge a "no" vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Erie, Senator Laughlin.

Senator LAUGHLIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 143 for numerous reasons. First, I do not believe that the government has any place telling you how to live your life, especially when it is something as simple as how you would like to heat your home. I represent a district up in Erie County that has typically pretty bad winters, and I can tell you from personal experience, when the power goes out, I am still able to heat my home because it is heated with natural gas. And all I have to do is run a small generator to run my furnace. And I can tell you from personal experience, in some of those winter situations, my pipes would have probably frozen had I not been able to heat my home. I would also like to point out, you know, when we--if you want to talk about climate with this bill--that when you convert natural gas to electricity, which is basically how we generate electricity in Pennsylvania right now, there is a 60 percent conversion loss. So, directly heating your home with natural gas is actually better for the environment than burning it at a power plant and then transmitting it across our grid. One of the other things that, you know, has not been talked about today is reliability. You know, our grid is stretched to the max right now, and if we take away energy choices from our consumers and force them to buy electricity to heat their home, that is going to further burden our grid. So, I ask for a unanimous vote for Senate Bill No. 143.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, historically I have been 100 percent opposed to State government superseding local government. And my record of environmental issues, as it relates to climate change, is very clear: it is here; it is a part of our reality. And normally, under those conditions, I would be supportive of that type of a measure, but this is the classic moment of where those who would stand for progress are not thinking about the community that I represent. Philadelphia has something they call PGW, Philadelphia Gas Works. We have the singular utility still existing in the nation doing this work, and we are doing it primarily for Black and brown poor people. So, I have friends in city council who have comments consistently about what it means to be progressive, and forward thinking, and thoughtful, and I support forward-thinking perspectives, but I do not support it with a label that says one thing, but the substance does something else.

The overwhelming majority of my constituents will be required to find a different way to pay for the utility, convert the radiators, and pay an exorbitant amount for electricity. That is the truth today. Now, if we were moving a bill that said, we are willing to subsidize it, I would be all for it. If Philadelphia City Council would commit to, before we convert to electricity, I will subsidize it. But if you talk to me about a 66-year-old grandmother, who barely can support her family today with the utility bills going out the window, then I would be telling you: the truth is that those folks that people say they are so committed to supporting, this will be disastrous for them. That is the truth of it. And I am tired of having to come to Harrisburg, or even in Philadelphia, to debate things that I know to be true in the community that I live in. So, standing up and saying it is important to do because it is the right thing to do, whatever label you want attached to it, it is not for those people who I represent. And, again, I am not a fan of the State telling local governments what to do. I am not. I do not support that, look at my record. I am also not a fan of pretending like climate change does not exist. I am not for that, but I also will tell you in order to get there, you have to do some things in between. You cannot step on the back of poor people consistently and pretend like you did something positive. Do not smile on my face while you are stabbing me in the back or pee on my head and say it is rain.

This would be disastrous for Philadelphia. If we said tomorrow, city council could pass a resolution to say everything has to convert to electricity--and by the way, I am passionate because they did, they attempted to do such. So, it is not like it is not a reality. So, yes, I am ringing the bell with a certain level of passion, in a certain manner which I do not normally talk, about a policy that needs more reflection, that is simply saying it is a bad thing because natural gas is a part of it. Look, if it is your position that you do not support fracking, you do not support natural gas, that is fine. As long as it does not take away from the senior citizen who lives on a fixed income, cannot pay the current utility bill, and you are not going to tell them how to fix it because you are going to tell them to take their gas range out of their house, convert their radiator to electricity, and you are not giving them a penny to do that. That is wrong.

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-40

Argall	Dillon	Langerholc	Rothman
Aument	DiSanto	Laughlin	Schwank
Baker	Dush	Martin	Stefano
Bartolotta	Farry	Mastriano	Street
Boscola	Flynn	Miller	Tartaglione
Brewster	Fontana	Pennycuik	Vogel
Brown	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Coleman	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Costa	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Culver	Kane	Robinson	Yaw

NAY-9

Cappelletti	Haywood	Muth	Saval
Collett	Kearney	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta			

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

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Regan and Senator Baker.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Regan and Senator Baker. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 379 (Pr. No. 272) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the prohibition of unauthorized applications.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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 in support of Senate Bill No. 379, a critical step to improve our Commonwealth's cybersecurity. Our constituents' and the people of Pennsylvania's personal safety and our national security are threatened every single day by cyber vulnerabilities of systems that support our daily lives. It is imperative that Pennsylvania takes bold and decisive actions to prepare for and address those cybersecurity

threats. To date, 27 States have prohibited the use of TikTok on State devices and networks. Here in the Commonwealth, the State Treasurer has prohibited TikTok on the Treasury's networks and devices. Additionally, the United States House of Representatives just last week passed authorizing language to ban the app completely. Just a few months ago, FBI Director Christopher Wray gave dire warnings about the app, and he stated that the Chinese government could use TikTok to control data collection on millions of U.S. users or control the recommendation algorithm.

Additionally, CIA Director Bill Burns did an interview with PBS where he stated, and I quote: "It is genuinely troubling to see what the Chinese government could do to manipulate TikTok." Under this legislation, agencies, departments, commissions, and all government entities must remove the application from State-owned devices and are prohibited from using it on State-owned networks. This will ensure that Pennsylvania's systems are protected from the cybersecurity threats caused by these rogue, foreign governmental entities. On Monday, the Committee on Communications and Technology unanimously approved this legislation, and I would appreciate my colleagues' affirmative vote today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator DILLON. Mr. President, there are cybersecurity risks to the Commonwealth by having TikTok on government devices and networks, as the app files for inappropriate collection of sensitive and personal information. At this point, over 25 other States have passed similar executive orders and legislation banning the app from government devices. The Office of Administration shared concerns about the bill, but they mainly relate to the Governor's ability to pass this sort of restriction without a need for legislation. I see this as a good bill and reasonable data protection measures from a public perspective, and I ask my colleagues to join Senator Phillips-Hill with an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 379.

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
Brown	Gebhard	Pennycuick	Vogel
Cappelletti	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Coleman	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Collett	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Kane	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Costa	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw
Culver			

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.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 137 (Pr. No. 397) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 4, 1996 (P.L.911, No.147), known as the Telemarketer Registration Act, further providing for unwanted telephone solicitation calls prohibited.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

BILLS REREFERRED

SB 167 (Pr. No. 157) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in children and youth, providing for purpose.

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

SB 168 (Pr. No. 158) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in children and youth, further providing for payments to counties for services to children and for review of county submissions.

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

SB 169 (Pr. No. 159) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in juvenile matters, further providing for limitation on and change in place of commitment; and making editorial changes.

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

SB 170 (Pr. No. 160) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in criminal history record information, further providing for juvenile records; and, in juvenile matters, further providing for powers and duties of

probation officers, for informal adjustment, for consent decree, for adjudication, for disposition of delinquent child and for powers and duties.

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 267 (Pr. No. 232) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in offenses against the family, further providing for newborn protection; in child protective services, further providing for definitions and for taking child into protective custody; and, in newborn protection, further providing for definitions and for incubators for newborns, providing for health care providers at urgent care centers accepting newborns and further providing for reporting acceptance of newborns, for immunity and for duties of department.

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 297 (Pr. No. 247) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act authorizing the provision or sale of Pennsylvania milk in Pennsylvania schools.

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

Upon motion of Senator PITTMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 446 and **SB 453** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 459 (Pr. No. 383) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in rules of the road in general, further providing for speed timing devices.

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

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

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 126 (Pr. No. 16) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the exclusion of veterans' benefit payments from income for Commonwealth programs.

SB 162 (Pr. No. 43) (Rereported)

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.

SB 211 (Pr. No. 180) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 27 (Environmental Resources) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in environmental protection, providing for decommissioning of solar energy facilities.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Farry.

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

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 126 (Pr. No. 16) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the exclusion of veterans' benefit payments from income for Commonwealth programs.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, Senate Bill No. 126 will exempt on 100 percent of a veteran's Federal disability compensation, their benefits, from being counted against them in calculations when they apply for any benefit programs in the Commonwealth. It will also extend the exclusion of the veteran's compensation benefits to his or her unmarried surviving spouse. This exclusion is similar to what is done with the property tax and rent rebate program, just extends it for the veterans. This measure is important, as it will ensure that these rightfully earned Federal payments will no longer be used to potentially disqualify a disabled veteran for Commonwealth assistance programs or rebates. Last Session, House Bill No. 491 was unanimously passed by the House and reported to the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs

and Emergency Preparedness. The following programs are examples of State programs that disabled veterans will have increased access to, should their Federal Veterans Affairs disability not be counted against them. It includes the Real Estate Property Tax Exemption; Educational Gratuity Program; Veterans Temporary Assistance Program; and Military Family Relief Assistance Program. I heard from one veteran today, Mr. President, he is a Vietnam veteran, and he is disqualified from--he lives paycheck to paycheck--and he is disqualified from any of these State benefit programs because his Federal 100 percent disability pushes him slightly over being qualified for that. So, with that, I ask for a unanimous vote on this.

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
Brown	Gebhard	Pennycuik	Vogel
Cappelletti	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Coleman	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Collett	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Kane	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Costa	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw
Culver			

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 162 (Pr. No. 43) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, 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.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise in full support of Senate Bill No. 162, which is the Medical Officer and Health Officer Incentive Program revision, which applies to the Pennsylvania National Guard. This bill builds upon a successful National Guard recruitment and retention program, which we

enacted as Act 78 back in 2014. Through this legislation, we will clarify and expand the list of critical specialties for which there is a shortage in the Pennsylvania National Guard. This bill would adjust monthly educational stipends for dentists, physician assistants, nurses, doctors, and behavioral health specialists. Mr. President, the brave men and women serving in Pennsylvania's National Guard deserve to have access to the critical care provided by these specialists, and it is incumbent upon us to help the Pennsylvania National Guard recruit and retain these true professionals. Mr. President, I urge the support of my colleagues for this important measure. Thank you.

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
Brown	Gebhard	Pennycuik	Vogel
Cappelletti	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Coleman	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Collett	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Kane	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Costa	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw
Culver			

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 211 (Pr. No. 180) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 27 (Environmental Resources) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in environmental protection, providing for decommissioning of solar energy facilities.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lycoming, Senator Yaw.

Senator YAW. Mr. President, this bill provides for a decommissioning plan with financial assurances for these large solar arrays which are becoming more prevalent here in Pennsylvania. It provides for a graduated increase to cover the cost of decommissioning so that the landowner is not stuck with the cost of either decommissioning or disposal or recycling at the end of the useful life of the project. The way it is structured, it provides, every 5 years, a gradual increase in the cost. They have to be certified by a professional engineer up to 25 years, when there is 100 percent

of the decommissioning costs are covered by some financial assurance, which could be a bond, it could be a letter of credit, or probably cash. The provision also gives some credit for the salvage value, up to 30 percent at year 25. The bill also provides a certification that there is no forced labor involved or that there are no other violations of Federal labor laws in the construction of the solar array or the solar panels involved. This bill provides a standardized decommissioning plan proposal across the board and is supported by many municipalities that feel that we really need to do something along these lines to make sure that everybody is protected by these large arrays that are, as I said, are becoming more prevalent. The bill is supported by the Solar Energy Industries Association as well as the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Association. I ask for an affirmative vote on this bill. Thank you.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, just very briefly, I think this is an important piece of legislation, but as we move forward, I just want to--I intend to vote for it; I know there is a number of folks who might be doing the same on this side of the aisle--but as we go forward through this process, I think it is important for us to keep in mind that costs associated with what we are trying to achieve, our ultimate goal, is one that would be reasonable and responsible so that the industry is not impacted in a negative way. I recognize the solar energy industry has been supportive, but I think our common goal should be that these are not unbearable or unreasonable costs going forward to be able to achieve the outcome.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I rise to echo support for this piece of legislation, and I think it is an important reminder to all of us that wherever we receive our energy resources from, every form of production of electricity has an impact. Every form of how we produce electricity has an impact. We have to recognize that, we have to understand that, and we have to address those issues head-on. Whether it is wind, whether it is solar, whether it is nuclear, whether it is coal, whether it is natural gas, they all have an impact on our communities, and those impacts must be properly addressed. That is what this legislation does, and I ask for an affirmative vote.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-36

Argall	Costa	Haywood	Regan
Aument	Culver	Hutchinson	Robinson
Baker	Dillon	Kane	Rothman
Bartolotta	DiSanto	Langerholc	Stefano
Boscola	Dush	Martin	Tartaglione
Brewster	Farry	Mastriano	Vogel
Brown	Flynn	Pennycuick	Ward, Judy
Coleman	Fontana	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Kim
Comitta	Gebhard	Pittman	Yaw

NAY-13

Cappelletti	Laughlin	Santarsiero	Street
Collett	Miller	Saval	Williams, Anthony H.
Hughes	Muth	Schwank	Williams, Lindsey
Kearney			

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.

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

Senator BARTOLOTTA, 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:

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 RETURNED TO THE GOVERNOR

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I move that the nominations just read by the Clerk be returned to His Excellency, the Governor.

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT. The nominations will be returned to the Governor.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

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

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF PENNSYLVANIA

January 19, 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, Michelle Henry, 2345 North Second Street, Harrisburg 17110, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Attorney General of Pennsylvania, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2025, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Josh Shapiro, Abington, resigned.

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 Elmer-ton 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

NOMINATIONS LAID ON THE TABLE

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I move that the nominations just read by the Clerk be laid on the table.

The PRESIDENT. The nominations will be laid on the table.

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Senator BARTOLOTTA, That the Senate do now resolve itself into Executive Session for the purpose of considering nominations made by the Governor.

Which was agreed to by voice vote.

NOMINATION TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I call from the table a certain nomination and ask for its consideration.

The Clerk read the nomination as follows:

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 Elmer-ton 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

On the question,
Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination?

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
Brown	Gebhard	Pennycuick	Vogel
Cappelletti	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Coleman	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Collett	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Kane	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Costa	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw
Culver			

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

NOMINATION TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I call from the table a certain nomination and ask for its consideration.

The Clerk read the nomination as follows:

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF PENNSYLVANIA

January 19, 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, Michelle Henry, 2345 North Second Street, Harrisburg 17110, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Attorney General of Pennsylvania, to serve until the third Tuesday of January 2025, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Josh Shapiro, Abington, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

On the question,
Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination?

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
Brown	Gebhard	Pennycuik	Vogel
Cappelletti	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Coleman	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Collett	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Kane	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Costa	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw
Culver			

NAY-0

A constitutional two-thirds majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.
Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RISES

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I move that the Executive Session do now rise.
The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION**

Senator DUSH. 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 188, SB 190, SB 226, SB 239, SB 295, SB 433, SB 466 and SB 508.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023

1:00 P.M. TRANSPORTATION (public hearing to collect testimony on "Charging Electric Vehicles") Univ. of Pitt Alumni Hall Room 121 4227 Fifth Avenue Pittsburgh

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023

1:00 P.M. COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY Room 8E-B East Wing (public hearing on cyber security for cloud-based government applications)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023

1:30 P.M. EDUCATION (public hearing on K-12 school budgeting and fund balances) Hearing Room 1 North Office

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023

10:00 A.M. VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (public hearing on the issue of veterans suicide) Chambersburg VFW South Fourth St. Chambersburg

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023

9:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Revenue - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

10:00 A.M. VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (public hearing on the train derailment on the Ohio/Pennsylvania border) Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Independent Fiscal Office - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023

9:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (State Treasurer - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023

9:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Environmental Protection - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Auditor General - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

9:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Transportation - Budget Hearing) **C A N C E L L E D** Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

9:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Office of Attorney General - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023

9:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Department of State - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (State Police - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023

9:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Labor & Industry - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Agriculture - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023

9:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Education - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023

9:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (State-Related Universities - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023

9:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Community & Economic Development - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Corrections/Board of Probation & Parole - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023

9:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Human Services - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023

9:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Health - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

1:00 P.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Department of Transportation - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2023

9:30 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS (Governor's Budget Office/Department of General Services - Budget Hearing) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023

10:00 A.M. TRANSPORTATION (public hearing on state of aviation in Pennsylvania) John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria County Airport Flair of Ctry. Rest. 481 Airport Road Johnstown

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023

10:00 A.M. CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE (public hearing on professional licensing delays in health care) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

11:00 A.M. PERFORMANCE-BASED BUDGET BOARD (to consider year 6 of performance reviews) Room 8E-B East Wing

Off the Floor APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 137, 232, 239, 447 and 466) Rules Committee Conference Room

Off the Floor STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bill No. 402; and Senate Resolution No. 65) Rules Committee Conference Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023

10:00 A.M. AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (public hearing on future of the Over Order Premium on Class I Milk) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023

9:00 A.M. GAME AND FISHERIES (public hearing on PA Game Commission and PA Fish and Boat Commission annual reports) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

9:30 A.M. VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to consider Senate Bills No. 81 and 189; and Senate Resolution No. 82) Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023

10:00 A.M. CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE (public hearing on the reauthorization of Chapter 14) Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

10:00 A.M. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (informational meeting regarding follow up briefing on Grid Reliability) Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023

12:00 P.M. EDUCATION (to consider Senate Bills No. 97, 290, 353, 456, 460 and 647) Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, today I rise in support of a resolution that my colleague, Senator Argall, and I have introduced. Senate Resolution No. 62 was introduced 1 year after Russia's unprovoked and brutal military invasion in Ukraine. There have been an estimated 300,000 soldiers either killed or wounded, and over 20,000 civilian casualties; 20,000 civilian casualties. All those who just love their country, love their families, and want to live in peace. The ongoing military conflict has also led to the largest migration of refugees in Europe since World War II. Over 8 million refugees have fled to neighboring European nations, and another 8 million individuals are displaced within Ukraine.

Since last April, the United States received more than 110,000 Ukrainian refugees. In particular, our beautiful State of Pennsylvania is home to the third-most Ukrainian refugees since November 2022. And this comes as no surprise, because Pennsylvania has the second-highest population of Ukrainian Americans in the country. We trail only to New York. For over 100 years, many Ukrainian Americans have called the Lehigh Valley home. In fact, the 18th Senatorial District has one of the oldest Ukrainian communities in the country. This community supports churches, women organizations, and veterans' organizations.

Mr. President, the impacts of this conflict in Ukraine are catastrophic. According to United Nations Environment Programme, the impact on water, air, and soil from this war has been devastating. Ukrainians' water infrastructure has suffered significant damage, and multiple industrial facilities, warehouses, factories have been damaged, releasing a range of hazardous substances ranging from solvents, to ammonia, to hydrocarbons. Additionally, hazardous substances have also been released from explosions in agro-industrial storage facilities, including fertilizer and nitric acid plants. Furthermore, the targeting of several large farms creates a public health risk as carcasses remain unattended.

This war has also had a serious impact on world food supply and subsequent hunger levels, resulting in a record number of individuals in danger of starvation. Food prices remain at an all-time high, and the continued Russian aggression severely compromises the safety of critical supply chains. Mr. President, this is why it is important that the Senate of Pennsylvania show its support for Ukrainian people by adopting Senate Resolution No. 62. Then we, as a body, can continue to condemn the ongoing Russian invasion in Ukraine and will be able to voice to our constituents that American and international pressure must continue to be placed on Russia to cease military operations. That is my hope, Mr. President. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator Greg Rothman) in the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Schuylkill, Senator Argall.

Senator ARGALL. Mr. President, I would likely to briefly follow up on the comments by my friend and colleague, Senator Boscola. As she noted, Pennsylvania is the home to many Ukrainian Americans. In percentage terms, 4 of the top 10 communities in the country with Ukrainian roots can be found in Schuylkill

County. Cass Township has the highest concentration of people with Ukrainian ancestry in the nation, along with Gilbert and St. Clair and Frackville. In neighboring Carbon County, which hosts the Ukrainian homestead, they are dedicated to the celebration of Ukrainian heritage and culture and have worked tirelessly to provide relief efforts to Ukrainians who have fallen victim--as Senator Boscola has noted--to this terrible war. When I speak with Ukrainian Americans, they tell me that they are very concerned with what is happening to their cousins almost 8,000 miles away. With this resolution, we all stand united with Ukraine during this difficult time.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, earlier today I joined with my colleagues and veterans, including a number who served as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Senator Mastriano, Senator Pennycuick, Senator Robinson, and Senator Dush introduced a resolution to mark the 20th anniversary of the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It is hard to believe that it has been 20 years this month. It is right for us as a Commonwealth to pause and recall all those from each branch of the military who answered the call to serve during these last 20 years. We remember all who served today, but especially the more than 200 sons and daughters of Pennsylvania who paid the ultimate sacrifice and gave that last full measure of devotion. The freedoms we cherish do indeed come at a very high price. Twenty years ago, I was a young junior captain serving with the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, of the 4th Infantry Division. As I reflect and look back, I think of the men and women with whom I had the honor of serving. The soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment came from diverse backgrounds. Many began their service prior to September 11, 2001, and joined for many reasons. Some for college money, some for job training, some because they thought they would enjoy the adventure, a desire to serve, some to be challenged in a unique way, and some, perhaps, just for something to do.

Many others joined after September 11. They felt a unique call to serve after our homeland came under attack. Some even left high-paying jobs to do so. This diverse group came together and became my family. A day does not go by that I do not think of them. I wish I could name them all, but I do want to name, for the record, those who did not come home; those who did not enjoy a reunion with their families as I did; those who did not marry or start a family; those who did not have the opportunity to serve their communities as we here do. I remember Staff Sergeant Dale Panchot, Captain Eric Paliwoda, Sergeant Gordon Misner, Staff Sergeant Curtis Howard, all of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment. May God continue to bless their families and grant them a peace that only He can give. I pray that same prayer for the Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Families all across this Commonwealth. And today, I also remember others who bear the wounds of battle, some seen and many unseen. It is a remarkable thing, Mr. President, the responsibilities that this country places on the shoulders of its youth and how well they perform. It is right that we pause, reflect, and here renew our mission to selflessly serve in the light of their inspirational and sacrificial service.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise because today marks 6,086 days since this legislature last passed an increase in Pennsylvania's minimum wage, but it feels like there is a little bit of light at the end of the tunnel, Mr. President. Yesterday, in his budget address, our Governor laid out his plan to help Pennsylvania grow and bolster our workforce. He highlighted plans to retain and recruit workers in fields we desperately need, like education, nursing, and law enforcement. He also announced his vision for expanding property tax and rent rebate programs, which would allow an additional 173,000 individuals to receive assistance while increasing assistance to the 398,000 individuals who already benefit from this program. And he also called on this legislature to put technical education back in the classroom so that we can prepare our students for the jobs of tomorrow. But the biggest takeaway from my perspective, Mr. President, Governor Shapiro called to raise our minimum wage. Like the Governor said yesterday, I will state the obvious: \$7.25 an hour is not a livable wage. We know that we must act, and act decisively, to raise our Commonwealth's minimum wage so that we can raise Pennsylvania's lowest earners out of poverty. The Governor's plan, which will raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, would provide a boost to the paycheck of tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians and put money right back in the State's economy. I was proud to hear Governor Shapiro say what I have been saying for years. Enough is enough, let us raise the minimum wage.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator J. WARD. Mr. President, I rise in recognition of Sudden [Suddenly] Sleepy Saturday taking place on Saturday, March 11. Sudden [Suddenly] Sleepy Saturday is a day where people across the country raise awareness for narcolepsy. Narcolepsy is a chronic neurological disorder caused by the brain's inability to regulate sleep/wake cycles, with onset typically between the ages of 15 and 25, affecting an estimated 1 in every 2,000 Americans. This condition affects people of all ages, and it impacts them not just neurologically, but emotionally and socially as well. Individuals with this condition are in a constant struggle with symptoms such as disrupted sleep, sleep paralysis, constant drowsiness, and even hallucinations. These symptoms, even with treatment, can lead to accidents, injuries, and problems learning and working. Research also shows that it can lead to an increased risk of high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. But with treatment and care, there is hope. Narcolepsy patients, with the help of doctors, nurses, therapists, and other medical professionals, can lead successful and fulfilling lives. Narcolepsy awareness is crucial in this effort. Raising awareness will help to bring resources and support to those combating this disease. I would ask that those watching and listening to join myself and others across the country on March 11 to recognize Sudden [Suddenly] Sleepy Saturday and raise awareness for this important cause.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Lindsey Williams.

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the importance of Sunshine Week 2023, which is March 12 through March 18. Sunshine Week started back in 2005 by the American Society of News Editors as a national celebration of access to public information, open government, and eliminating

unnecessary secrecy. Since I took office in 2019, government transparency and accountability--the very ideals of Sunshine Week--have been a top priority for me. That is why I do not take a per diem or a government car; instead, I submit receipts to justify expenses that I am reimbursed for. Every month my staff goes through my expense reports and enters them into an easily searchable spreadsheet that is posted on my website along with PDFs of those expenses that I have authorization over. The links to these expenses is right at the top of my website and easy to find. I do all of this because data that you cannot find or data with no context is not useful data. If you cannot compare spending between Members or year-to-year because the data is in unsearchable PDFs, that is not very useful. And if you cannot find spending records even when they are online, that really is not useful to people because finding out how legislators spend their tax dollars should not be an internet scavenger hunt. It should not be a Right-to-Know request. It should be simple and straightforward, and it should be codified into law so it is not up to the whim of one individual lawmaker. That is why I have introduced legislation again this Session that would simplify and streamline the process of posting all House and Senate expenses online by their respective offices of Chief Clerk. This includes all per diems, State vehicle usage, and reimbursements, as well as all office, travel, and other expenses that come out of both legislators' and Caucuses' operating accounts. These dollars we spend as legislators come from taxpayers. Those taxpayers deserve transparency in knowing how their money is spent. It is time to pull back the curtains and let the sunshine in, but expenses are not the only place that we need to shed some additional light.

The Senate Rules are desperately in need of reform, particularly when it comes to subject of notice of hearings and their agendas. Senator Muth and I proposed new Operating Rules for this Session that would give meaningful public notice of Senate actions, notice that would give the public time to find out what bills are being voted on and time to contact their legislators with opinions. We have to realize that most people simply do not have the time to follow last-minute developments here in Harrisburg. In fact, there are times when we do not have the time to fully read and understand the legislation or amendments that we are being asked to vote on. That is the opposite of transparency and good government, and the results can and have been legislative language that is poorly executed. It takes taxpayer dollars to go back and fix the language, or in some cases, it needs to be sorted out by the courts. And sometimes, really bad policy stands for years. All of this could be avoided if we simply took a step back, took our time, and gave legislators and the public time to read and understand what we are voting on. As we get closer and closer to the first day of spring and look forward to opening our doors and windows to the fresh air and sunlight in our homes, I urge my colleagues to do the same here in the Senate. It is time to let sunshine in and to be accountable and open to the people of Pennsylvania. It is what they deserve.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Pennycuik.

Senator PENNYCUICK. Mr. President, I am proud to stand before the Senate to recognize March as the Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Pennsylvania. I could not think of a better way than today, as we celebrate International

Women's Day, to bring greater awareness to this crucial issue. Earlier this week, we heard many heartfelt stories from our colleagues detailing the impact breast cancer has had on their lives as we passed Senate Bill No. 8, a historic measure that breaks down the financial barriers for early breast cancer detection. My colleagues are not alone in their stories. Breast cancer is among the most commonly diagnosed cancer, and the second-leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States. Nearly 14,000 Pennsylvania women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year and approximately 2,000 will die from breast cancer. Triple-negative breast cancer is one of the many forms of breast cancer and accounts for about 15 to 30 percent of all diagnosed invasive breast cancer cases in the United States. More than 53,000 newly diagnosed breast cancer cases in 2019 were triple-negative breast cancer, with proportionately higher prevalence among younger women, Black and Hispanic women, women with the BRCA1 mutation and type 2 diabetes. Sadly, those diagnosed with metastatic triple-negative breast cancer have less than a 30 percent chance of surviving past 5 years. With limited therapies available specifically designed to manage triple-negative breast cancer, treatment remains challenging for clinicians. Recent innovations in targeted therapies have fueled advances in the fight against this aggressive disease, offering hope. It is necessary to promote triple-negative breast cancer education, raise awareness about the disease-related disparities, and tackle inequities within healthcare delivery to improve early detection and survival. We also stand in resolution and solidarity behind those who have received this diagnosis. There is no substitute for catching cancer early, so I implore those listening to get checked. I hope that you will join me in recognizing the month of March 2023 as Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Monroe, Senator Brown.

Senator BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senate Resolution No. 61, prime sponsored by myself and my colleague from Delaware County, Senator Kearney. Senate Resolution No. 61 designates April 9 through the 15, 2023, as Local Government Week in Pennsylvania. It also recognizes Local Government Day, which will be celebrated on Wednesday, April 12. Most of us do not stop to think about the numerous ways local government impacts our lives every day. Whether it is road and sewer maintenance, or waste removal and recycling, or beautifying our public spaces, local government keeps our communities running. We often talk about making Pennsylvania a great place to live, to work, and to play, and that starts out at the local level in our bustling cities and our relaxing, rural communities. It means responsive emergency services, deliberative land use planning, and engaging community events. It takes collaboration, coordination, and working with residents to meet the needs of their neighborhoods. Local Government Week is the perfect time to thank the many local elected officials, municipal workers, and volunteers who spend countless hours serving their communities. They are often tasked with limited resources and tough decisions, which can result in some amazing and creative initiatives. I look forward to the announcement of the winners of the 2023 Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence and celebrating their achievements during Local Government Week this year. To

the boots on the ground across Pennsylvania's 2,560 municipalities, including the 51 that reside in the 40th Senatorial District, thank you for your daily contributions you make to our great Commonwealth.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Kearney.

Senator KEARNEY. Mr. President, I rise today to echo the comments of my colleague, the good Senator from Monroe County, in recognition of Local Government Day and Week in the Commonwealth. Local governments are an incredible asset to our society, the backbone of American democracy. From each voting precinct's volunteer election board, to county governments, and our favorite first-class city, they tackle problems large and small and implement an incredible amount of work and policy. Local governments are essential features for State policies, including education, public works, human services, transportation, emergency services, public safety, land use, and more. But there is so much more than that. Local governments give Pennsylvanians self-determination, the ability to chart their own course, the ability to live by their own values without larger government interfering. In short, local government makes us free. Pennsylvanians engage with their local governments for many reasons, and engagement is the bedrock of self-determination. From working with neighbors to make neighborhoods safer, to running environmental sustainability initiatives, from serving on a board or a commission, to attending Independence Day parades, our local governments give all Pennsylvanians a chance to be part of something bigger than themselves and to take part in democratic governance. Our local governments are the foundation of democracy and resiliency, and we are blessed to have them.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Jefferson, Senator Dush.

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, I want to follow up on the comments from the Senator from Lancaster County on the 20th anniversary of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His going through the people who he served with who did not make it home--my cause for rising. I had a young woman, Senior Airman Elizabeth Nicole Jacobson, who was killed in action, September 28, 2005. She was part of a convoy duty that was part of the operations out of Camp Bucca, which our own State Treasurer Stacy Garrity was the commander of that unit. But I just thought it fitting today, it is fairly simple, it is not long or drawn out, but those of us who lost people during that conflict, people who we served with, it is something that we do bring home. And to her family and the family of all those who served and did not come home, our prayers. Thank you.

RECESS

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

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, April 24, 2023, at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 1:13 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.