

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Legislative Journal

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023

SESSION OF 2023 207TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 21

SENATE

MONDAY, May 8, 2023

The Senate met at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Chief WILLIAM F. WIEGMAN, JR., of the Fraternal Order of Police Pennsylvania State Lodge, Mechanicsburg, offered the following prayer:

Good afternoon. On behalf of the Pennsylvania Lodge of Fraternal Order of Police, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Senator Lisa Baker for the invitation to offer this opening prayer to the Session of the Pennsylvania Senate. I am truly honored, humbled to be given this privilege, and how appropriate it is today to offer this prayer as we recognize Police Memorial Day here in the Commonwealth.

So, let us pray.

Heavenly, almighty, and gracious Father, as we assemble here in this hallowed Chamber on this glorious day, we ask You to instill the Members of our Senate the guidance and knowledge to make fair and just decisions during their deliberations. Bless these individuals, Father, in their endeavors as they work for all citizens of Pennsylvania. Help them, Father, realize their weaknesses and strengths and the ability to channel them when making important decisions. Give them, Father, the understanding, wisdom, and compassion, to put aside differences and work for the good of all Pennsylvanians. Finally, Heavenly Father, once their work is completed, bless them for all the work that they do for all the citizens of this Commonwealth, and let them return home safely to their homes and loved ones. We ask all of this from You in Your holy name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Chief Wiegman, who is the guest today of Senator Farry.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

RECALL COMMUNICATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

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

SECRETARY OF BANKING AND SECURITIES

May 8, 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 my nomination dated January 17, 2023, and corrected on March 1, 2023, of Sarah Hammer Williams, 310 Brentford Road, Haverford 19041, Montgomery County, Seventeenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Secretary of Banking and Securities, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Richard Vague, Philadelphia, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

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

MEMBER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING BOARD

May 4, 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, Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Environmental Hearing Board, to serve for a term of six years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Thomas Renwand, Esquire, Pittsburgh, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL
WORKERS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS
AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

May 4, 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, Aaron H. Danks (Public Member), 1801 North Second Street #2, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors, to serve until November 16, 2024, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Marilyn Painter, Pittsburgh, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

May 5, 2023

Senators KANE, HAYWOOD, HUGHES, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, DILLON, CAPPELLETTI, SANTARSIERO, KEARNEY, COSTA, COLLETT and L. WILLIAMS presented to the Chair **SB 644**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 23, 1970 (P.L.563, No.195), known as the Public Employe Relations Act, in strikes, providing for health care benefits during strikes.

Which was committed to the Committee on LABOR AND INDUSTRY, May 5, 2023.

Senators BARTOLOTTA, GEBHARD and BAKER presented to the Chair **SB 685**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act, in liability and compensation, further providing for compensable injuries, subrogation and proration.

Which was committed to the Committee on LABOR AND INDUSTRY, May 5, 2023.

Senators REGAN, ROBINSON, DiSANTO, ROTHMAN, STEFANO, PHILLIPS-HILL, YAW, COLEMAN, AUMENT, BAKER, PENNYCUICK and BROWN presented to the Chair **SB 688**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in Pennsylvania Liquor Stores, further providing for sales by Pennsylvania Liquor Stores; and, in licenses and regulations, liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, further providing for heading of article, for authority to issue liquor licenses to hotels, restaurants and clubs, for sales by liquor licensees and restrictions, for secondary service area, for sale of malt or brewed beverages by liquor licensees, for public service liquor licenses, for liquor importers' licenses, fees, privileges and restrictions, for public venue license, for performing arts facility license, for continuing care retirement community retail licenses, for casino liquor license, for malt and brewed beverages manufacturers', distributors' and importing distributors' licenses, for sales by manufacturers of malt or brewed beverages and minimum quantities and for distributors' and importing distributors' restrictions on sales, storage, etc.; adding provisions relating to fees and taxation of ready-to-drink cocktails for off-

premises consumption; and further providing for unlawful acts relative to malt or brewed beverages and licensees.

Which was committed to the Committee on LAW AND JUSTICE, May 5, 2023.

Senators YAW, BARTOLOTTA, HUTCHINSON, MARTIN, LAUGHLIN, ROTHMAN, BREWSTER and DUSH presented to the Chair **SB 689**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of November 26, 1978 (P.L.1375, No.325), known as the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act, providing for issuance of and conditions for continuous maintenance permits.

Which was committed to the Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, May 5, 2023.

Senators YAW, BARTOLOTTA, HUTCHINSON, BAKER, MARTIN, LAUGHLIN, ROTHMAN, BREWSTER and DUSH presented to the Chair **SB 690**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of November 26, 1978 (P.L.1375, No.325), known as the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act, providing for county conservation district stream reconstruction emergency permit authorizations.

Which was committed to the Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, May 5, 2023.

Senators YAW, DUSH and ARGALL presented to the Chair **SB 691**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 28, 1995 (P.L.89, No.18), known as the Conservation and Natural Resources Act, in renaming Department of Environmental Resources and defining rulemaking authority of Department of Environmental Protection, repealing provisions relating to Department of Environmental Protection and providing for Department of Environmental Services; and making editorial changes.

Which was committed to the Committee on ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, May 5, 2023.

Senators LAUGHLIN, BARTOLOTTA, HAYWOOD, ROTHMAN, CAPPELLETTI, DUSH, STEFANO, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, BREWSTER and SAVAL presented to the Chair **SB 692**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in special vehicles and pedestrians, providing for electric low-speed scooter program.

Which was committed to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION, May 5, 2023.

RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

May 5, 2023

Senators COLLETT, TARTAGLIONE, HAYWOOD, SCHWANK, CAPPELLETTI, SANTARSIERO, BREWSTER, BOSCOLA, KEARNEY, FONTANA, HUGHES, COMMITTA, KANE, COSTA, J. WARD and CULVER presented to the Chair **SR 109**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of May 1 through 7, 2023, as "Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, May 5, 2023.

May 8, 2023

Senators REGAN, BROOKS, ROBINSON, MASTRIANO, PHILLIPS-HILL, BOSCOLA, FARRY, COMITTA, DILLON, LANGERHOLC, MARTIN, VOGEL, ARGALL, PENNYCUICK, BREWSTER, LAUGHLIN, MILLER, CULVER, SCHWANK, AUMENT, DiSANTO, HUTCHINSON, J. WARD, YAW, GEBHARD, ROTHMAN, BAKER, DUSH, COSTA, K. WARD, STEFANO, BROWN, PITTMAN and KANE presented to the Chair **SR 111**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the week of May 11 through 16, 2023, as "National Police Week" and designating May 8, 2023, as "Police Officers' Memorial Day" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, May 8, 2023.

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

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

May 5, 2023

HB 38, 198 and 829 -- Committee on Law and Justice.

May 8, 2023

HB 1 -- Committee on State Government.

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION RULINGS

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communication, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
State Ethics Commission
Finance Building
613 North Street, Room 309
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0400

TO: Director or Administrator
FROM: Mary Fox, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission
DATE: April 17, 2023
RE: Distribution of State Ethics Commission Rulings

On June 26, 1989, the revised Public Official and Employee Ethics Law was enacted which re-authorized the State Ethics Commission. The State Ethics Commission is responsible for issuing various types of rulings on matters within its mandated jurisdiction. Pursuant to the law, the Commission is mandated to forward, quarterly, a copy of every Opinion, Advice of Counsel, and Order issued to one law library in each county, one public library in each county, the State Library, the State Senate Library, each authority appointing a Commission member, the

Pennsylvania Association of County Commissioners, the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners, the Pennsylvania State School Boards Association, and the Pennsylvania League of Cities. Your agency is either specifically identified in the above requirement or has been selected as a library to which this mailing will be made pursuant to the above authority. As such, enclosed please find decisions of the State Ethics Commission from January 1, 2023, to March 31, 2023. Due to budgetary restraints, a CD containing said rulings will replace paper copies that were previously sent.

For your information, the Commission generally issues these types of decisions as follows:

Commission Opinions - Opinions are advisory rulings issued by the State Ethics Commission regarding the duties and responsibilities of public officials and employees under the Public Official and Employee Ethics Law. Opinions are catalogued by year of issuance followed by the sequential number of the opinion during that year. As such, opinions relating to 2023 will begin with the number 23-001 and proceed there from as decisions are rendered.

Advice of Counsel - The Commission's Chief Counsel is authorized to issue similar advisory letters. Such letters are issued generally when there is prior precedent for counsel to rely upon in issuing a decision or when the provisions of the State Ethics Act directly provide the answer to the question posed. Advice of Counsel letters are numbered with the year and a 500 series number that progresses in order therefrom as rulings are issued. If more than 100 such letters are issued, a 600 series number will then be used.

Orders - Commission orders are issued at the end of an investigation and are determinations as to whether or not there has been a violation of the State Ethics Act. Commission orders are categorized numerically from the date of the first order in 1979. That is, the first Order issued was Order No. 1. All orders proceed there from.

It is recommended that Opinions, Advices of Counsel and Orders be maintained separately (in numerical order) so as to afford better retrievability.

The enclosed items are being forwarded for retention, cataloging and for the purpose of being publicly available for review by citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who may have an interest therein. Additional mailings will be made on a quarterly basis henceforth. If you have any questions in relation to your receipt of these documents and future distribution, please contact me at 717-783-1610 or 800-932-0936. For your information, all Commission rulings are available on-line at www.ethics.pa.gov.

The PRESIDENT. This report will be filed in the Library.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the President pro tempore has made the following appointments:

Senator Jarrett Charles Coleman to act in my stead as a member of the Pennsylvania Higher Educational Facilities Authority, and to act in my stead as a member of the State Public School Building Authority.

Senator Carolyn T. Comitta as a member of the Capitol Preservation Committee.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Coleman and Senator Regan, and legislative leaves for Senator Argall, Senator Gebhard, and Senator Brooks.

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

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Boscola and Senator Comitta, and legislative leaves for Senator Cappelletti, Senator Costa, Senator Dillon, and Senator Flynn.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Coleman and Senator Regan, and legislative leaves for Senator Argall, Senator Gebhard, and Senator Brooks.

Senator Fontana requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Boscola and Senator Comitta, and legislative leaves for Senator Cappelletti, Senator Costa, Senator Dillon, and Senator Flynn.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of March 7, 2023, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of March 7, 2023.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that further reading of the Journal be dispensed with and that the Journal 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-50

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

GUESTS OF SENATOR FRANK FARRY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator FARRY. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce our guest and my friend, Chief William Wiegman, who was our guest Chaplain today and currently serves as the Chaplain to the State FOP. Chief Wiegman is joined by his wife, Joan; son, William III;

and his two grandkids, William IV and Elizabeth, who are seated in the gallery behind me. Chief Wiegman is a past president of the Bucks County FOP Lodge 53, and he spent his career as a police officer in Lower Southampton Township in Bucks County, rising to the rank of Chief of Police, a position from which he retired. He also is a past president of our Hero Scholarship Fund in Bucks County, which he remains active in. He is currently a professor at La Salle University and has been very active in our county's drug and alcohol council. I want to thank Chief Wiegman for all the sacrifices he has made and continues to make in the service to both our county and our Commonwealth. We appreciate his sacrifice. We also want to thank his family for the sacrifices they have made over the years while Chief Wiegman was working to keep our community safe and be the best they possibly can be. Chief Wiegman, thank you for taking the time to be our guest Chaplain today, and thank you to your family for joining us.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Farry please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR SHARIF T. STREET PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise to welcome to the Senate floor Cadet Colonel Kaheem Bailey-Taylor, a junior at the Philadelphia Military Academy, who I have had the honor of recommending for a scholarship. Reports of gun violence continue to dominate our headlines, as many of you know. This weekend another mass shooting occurred in Texas. We pray for the families of those who were critically injured and are grateful to the first responders who acted quickly to save lives. Kaheem has been a positive headline and has shown selflessness and courage during a shooting. He received the ROTC Medal of Heroism from the United States Department of the Army--lauded as the highest United States Department of the Army medal--which honors cadets who distinguish themselves through acts of heroism.

Let me explain what happened. While leaving a relative's birthday party in north Philadelphia in my district, on the night of August 17, 2022, he heard gunshots. Disregarding his own safety, he ran back to the house and treated an individual utilizing the first aid training he learned in the JROTC. Upon the arrival of first responders, Kaheem helped move the individual to a police car for transport to the hospital and while en route, applied the pressure to the individual's wounds. It has been widely said by first responders that Kaheem's actions saved this person's life. I ask that we rise and acknowledge the courage and heroism and selflessness of a young man who has not even reached the age of adulthood, Lieutenant Colonel Kaheem Bailey-Taylor. Can the Senate rise to give him a hardy round of applause, and with him are other officials from his school and his mom.

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

[Applause.]

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS MEETING PURSUANT TO SENATE 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 Senate 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 JOHN M. DiSANTO PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator DiSANTO. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to introduce today several guests joining us in the gallery from the Lighthouse Christian Academy in Harrisburg. Lighthouse Christian Academy's mission is to provide excellent Christian education for urban children, with a special focus in the Hispanic community. Jesse Peters, high school principal and a math and history teacher, joins us in the gallery today along with several students whom I had an opportunity to speak with on the floor and in my office earlier today. Mr. President, please join me in giving these representatives of the Lighthouse Christian Academy a warm welcome to the Senate.

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

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR CAMERA C. BARTOLOTTA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington, Senator Bartolotta.

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, today we have a very special family joining us from a small town in my district, New Eagle in Washington County, Dave and Lynne Thompson and their son, Alexander. They are seated in the gallery. I met the Thompsons last summer at my annual veterans' picnic, and they enthusiastically accepted my invitation to come to the Capitol. This family has a strong interest in State government, and they appreciate the opportunity to see what State legislators do while at the Capitol. Alex is currently a fifth grader at Madonna Regional Catholic School, where he plays trombone and participates in his school's chorus program. In his free time, he enjoys participating in martial arts and Boy Scouts, and I recently learned that Alex moved from Cub Scout to Boy Scout. A big congratulations to Alex. I look forward to one day attending his Eagle Scout ceremony--no pressure.

Dave and Lynne thoroughly dedicate themselves to their community through their service. Dave spent many years as an active-duty service member in the United States Marine Corps and has since retired and is a disabled veteran. Dave, I thank you for your service and commitment and dedication to our great nation. Semper Fi. Dave now spends much of his time serving and supporting local veteran's groups and the Boy Scouts of America. Lynne is a local Mon Valley business owner who has partnered with Alex to run and operate their store, Alex and Lynne's Fantastic Things, in Charleroi. Lynne also serves as a Scout leader and president of her VFW Auxiliary. Please join me today in giving the Thompson family a warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Bartolotta please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 350 (Pr. No. 718) (Amended)

An Act providing for the administration of permits by State agencies, for a tracking system for permit applications, for the establishment of permit programs, for third-party review of permit decision delays and for annual reports; establishing the Pennsylvania Office of Transformation and Opportunity and the Economic Development Strategy Group; and providing for their powers and duties.

SB 633 (Pr. No. 629)

An Act establishing the Regulatory Sandbox Program, the Regulatory Relief Office and an advisory committee; and providing for their powers and duties.

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 Republican caucus to be held in the Majority Caucus Room immediately.

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

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, Senate Democrats will caucus in the rear of the Chamber immediately.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of Republican and Democratic caucuses to be held in their respective caucus rooms, without objection, the stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

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

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

Senator FONTANA. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Hughes.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator DiSanto.

Senator Fontana requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Hughes.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Costa and Senator Brooks have returned, and their legislative leaves are cancelled.

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 153 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 447 (Pr. No. 370) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 447, which codifies into law the Pennsylvania veteran connect. The program is within the DMVA and has their support. As its name implies, Pennsylvania VETConnect aims to connect Pennsylvania's over 700,000 veterans--the 4th highest in the nation--to the resources available to them in their communities and across the Commonwealth.

Under VETConnect, the Department of Military Affairs reviews a veteran's needs, finds the resources, and meets that need. It is an excellent program. Since it launched in 2020, DMVA has successfully helped coordinate more than 17,000 connections between veterans at the Federal, State, and local levels. It is absolutely superb. In 2022, the department received the Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Award from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for this innovative program. I wish they had it when I retired in 2017. This legislation is supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Pennsylvania National Guard Associations.

Thank you, Mr. President. 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-50

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

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.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests a legislative leave for Senator Martin. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 97 (Pr. No. 689) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for community-engaged schools; establishing the Community-Engaged School for Success Pilot Program; and imposing duties on the Department of Education.

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 OVER IN ORDER

SB 100, SB 146, SB 205, SB 344, SB 353, SB 360 and SB 361 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 414 (Pr. No. 361) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.
Upon motion of Senator PITTMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 446 (Pr. No. 369) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Pennsylvania National Guard, providing for vaccine exemption.

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 456, SB 497, SB 500 and SB 549 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 607 (Pr. No. 657) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of August 26, 1971 (P.L.351, No.91), known as the State Lottery Law, in pharmaceutical assistance for the elderly, further providing for determination of eligibility.

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 188 (Pr. No. 86) (Rereported)

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) (Rereported)

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.

SB 248 (Pr. No. 212) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 64 (Public Authorities and Quasi-Public Corporations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Commonwealth Financing Authority, establishing the Veteran-owned Business Loan Guarantee Program.

SB 411 (Pr. No. 360) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in fishing licenses, further providing for disabled veterans and former prisoners of war and for deployed Pennsylvania National Guard members and repealing provisions relating to reserve component of armed forces members.

SB 460 (Pr. No. 513) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in preliminary provisions, establishing the Child Reunification Program in the Department of Education.

SB 647 (Pr. No. 690) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, further providing for Economic Education and Personal Financial Literacy Programs; in credit card marketing, further providing for regulation of on-campus credit card marketing; and abrogating regulations.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 248 (Pr. No. 212) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 64 (Public Authorities and Quasi-Public Corporations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Commonwealth Financing Authority, establishing the Veteran-owned Business Loan Guarantee Program.

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, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 248, legislation that will establish in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Financing Authority, a loan program for veteran-owned businesses in Pennsylvania. A veteran-owned business is defined as a for-profit business that is at least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more veterans. The Veteran-owned Business Loan Guarantee Program will be funded with an initial investment of \$5 million. That funding will come from an existing asset of the DCED Second State [Stage] Loan Program.

Senate Bill No. 248 will show our gratitude to those members of the United States military and the Pennsylvania National Guard who suspended their civilian lives and abruptly halted their careers and upended their families to protect our freedom.

Pennsylvania has the fourth-highest number of veterans, a very patriotic State that we have here. Pennsylvania veterans have earned the right and every opportunity available to them to rebuild their civilian lives and their families' economic futures. They have demonstrated the drive, discipline, and leadership skills to be successful on the battlefield, and also, I believe, therefore in the business world. It says in John, Chapter 14 [15]: greater love has no man than this but to lay down his life for a friend. They are willing to lay down their life for us, our entire Commonwealth, and our State. In these challenging economic times of high inflation and high interest rates, this bill will help with the entrepreneurial spirit that our veterans have to press on through to achieve success. Recent U.S. Census Bureau data shows that nearly 340,000 veteran-owned businesses account for almost 6 percent of all businesses in America--an incredible number. These employ roughly 4 million workers and generate more than \$175 billion in revenue and payroll. Senate Bill No. 248 ensures veterans in Pennsylvania will have the opportunity to restart their careers and build a prosperous business that improves their lives and the lives of those in their community.

Thank you, Mr. President. I respectfully 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-50

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

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 411 (Pr. No. 360) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in fishing licenses, further providing for disabled veterans and former prisoners of war and for deployed Pennsylvania National Guard members and repealing provisions relating to reserve component of armed forces members.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator PENNYCUICK. Mr. President, enjoying the great Pennsylvania outdoors is a favorite pastime for many in the veteran and active-duty communities, and for those veterans who have become disabled in the line of duty, there is no better place to relax than by fishing in their local lake, stream, or river. Senate Bill No. 411 will remove unnecessary, redundant, and burdensome requirements that make it difficult for disabled veterans to obtain their fishing license. This bill will remove the annual fee and application requirements and allow all disabled veterans with 100 percent disability determination, whether it be permanent or not, to purchase a free lifetime fishing license.

This bill will implement changes to Title 30 to combine annual license provisions covering Pennsylvanians serving in the reserve component of the armed forces with those serving in the Pennsylvania National Guard, streamlining the statute. This bill will also remove the overseas requirement for a National Guard or Reservist member to qualify for a reduced fee license, expanding these reduced licenses to more service members. But most importantly, Mr. President, this bill will allow our service members and disabled veterans to spend less time filling out paperwork and more time enjoying our State's pristine waterways.

Thank you, Mr. President, and I ask my Senate colleagues for an affirmative vote.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

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-50

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

NAY-0

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

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

BILL AMENDED

SB 647 (Pr. No. 690) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, further providing for Economic Education and Personal Financial Literacy Programs; in credit card marketing, further providing for regulation of on-campus credit card marketing; and abrogating regulations.

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

GEBHARD AMENDMENT A0480 AGREED TO

Senator PITTMAN, on behalf of Senator GEBHARD, offered the following amendment No. A0480:

Amend Bill, page 4, lines 27 through 30; page 5, line 1; by striking out "in effect" in line 27, all of lines 28 through 30 on page 4 and all of line 1 on page 5 and inserting:
between a school entity and an employee organization.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the amendment?
It was agreed to.
Without objection, the bill, as amended, was passed over in its order.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.
The bills were as follows:

SB 350 and SB 633.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023

10:00 A.M. AGING AND YOUTH (informational meeting Hearing Room 1
regarding State Master Plan for Aging and North Office
Disabilities)

10:00 A.M. URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING (to Room 8E-A
consider Senate Bills No. 149, 202 and 517) East Wing
(LIVE
STREAMED)

10:30 A.M. FINANCE (to consider Senate Bills No. 24, Room 8E-B
345, 346 and 629) East Wing
(LIVE
STREAMED)

12:00 P.M. STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Room 8E-A
Bills No. 246, 355, 383, 408 and 425) East Wing
(LIVE
STREAMED)

12:30 P.M. AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (to Room 461
consider Senate Bills No. 152, 277 and 694; and Main Capitol
confirmation of Secretary Russell Redding of
Department of Agriculture)

Off the Floor APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills Rules Committee
No. 262, 350, 453 and 633) Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023

10:00 A.M. TRANSPORTATION (to consider Senate Bills Room 461
No. 37, 621, 630, 640, 655 and 692) Main Capitol

10:30 A.M. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND Room 8E-A
ENERGY (to consider Senate Bills No. 198, East Wing
199, 689, 690 and 691) (LIVE
STREAMED)

10:30 A.M. LAW AND JUSTICE (to consider Senate Bills Room 8E-B
No. 203 and 688) East Wing
(LIVE
STREAMED)

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York, Senator Regan.

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, today I have the privilege of offering a resolution to designate the week of May 11 through May 16 as National Police Week, and designate May 8 as Police Officers' Memorial Day in Pennsylvania. In addition, this resolution honors five law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty: Corporal Chad M. Beattie, Washington County Sheriff's Office; Officer Stephen Charles Plum, Jr., Warrington Township Police Department; Lieutenant William D. Lebo, Lebanon City Police Department; Trooper Martin Francis Mack III, Pennsylvania State Police; Trooper Branden T. Sisca, Pennsylvania State Police.

Mr. President, it takes a unique individual to put the needs and safety of others first. One brave enough, who has heart enough to run towards danger rather than run away in order to serve and protect their fellow citizens. I know firsthand the sacrifices that are made by each officer and their family. The loss of these fine officers is a reminder to all of us not only how precious life is and how quickly it can be taken away, but also of the dedication of the men and women of law enforcement who bravely serve and protect regardless of the potential consequences to themselves and that they deserve our unwavering admiration and respect. To the officers we honor today, to all those who have lost their lives in the line of duty, and to those who continue to serve and protect, I say thank you.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in supporting Senate Resolution No. 101, which recognizes the month of May as Older Americans Month in Pennsylvania. The 2023 theme is "Aging Unbound," which allows all Pennsylvanians the opportunity to explore diverse aging experiences and learn how communities can combat stereotypes and maintain flexible thinking about aging and how we all benefit when older adults remain engaged, independent, and included. In 1963, when President John F. Kennedy issued the first proclamation recognizing older Americans, approximately a third of seniors lived in poverty and close to half were without health insurance. Since then, our Commonwealth and nation have made great strides to support older Americans as they transition into their new phase of life. As we work diligently to better the lives of older Americans, we have helped address the systemic issues that face some of our most vulnerable and susceptible people. Let us continue the progress. This month and beyond, I encourage everyone to engage in activities that elevate and support seniors across the Commonwealth. Whether it is creating a forum for older adults to share their stories, organizing a community event inclusive of all ages, or fundraising on behalf of local programs that serve older Americans, there are many ways we can celebrate older Pennsylvanians. Nearly 60 years after President Kennedy's first proclamation, I again ask my Senate colleagues to join me in recognizing May as Older Americans Month here in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise today because today marks 6,147 days since this Commonwealth's legislature last passed an increase in our minimum wage. This week's Session is the last until we come back in June to negotiate and finalize our Commonwealth's budget, a budget that will drive our Commonwealth's economic future and set our priorities for the next year. Priorities like investing in education of the children of Pennsylvania, supporting businesses, and creating grant opportunities for nonprofits across the Commonwealth. Mr. President, there is one priority that Governor Shapiro laid out that he wants to include this year, and I pray we do not overlook it, it is raising the minimum wage. For more than a decade and a half, workers in Pennsylvania who earn the minimum wage have not seen an increase in their pay. Mr. President, you may ask: why do I know how long it has been since we have last passed a wage increase in Pennsylvania? It is because I wrote the bill, I authored the last legislation that raised the Commonwealth's minimum wage, and while I am so proud of the work we did 6,147 days ago, I find it heartbreaking that no movement has been made by Pennsylvania's legislature since. Sixteen and a half years ago we came together and raised our minimum wage \$2 an hour. Mr. President, that increase changed the lives of workers across Pennsylvania, but now we need to honor the same call to act for our lowest earners and put all of Pennsylvania's workers on a path to prosperity. Soon I will reintroduce Senate Bill No. 12, which will put Pennsylvanians on the path to \$15 an hour. I hope my Senate colleagues will join me in supporting Senate Bill No. 12 and matching the Governor's call for an increase to our poverty-level wage.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, I rise today to offer remarks in support of Senate Resolution No. 113, Senate Resolution No. 115, and Senate Resolution No. 112, which declare May 10 as School Nurse Day, May 6 through 12 as Nurses Week in Pennsylvania, and May 14 through 20 as Skilled Nursing Care Week in Pennsylvania, respectively. As the two nurses currently serving in the Senate, Senator Judy Ward and I are proud to be able to speak on behalf of the more than 200,000 practicing nurses across the Commonwealth who give so much to serve the health and safety of their patients and support the health of our communities. I am thankful for Senator Judy Ward's partnership and collaboration on these resolutions. School Nurse Day celebrates the crucial and often overlooked work of our school nurses in keeping students and staff healthy. In addition to their role as comforter and caregiver, school nurses are on the frontlines of health education, infection control, and school safety. And judging by the number of emails I get from the school nurse at my son's school, they are also keeping August Collett very happy during the day [laughing], because he is always at the nurse's office.

Nurses Week, culminating on Florence Nightingale's birthday on May 12, is a time when we can all reflect on the significant contributions nurses make to us personally and within our communities, as well as their many contributions throughout history. The COVID-19 pandemic made it clearer than ever how deeply important nurses are to the healthcare profession and community health, and these professionals deserve our respect and gratitude for all they do each and every day. Finally, Skilled Nursing Care Week celebrates the staff at skilled nursing care facilities where at-risk populations who reside in long-term care facilities are cared for by dedicated healthcare professionals. This year, the theme of Skilled Nursing Care Week is "Cultivating Kindness," which celebrates the essential role that skilled nursing care centers and staff play in creating and nurturing connections for their residents. As nurses, Senator Judy Ward and I know exactly how vital each and every nurse is to the care of a patient, regardless of the setting. Nurses come into work to fight off disease, heal injuries, and most importantly, ensure that everyone in their care is safe and healthy. We are proud to take this moment of reflection to celebrate the contributions of nurses across Pennsylvania for all that they do to keep our Commonwealth thriving. I hope that we will all take this time to thank a nurse in our lives for the important role that they play in keeping Pennsylvanians healthy, whether that be in our communities, at a school, a hospital, a skilled nursing care facility, or any other setting.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator J. WARD. Mr. President, it is such a pleasure to join with Senator Collett to honor nurses across the Commonwealth who are providing essential healthcare and medical services to individuals spanning all generations. Throughout the month of May, nurses throughout Pennsylvania will receive much-deserved recognition through Senate resolutions that celebrate Nurses Week May 6 through 12, School Nurse Day on May 10, and Skilled Nursing Care Week May 14 to 20. Nursing is renowned for offering career paths to professionals who possess a

passion for caring for others. Undeniably, nursing is a profession that is both rewarding and challenging. It is a unique profession that combines the science of health, illness, and human behavior with the art of caring.

Nurses Week highlights the numerous ways that nurses are working to transform healthcare across the Commonwealth. As you are aware, the pandemic significantly exasperated the physical, emotional, and psychological demands that nurses endure on a daily basis. In gratitude for their enduring dedication to professional excellence and devotion to patients under their care, let us take time to personally acknowledge nurses for their important role in sustaining healthy communities throughout Pennsylvania.

National School Nurse Day was established in 1972 to foster a better understanding of the role school nurses play in the educational setting and in our communities. Responding to everything from daily medication management and the outbreak of communicable diseases in the classroom to injuries on the playground, school nurses rise to meet each challenge with the same sense of urgency, compassion, and duty as every other frontline health professional in the Commonwealth. School nurses make vital contributions to the educational experiences of nearly 2 million schoolchildren in Pennsylvania. We formally honor school nurses on May 10, but we recognize their experience and meritorious service all year long.

Skilled Nursing Care Week will be celebrated this year with the theme of "Cultivating Kindness," which is inspired by the many acts of kindness that occur in skilled nursing care centers each and every day. Skilled nurses work tirelessly to create and nurture connections with their residents. They cultivate an environment that values life and respects the dignity of every individual. We thank these amazing professionals for their expertise, empathy, patience, and compassion. It is interesting to note that registered nurses constitute Pennsylvania's largest segment of healthcare providers, totaling more than 228,000. During these challenging times when a critical shortage of nurses is impacting healthcare across our State and our nation, I ask you to reflect on the major impact nurses across all disciplines are having on the level of care and caring throughout the State. I am certain that your own personal experiences offer an appreciation for the extent to which nurses influence the level of care that is received during wellness visits, recovery, and rehabilitation. In conclusion, I express gratitude to all Senators for their support of the resolutions that recognize Nurses Week, National School Nurse Day, and Skilled Nursing Care Week as fitting tributes to these essential healthcare providers throughout Pennsylvania for their distinguished service.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, last week in Philadelphia, there were two trees in a forest that collapsed. The public school system of Philadelphia acknowledged that the proficiency tests and the scores that came out were woefully inappropriate or ineffective as it relates to children in traditional public schools in Philadelphia County. Those scores, in effect, were not just disappointing, they were shocking. Historic lows for Philadelphia County, historic lows for any major public school system in America, publicly admitting that we are not educating children, we are just having them come there every day in a building. This

is not an indictment by me with any public school teacher, principal, anyone who is trying to do their best in a system that clearly is not meeting the needs or organized in a way to address the needs of the thousands of students who they have there. Frankly, what was disappointing and is disappointing is that that happened, and there has not been any outcry from anyone in any position of authority or responsibility to acknowledge what is going to happen to these children. Instead, what has happened is the school districts decided to say: let us lower the standards. Let us use the pandemic as an excuse not to reach our academic goals of 60 percent proficiency. I am not quite sure how that happened in an organized, educated society when we publicly admit failure and then take a shortcut to explain it and then not respond with an aggressive plan to fix it.

We are in a budget cycle where people will come to Harrisburg from that district begging for more money, saying all we need is more money to fix it, when in fact, we have slid 30 percent, 30 percent in reading. And I cannot even count when it comes to math. And no one, no one stands up and says: stop, time out, we are not lowering the standards, what we are going to do is come up with a plan of how to fix it. A countless number of children who do not even know they are not being educated are in that system today. It is a system dominated by folks who are of modest income, modest income, significantly Black and Brown. And many people in Philadelphia--or, quote, unquote, "progressives"--talk about solving systemic poverty. This is where you fix it, but you do not apologize for it, and you do not turn your back on the obvious. You do not walk away from the problem, and you do not wave the flag of defeat. You do not, you do not walk away from our required responsibilities.

There is not a person in that district who will not miss a paycheck. There is not a consultant who is not grabbing down hundreds of thousands of dollars that is going to miss a contract. There is not one person who gets money from that system on a consistent basis who will be missing, missing a vacation this summer because of the academic decline. What should be required as a minimum is anyone who is involved in compensation in that district is at a table today and through this summer to figure out how we fix this problem immediately. I will be sending a letter to the Governor asking for a Special Session. I would hope this would be a bipartisan request. When the biggest district in the State of Pennsylvania openly admits it is failing academically the students in this system, is asking for a plan of 2 to 3 more years, that should be unacceptable. We should say no, that is not okay. We are not going to allow for that to happen, and more importantly, you need to get to work to figure out how you are going to fix these children who are dysfunctional in society. We are going through a crisis of violence in Philadelphia--across the nation, but certainly in Philadelphia--in part because there is a population of young people who are not attached to society because they were never given a chance because academically, they were graduated from high school without the ability to read. That is on us. That is on government. We cannot be parents, we cannot be caretakers, but what we sure can be is in control of systems that we pay money for, that taxpayers pay money for, that we claim we are concerned about. I do not know one politician in this building that when they run for reelection, on their literature it is talking about education. We are going to fight for children and education. Not one of us does not do that.

Well, now it is fight time. Now it is time to sign up. Because understand, it is Philadelphia today, it is you tomorrow. Because if we set a precedent in Philadelphia that says it is okay for us to say: wave the white flag, we are not doing as well academically--matter of fact, we are failing academically--but give us 2 or 3 more years, and we need more money; guess what is going to happen in your district? Well, they did it in Philadelphia. Why not us? Why do we not get a pass? Why do we not blame it on the students? Why do we not blame it on the parents? I am asking us today to sign onto that letter that asks the Governor to demand us to come back from the General Assembly standpoint to sign up and ask us as a government--at least at the State level--to say: what are we going to do to help? What are we going to do to support those parents and children who expect a higher quality of academic outcome and success for their children, and I am not just talking about the children who are going to the magnet schools and want to go to college. I am talking about the ones who go to the neighborhood schools who are confronted with limitations every single day. Yes, they are in buildings that are full of asbestos, and that is a problem, but be very clear, this conversation I am having today has nothing to do with asbestos. It has to do with every adult who claims they are concerned about the quality of life for a child in Philadelphia County.

Can you imagine, you send your child to first grade, first grade next year, and they have already said to you: they are not going to learn as much as we expected them to learn, and by the way, that is okay? I cannot; I cannot. You know what I would do? I would look for options. I would say I live someplace else that I do not live, and if I did not have the money, I would make sure I did it in a way that I would not get caught. I am not supposed to say that because we are supposed to be a society of laws, but when the law fails us, what the hell are you supposed to do? And we are failing, and we are not failing a little bit, we are failing miserably, and no one seems to be concerned about it; no one.

The second part is--and I am very clear; I am a person who supports options, and charter schools are part of it--I want you to be clear, I am critical of anyone who falls short of supporting children. The other story that happened in Philadelphia was a particular charter school decided to cheat on its admission standards and approach to accepting students. They did it based upon discrimination. I find that to be extremely repugnant. Understand something, that there are many people who will run with this and say: charters do that; that is not true. What I am very clear about is that this charter probably did do it, and I do not care whether it is a charter, traditional public, I do not care what it is. Anything receiving public dollars should be held to a certain level and standard of integrity, honesty, and protection. This charter did not do that, and I want to make sure for the record while I am criticizing the traditional public schools of Philadelphia--I mean the system, not the schools, but the system in Philadelphia--I am criticizing that school that is a charter school in Philadelphia as well. Both sides that are in the public domain to rescue these children who are struggling are failing and cheating at the same time, and I am outraged and angry that we operate in our daily lives as if everything should be normal and ho-hum. So what?

I hope this penetrates someone in this Chamber to acknowledge we need to move to a point of urgency; that we need to respond to every claim that we make in every election cycle that we are concerned about the children in a publicly funded

system of education in Pennsylvania; that we believe in the Constitution--we support it; and that we are going to do our best by these children, by these parents, and by these teachers to get there, because we are not. So, I want to call upon the Governor and ask him to support this effort. Whatever way he decides to do it, I will accept it, but we need to elevate it, we need to be honest, and we need to be direct about it. I do not want to go through a budget cycle where we send millions of dollars that we know are going to go down a dark hole that we do not know that anyone is going to be held to account. The money has to be attached to accountability and outcomes, and those outcomes have to be on the positive side of the agenda, not the negative side of an agenda.

Look, I grew up in a household--my father was a lawyer, my mom was a public school teacher; neither one of them had money in their family. All of them were in what people would describe as poverty. That was the condition of our household. We were reminded of that every time we, in our working middle class family, asked for something. My father would remind us of how much he sacrificed to get where he was in life. The one thing he said on a consistent basis who saved him was his second-, third-, and fourth-grade teachers in a public school in Philadelphia, by a teacher who did not look like him, did not live in his neighborhood, but felt the compassion and urgency of succeeding this young boy who she thought had some possibilities. We are not doing that. A principal in his school came back to honor him. A whole high school renamed themselves after him because they supported him to get through. And I can tell you countless numbers of doctors and lawyers of that generation who would say the same thing coming out of poverty: it was a public school that saved them; it was a public school teacher who cared about them; it was a system that was organized for the benefit of them. My father would never have told me a story, never have told me a story where they decided that, you know what, we are deciding this year we are going to lower our academic standards because we have been through some problem of a pandemic or whatever. My father went off to war in Korea and fought for this country for the possibilities of what it stood for all of us, regardless of what discrimination he faced coming out of it. He believed in the possibility of this country. I have been raised to believe in the possibility of this country.

I do not simply see Democrats and Republicans. I do not see White or Black or Italian or Irish or Polish. I acknowledge it because it is, but I do not see it. I see people's hearts, and there are people on that side of the aisle--Republicans--and this side of the aisle who I respect because whatever the issue is, they are leading with that commitment and the urgency and desire to serve the folks in this Pennsylvania State, and in particular, those most in need. So, I hope and I pray that we will acknowledge that a crisis is upon us, and the largest school system in Pennsylvania needs our attention and our support, but also our critical attention about how to resolve the problem. And so, I hope that when I address us next time, I can say we are moving down that path and this government here is getting organized to get prepared. And I would hope that the local government in Philadelphia would accept such, but regardless of how slow they are, we need to move.

Thank you, Mr. President.

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

May 8, 2023

Senators SANTARSIERO, KANE, SCHWANK, CAPPELLETTI, FONTANA, KEARNEY, HAYWOOD, HUGHES, TARTAGLIONE, DILLON, SAVAL, COLLETT, COSTA, A. WILLIAMS, MUTH and COMMITTA presented to the Chair **SB 200**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in firearms and other dangerous articles, providing for assault weapons and large capacity magazines and establishing the Firearms and Ammunition Buyback Program and the Pennsylvania State Police Buyback Fund.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, May 8, 2023.

Senators COSTA, HUGHES, COLLETT, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, SANTARSIERO, KANE, FONTANA, KEARNEY, COMMITTA, TARTAGLIONE, MUTH, STREET and CAPPELLETTI presented to the Chair **SB 648**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sentencing, providing for sentencing for hate-based intimidation and for community impact statements.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, May 8, 2023.

Senators COSTA, HUGHES, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, SANTARSIERO, KANE, FONTANA, KEARNEY, COMMITTA, MUTH, STREET and CAPPELLETTI presented to the Chair **SB 649**, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses), 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in assault, further providing for ethnic intimidation; in employees, further providing for definitions and providing for police officer training on hate-based intimidation; and making an editorial change.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, May 8, 2023.

Senators COSTA, HUGHES, COLLETT, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, SANTARSIERO, KANE, FONTANA, KEARNEY, COMMITTA, TARTAGLIONE, MUTH, STREET and CAPPELLETTI presented to the Chair **SB 651**, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in assault, further providing for the offense of ethnic intimidation; and, in particular rights and immunities, further prohibiting civil rights violations.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, May 8, 2023.

Senators COSTA, HUGHES, COLLETT, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, SANTARSIERO, KANE, FONTANA, KEARNEY, COMMITTA, TARTAGLIONE, MUTH, STREET and CAPPELLETTI presented to the Chair **SB 652**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of October 15, 1980 (P.L.950, No.164), known as the Commonwealth Attorneys Act, in Office of Attorney General, further providing for legal advice and civil matters and for criminal prosecutions.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, May 8, 2023.

Senators COSTA, HUGHES, COLLETT, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, SANTARSIERO, KANE, FONTANA, KEARNEY, TARTAGLIONE, STREET and CAPPELLETTI presented to the Chair **SB 653**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 44 (Law and Justice) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, establishing a hate group database; and imposing powers and duties on the Attorney General.

Which was committed to the Committee on LAW AND JUSTICE, May 8, 2023.

Senators FARRY and BROWN presented to the Chair **SB 694**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in fireworks, further providing for definitions and for sales locations.

Which was committed to the Committee on AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, May 8, 2023.

RECESS

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

Senator LAUGHLIN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Tuesday, May 9, 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 3:13 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.