

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023

SESSION OF 2023 207TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 33

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, June 28, 2023

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

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

PRAYER

The following prayer was offered by Senator JUDY SCHWANK:

Good morning.

Our God and God of our ancestors, we come before You today with humble hearts, seeking Your wisdom and guidance as we gather in the Pennsylvania Senate for this important day of governing. Grant us the clarity of mind to discern what is just and fair and the courage to make decisions that will uplift the people we have been elected to serve. Help us to put aside our differences and instead work together for the common good and welfare of all Pennsylvanians. May we approach each issue with open minds, listening attentively to the views of others, and engaging in respectful and constructive dialogue. Give us the patience and understanding to consider the diverse needs and perspectives of our constituents, recognizing the value of unity. Lord, we ask for Your grace to be upon us today and that we conduct ourselves with integrity, honesty, and transparency as we do what we believe is in the best interest of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Lastly, we pray for the well-being and safety of all who gather in this Chamber today. Surround us with Your love and fill our hearts with compassion as we carry out our duties. In Your infinite wisdom, guide us to make choices that honor You and promote justice, equality, and prosperity for all. We offer this prayer in faith, trusting that Your wisdom will prevail. From the Book of Isaiah, "For the work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness, calm and confidence forever." Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Senator Schwank.

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:

June 28, 2023

Senators MASTRIANO, BARTOLOTTA, J. WARD, DUSH and GEBHARD presented to the Chair **SB 798**, entitled:

An Act providing for solar energy facilities on certain land; imposing powers and duties on the Department of Agriculture; and providing for a tax credit.

Which was committed to the Committee on AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, June 28, 2023.

BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

HB 1171 (Pr. No. 1236)

An Act amending the act of February 11, 1998 (P.L.58, No.15), known as the Combustible and Flammable Liquids Act, further providing for regulations.

RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SR 116 (Pr. No. 986) (Amended)

A Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study and issue a report on the issue of consolidated billing in the retail electricity and other energy markets in Pennsylvania.

The resolution will be placed on the Calendar.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Brooks and Senator Dush, and legislative leaves for Senator Aument and Senator Argall.

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

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

The PRESIDENT. Senator Phillips-Hill requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Brooks and Senator Dush, and legislative leaves for Senator Aument and Senator Argall.

Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Cappelletti.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

CALENDAR

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

HB 614 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

HB 614 (Pr. No. 1682) -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 4 of the Second Consideration Calendar, by Senator PHILLIPS-HILL, as a Special Order of Business.

PREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

HB 614 (Pr. No. 1682) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

The yeas and nays were required by Senator PHILLIPS-HILL and were as follows, viz:

YEA-50

Table with 4 columns of names: Argall, Aument, Baker, Bartolotta, Boscola, Brewster, Brooks, Brown, Cappelletti, Coleman, Collett, Comitta, Costa, Culver, Dillon, DiSanto, Dush, Farry, Flynn, Fontana, Gebhard, Haywood, Hughes, Hutchinson, Kane, Kearney, Langerholc, Laughlin, Martin, Mastriano, Miller, Muth, Pennycuick, Phillips-Hill, Pittman, Regan, Robinson, Rothman, Santarsiero, Saval, Schwank, Stefano, Street, Tartaglione, Vogel, Ward, Judy, Ward, Kim, Williams, Anthony H., Williams, Lindsey, Yaw.

NAY-0

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

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

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 Conestoga High School's Boys' Tennis Team to celebrate their State championship win. The Pioneers captured the State title by defeating Lower Merion High School with a score of 3-2. Congratulations to each amazing member of the team. Thank you also to the coaches who supported the team along the way, including head coach Brittany Aimone and assistant coach Marsha Faass. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to the Conestoga

High School Boys' Pioneers Tennis Team. Congratulations, and welcome to the Pennsylvania Senate.

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

[Applause.]

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

GUEST OF SENATOR SCOTT F. MARTIN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce Colin Hueston, who has had the opportunity to serve as an intern in my Capitol office since May. Since coming on board, Colin has been critical in helping to speed up our processes through this busy budget season, offering invaluable work on constituent services, legislative research, and reports on committee for our team. Colin is from West Chester, Pennsylvania, and is a rising senior at Franklin & Marshall College, pursuing a degree in government. At F&M, Colin is an integral member of the nationally ranked men's lacrosse team; a faculty-appointed member to the college's development and philanthropy board; the treasurer of Franklin & Marshall's St. Baldrick's chapter, which is a nonprofit organization that raises money for childhood cancer; and a dean's list student. Nominated as the "most likely to be president" of his graduating class in high school at Malvern Preparatory School, Colin hopes to ultimately find work in government, policymaking, and public service. I truly appreciate the help Colin has provided my team, and I am impressed by his work ethic. I have no doubt he will be successful in his future pursuits, and I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in giving a warm Senate welcome to my Capitol office intern, Colin Hueston.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Martin please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

GUEST OF SENATOR JUDY SCHWANK PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, today I have the privilege of introducing a constituent of mine, Lexi Rhoads, to the Pennsylvania Senate. Lexi is a graduate of Reading High School--a proud Red Knight--and she is a rising sophomore now at Bucknell University, where she is double majoring in economics and political science. This summer, Lexi is interning for magisterial district judges Carissa Johnson and Tonya Butler, where she is gaining hands-on experience within the criminal justice system. She is shadowing me today to learn about policymaking and State government. Lexi is clearly eager to learn and has a passion for making change in her community. After she graduates, Lexi plans to attend law school. I would ask, Mr. President, that my colleagues join me in offering a warm welcome to Lexi Rhoads. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Schwank please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR KATIE J. MUTH PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a very special group of guests today from the 44th Senatorial District, the State champion Owen J. Roberts Girls' Lacrosse Team. The Owen J. Roberts Wildcats won the PIAA Class AAA State championship at Penn State University earlier this month by defeating Penncrest 17-9 in the championship game. Led by an amazing senior class, the Wildcats finished the season with 27 wins and 1 loss, becoming the first Pioneer Athletic Conference team, either boys or girls, to win a PIAA lacrosse title. As head coach David says, this is a dream come true for this amazing group of athletes, and our area could not be more proud of their accomplishments. I also want to give a special shout-out to the four senior captains for their leadership this season: Alexa, Rachel, Colby, and Gabbi, and congratulations to the entire team for winning the State championship, and I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating this amazing group of individuals, their coaches, and athletic director.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

[Applause.]

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

GUESTS OF SENATOR TIMOTHY P. KEARNEY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Kearney.

Senator KEARNEY. Mr. President, I rise to proudly introduce new members of my team today, both summer interns as well as Harrisburg and district office staff. So first up is Alana Robinson, interning in our district offices this summer in both constituent services and policy issues. She is an incoming junior at Drexel University, where she will be majoring in political science. On the way to Harrisburg today, Alana learned that she had been accepted into Drexel's honors college. I also learned today that she grew up in McKeesport, so, good news there. We met Alana this spring when she was the featured speaker at a groundbreaking ceremony for Delaware County Community College's new eastern [southeast] campus, where she had just earned an associate degree with high honors. As a student at DC Cubed, she was voted president of the Black Student Union and appointed as a peer mentor. She has aspirations for a career in law and looks forward to giving back to her community.

Rounding out our intern complement is Maya Esty from my hometown of Swarthmore. Maya is a rising junior at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, where she is a public policy and law major with a minor in French. Maya graduated from The

Baldwin School, where she was a school senate rep and a member of the Model Congress Club while also playing lacrosse and field hockey. Maya enjoys being in her cappella groups in both college and high school, as well as an active member of the Trinity Pre-Law Society; looking forward to learning more about policy-making process at the State level; and is passionate about issues, especially surrounding education and healthcare.

And now for our staff. Raven Johnson is a recent graduate from Lincoln University with a bachelor of science majoring in political science with a double minor in mass communications in Black Studies. She served on the campus activities board, the Student Senate, on the executive board for the National Council of Negro Women. Raven moved from Philadelphia to my district in Delaware County last year, but in one short year, she has made her presence known in the county by interning for the Delaware County COSA and the Multicultural Community Family Services in Upper Darby through the Be Proud Foundation. We are proud to have hired Raven as our newest constituent relations associate for team Kearney. An avid reader and political news junkie, she is looking forward to making an impact helping constituents in the 26th Senatorial District.

And finally, I would like to introduce another new Harrisburg team member. I am proud to welcome Wesley Medina to the Capitol as our legislative aide. Originally from the Bronx, Wes moved to Harrisburg about 8 years ago. After attending and graduating from Harrisburg High School SciTech Campus, he entered the world of work and tried his hand at a couple of things, including the car industry, but did not feel compelled by what he was doing. When the opportunity arose to bring his interest to helping people, attention to detail, and bilingual skills to our team, Wesley jumped at the chance. Wesley is also a part of MILPA, the Movement for [of] Immigrant Leaders of [in] PA in honor of the struggle and hardship his parents worked through as new immigrants to make it in this country. As he enters his second month here at the Capitol, he is beyond grateful to be of service and excited to be among us--as he says--some very important and influential individuals. I think he means all of us. So please join me in doing our normal Senate warm welcome to our new interns and staff.

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

[Applause.]

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Aument has returned, and his legislative leave is cancelled.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

HB 804 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

HB 804 (Pr. No. 1305) -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 4 of the Third Consideration Calendar, by Senator PITTMAN, as a Special Order of Business.

BILL REREFERRED

HB 804 (Pr. No. 1305) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 15, 1982 (P.L.1266, No.287), entitled "An act conferring limited residency status on military personnel, their dependents and civilian personnel assigned to an active duty station in Pennsylvania," further providing for residency of students.

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

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

SB 44 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

SB 44 (Pr. No. 976) -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 6 of the Second Consideration Calendar, by Senator PITTMAN, as a Special Order of Business.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 44 (Pr. No. 976) -- 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 human trafficking, further providing for definitions, for the offense of trafficking in individuals and for the offense of patronizing a victim of sexual servitude; in minors, further providing for unlawful contact with minor; and, in domestic and sexual violence victim address confidentiality, further providing for definitions and for persons eligible to apply.

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.

SB 45 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

SB 45 (Pr. No. 927) -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 6 of the Second Consideration Calendar, by Senator PITTMAN, as a Special Order of Business.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 45 (Pr. No. 927) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of October 25, 2012 (P.L.1618, No.197), known as the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Notification Act, further providing for victim services.

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.

RECESS

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for purposes of a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held immediately in the Rules room, to be followed by a Republican caucus which will be held in the Majority Caucus Room.

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 after the meeting of the Committee on Appropriations.

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

AFTER RECESS

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Regan, and legislative leaves for Senator DiSanto and Senator Brown.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Regan, and legislative leaves for Senator DiSanto and Senator Brown. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 149, SB 246 and **SB 346** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 640 (Pr. No. 679) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 11781, on that portion of State Route 3004 over the West Branch Susquehanna River, Burnside Township, Clearfield County, as the United States Army Sergeant Harold Koller Memorial Bridge.

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.

SB 655 (Pr. No. 638) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 8555, carrying State Route 1007 over Chest Creek on the border of Allegheny

Township and East Carroll Township, Cambria County, as the Sergeant Regis H. Driskel Memorial Bridge.

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.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 683 (Pr. No. 929) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in public safety, providing for miscellaneous provisions.

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

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 683. I would like to thank Senator Brooks for her partnership and leadership in drafting this excellent legislation. Senate Bill No. 683 requires a general acute care hospital treating a person who is receiving a standard 5-panel urine drug screening to include testing for fentanyl and xylazine. Unbeknownst to many doctors, a regular opiate test does not currently require this. According to the studies that we have looked at, only 5 percent of toxicology screens currently test overdose patients for fentanyl. This number is even less for xylazine testing. Fortunately, rapid fentanyl and xylazine testing does exist. There are three low-cost CDC-approved tests that can be used.

Fentanyl is now the number one cause of death for Americans ages 18 to 45 in the United States, and the overdose crisis has affected communities across the Commonwealth. As if that was not bad enough, now our Commonwealth must confront the rising crisis of xylazine, a lethal tranquilizer that is being increasingly mixed with other drugs and leading to even more overdose deaths in our Commonwealth. Most current emergency room drug screens do not capture fentanyl and xylazine use, and some patients are unaware that they are even using it.

Here is an example of how mandatory hospital testing would have saved a life: a 16-year-old male was admitted to the hospital after a presumed drug overdose. He was in a coma for several weeks before being pronounced brain dead. A drug screen on admission was negative, but a fentanyl test never was obtained, and he subsequently, because of this, passed away. Senate Bill No. 683 can help save lives in a number of ways. It can alert the patient or a doctor, provider, or the parents; prompt a prescription of naloxone; make the patients dispose of any counterfeit pills they are using that are laced with xylazine or fentanyl; as well as help us connecting the patient with drug treatment or to affect change in their lives. Additionally, it can help law enforcement in the prosecution of drug dealers. Senate Bill No. 683 will also ensure that our Commonwealth is getting a more accurate account

of statewide fentanyl and xylazine overdoses. Mirror versions of Senate Bill No. 683 have become law in California and Maryland, and I am hopeful that we can accomplish the same thing here in Pennsylvania to save lives. I respectfully ask for an affirmative vote.

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-50

Table with 4 columns of names: Argall, Aument, Baker, Bartolotta, Boscola, Brewster, Brooks, Brown, Cappelletti, Coleman, Collett, Comitta, Costa, Culver, Dillon, DiSanto, Dush, Farry, Flynn, Fontana, Gebhard, Haywood, Hughes, Hutchinson, Kane, Kearney, Langerholc, Laughlin, Martin, Mastriano, Miller, Muth, Pennycuick, Phillips-Hill, Pittman, Regan, Robinson, Rothman, Santarsiero, Saval, Schwank, Stefano, Street, Tartaglione, Vogel, Ward, Judy, Ward, Kim, Williams, Anthony H., Williams, Lindsey, Yaw

NAY-0

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 688 (Pr. No. 710) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, 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.

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 ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 740 (Pr. No. 856) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.103, No.69), known as The Second Class Township Code, in auditors and accountants, further providing for auditor's compensation.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-50

Table with 4 columns of names: Argall, Aument, Baker, Bartolotta, Boscola, Brewster, Brooks, Brown, Cappelletti, Coleman, Collett, Comitta, Costa, Culver, Dillon, DiSanto, Dush, Farry, Flynn, Fontana, Gebhard, Haywood, Hughes, Hutchinson, Kane, Kearney, Langerholc, Laughlin, Martin, Mastriano, Miller, Muth, Pennycuick, Phillips-Hill, Pittman, Regan, Robinson, Rothman, Santarsiero, Saval, Schwank, Stefano, Street, Tartaglione, Vogel, Ward, Judy, Williams, Anthony H., Williams, Lindsey, Yaw.

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 750 (Pr. No. 972) -- 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 high schools, providing for Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 750. Too many families in Pennsylvania miss out on chances to train for a quality career simply because they do not know what programs or funding packages are available to them or because they think they cannot afford it. Universal FAFSA completion ensures families can make an informed decision about whether to pursue a job training

program, maybe going to a technical or a community college, or even a 4-year college. It is a commonsense way to address workforce needs and boost education empowerment and access, which are among the key priorities and principles shared by my colleagues. When we all know our common knowledge of the fact that Pennsylvania is one of the worst States for average student debt on top of this, these issues combined make this a critical, critical thing to address.

The National College Attainment Network estimates that \$3.75 billion in Federal Pell Grants went unclaimed in 2021 alone. We are leaving way too much money on the table, which means we are leaving way too many opportunities for students on the table. Previous data indicates that 91.5 percent of students who complete the FAFSA enrolled in a postsecondary program by the following November, compared to less than 50 percent enrollment for students who did not complete the FAFSA. As of June 9, 2023, Pennsylvania's FAFSA completion rate is only 53 percent. Nine other States have had success with policies pertaining to completion of the FAFSA. When Louisiana implemented its universal FAFSA policy in 2018, the completion rate jumped by nearly 26 percent.

I would like to note that this legislation and final product is due to a lot of hard work and input from educational institutions and associations from all around the Commonwealth, and through their work, along with the gentlewoman from Allegheny County who helped work with us on an amendment, we feel that this bill is a great solution to do what is right for the future of our children and the Commonwealth. I ask for an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 750.

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-46

Table with 4 columns of names: Argall, Aument, Baker, Bartolotta, Boscola, Brewster, Brooks, Brown, Cappelletti, Coleman, Collett, Comitta, Costa, Culver, Dillon, DiSanto, Dush, Farry, Flynn, Fontana, Gebhard, Haywood, Hughes, Kane, Langerholc, Laughlin, Martin, Miller, Muth, Pennycuick, Phillips-Hill, Pittman, Regan, Robinson, Rothman, Santarsiero, Saval, Schwank, Stefano, Street, Tartaglione, Vogel, Ward, Judy, Williams, Lindsey, Yaw.

NAY-4

Table with 4 columns of names: Hutchinson, Kearney, Mastriano, Williams, Anthony H.

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 756 (Pr. No. 797) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 25, 1961 (P.L.857, No.372), referred to as the Stuffed Toy Manufacturing Act, further providing for definitions, for manufacturing, for materials and for enforcement; and providing for labeling.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator ROBINSON. Mr. President, this bill modernizes the Stuffed Toy Manufacturing Act to allow for the use of recycled materials. When the act was originally passed in 1961, the use of recycled materials was not contemplated. Today, many consumers prefer to purchase items made from recycled materials to lessen their environmental footprint. Manufacturers and retailers that wish to sell or distribute stuffed toys containing recycled material are unable to do so in Pennsylvania under its current law. This issue was brought to my attention by the Toy Association who supports the bill. I also want to thank my colleagues Senator Kane and Senator Haywood for working with me on this bipartisan legislation. I respectfully ask my colleagues to support Senate Bill No. 756.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Haywood.

Senator HAYWOOD. Mr. President, I rise also to encourage my colleagues to support Senate Bill No. 756 but want to share a story that comes from my district office. I was really unaware of these outdated provisions, then a man by the name of Chris Kinka, the owner of The Nesting House, a local toy shop in my district, comes by my district office and shares that he cannot sell toys that have recycled materials in them because of a law in Pennsylvania. I was stunned that we would have such an impediment to small businesses that are only trying to make a living by selling toy products. I was so glad to join Senator Robinson and Senator Kane, who identified the same issue with the same level of astoundment that we would have such restrictions on businesses. It is critical that we in this General Assembly remove outdated legislation and regulations that impede business and entrepreneurship. This is such a piece of legislation, far outdated, came about in the 1960s. So, again, I am glad to be a champion with Senator Robinson and Senator Kane, and Mr. President, I encourage a positive vote on this legislation. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Kane.

Senator KANE. Mr. President, today I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 756, a bill that is near and dear to my heart as a co-sponsor. As kids, we all cherished our teddy bears more than anything. We loved hugging them, playing with them, and even talking to them. But have you ever wondered what fills those teddy bears we grew up cherishing? No. Well, neither have I. I do not think any of us have really thought about it. With the passage of Senate Bill No. 756, we can do something good with what fills our teddy bears by allowing for the use of recycled materials in stuffed toys. We can take a step forward in protecting our environment and reducing waste. Teddy bears and stuffed toys have filled generations with happiness and love. Mine happened to be

a monkey that still shares my bed with my wife and I, even though he is disgusting and has been chewed up by half of my dogs, he is still loved. It is time to ensure that what fills our stuffed toys will last as long as that feeling that gives us. Our stuffed toys can now be a symbol of sustainability and environmental responsibility. By enabling manufacturers to create more sustainable products, we can provide consumers with more options that are both good for the environment and good for their hearts. We can move forward and create a snuggly, eco-friendly teddy bear or monkey--friends that will last a long time.

I want to thank my colleagues Chairman Robinson and Senator Haywood for working with me on this bill, and the Department of Labor & Industry and the Pennsylvania Toy Association for their support. Mr. President, I urge us to pass this bill, not only for our environment, but for our good old bear friends, Teddy Ruxpin, Yogi Bear, Winnie-the-Pooh, and Paddington Bear, and the ones who still snuggle kids around the world today. Keeping the teddy bear cycle environmentally friendly is near and dear to my heart.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I also rise in support of this legislation. I would just point out that the gentleman, my friend and colleague from Delaware [sic] County, forgot to talk about Care Bears as well [laughter]. I think we need to make sure that they are included in this conversation as part of this legislation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

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

NAY-1

Coleman

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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 765, SB 774, SB 775, and SB 784 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 829 (Pr. No. 983) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Governor, to grant and convey certain easements through and across lands of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the Township of Manheim, County of Lancaster, for purposes of a road realignment project and to accept from the Township of Manheim existing right-of-way to be abandoned as part of the road realignment project; and authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Governor, to grant and convey to Drexel University, permanent easement encumbering certain lands situate in the City and County of Philadelphia.

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

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The 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.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 1031 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

PREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

HB 615 (Pr. No. 1124) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Workmen's Compensation Administration Fund to the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Community and Economic Development to provide for the expenses of administering the Workers' Compensation Act, The Pennsylvania Occupational Disease Act and the Office of Small Business Advocate for the fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

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

HB 616 (Pr. No. 1683) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

HB 617 (Pr. No. 1126) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

HB 618 (Pr. No. 1684) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Public School Employees' Retirement Fund and from the PSERS Defined Contribution Fund to provide for expenses of the Public School Employees' Retirement Board for the fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

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

HB 619 (Pr. No. 1685) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the State Employees' Retirement Fund and from the SERS Defined Contribution Fund to provide for expenses of the State Employees' Retirement Board for the fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

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

HB 620 (Pr. No. 1129) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Philadelphia Taxicab and Limousine Regulatory Fund and the Philadelphia Taxicab Medallion Fund to the Philadelphia Parking Authority for the fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

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

HB 621 (Pr. No. 1130) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund and from Federal augmentation funds to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for the fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

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

HB 622 (Pr. No. 1686) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the restricted revenue accounts within the State Gaming Fund and from the restricted revenue accounts within the Fantasy Contest Fund and Video Gaming Fund to the Attorney General, the Department of Revenue, the Pennsylvania State Police and the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

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

NON-PREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMITTED

HB 613 (Pr. No. 1122) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

HB 1461 (Pr. No. 1619) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Supplement to the act of July 7, 1972 (P.L.743, No.176), known as the Lincoln University-Commonwealth Act, making an appropriation for carrying the same into effect; providing for a basis for payments of the appropriation; providing for a method of accounting for the funds appropriated; and providing for certain fiscal information disclosure.

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 173 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 235 (Pr. No. 977) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in criminal homicide, further providing for the offense of drug delivery resulting in death; and imposing a penalty.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 282, SB 286, SB 365, SB 373, SB 375 and SB 442 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

HB 479 (Pr. No. 1092) -- 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 public assistance, providing for ambulance transportation services.

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 514 and SB 531 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

HB 623 (Pr. No. 1132) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for the capital budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 692 (Pr. No. 739) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

HB 735 (Pr. No. 1739) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act establishing the Flood Insurance Premium Assistance Task Force.

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 739 and **SB 748** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

HB 797 (Pr. No. 757) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 1, 1945 (P.L.1242, No.428), known as the State Highway Law, in construction, improvement, maintenance and repair of State highways, providing for native vegetation along highways.

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 802, SB 817, SB 831, SB 843 and **SB 851** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

HB 1094 (Pr. No. 1306) -- 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 pupils and attendance, providing for military child advance enrollment.

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.

HB 1100 (Pr. No. 1740) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 27, 2006 (1st Sp.Sess., P.L.1873, No.1), known as the Taxpayer Relief Act, in tax relief in cities of the first class, further providing for supplemental senior citizen tax reduction; and, in senior citizens property tax and rent rebate assistance, further providing for property tax and rent rebate and for filing of claim.

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.

HB 1138 (Pr. No. 1535) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in sales and use tax, further providing for definitions and for imposition of tax; and, in gross receipts tax, further providing for imposition of tax.

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.

HB 1300 (Pr. No. 1446) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of November 24, 2015 (P.L.232, No.64), known as the Pennsylvania Long-term Care Council Act, further providing for Pennsylvania Long-term Care Council.

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.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
No. 136, ADOPTED

Senator PITTMAN, without objection, called up from page 10 of the Calendar, **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 136**, entitled:

A Concurrent Resolution extending in whole the disaster emergency declared on June 12, 2023, in response to the collapse of the northbound bridge and severe compromise of the southbound bridge on Interstate 95 in the City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County.

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

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator DILLON. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on Senate Resolution No. 136. A joint effort by Senator Farry and myself, this resolution extends Governor Shapiro's emergency declaration for the collapsed section of I-95. Now, I do not need to tell you how crucial I-95 is for Philadelphia and our nation. Every single day, approximately 160,000 motorists, including nearly 13,000 commercial trucks, rely on our vital transportation artery. It keeps our travel, economy, and essential services running smoothly. Through this declaration, we secure the necessary resources to keep the repair work going without any delays. I am pleased to share that that temporary bridge is already in place, allowing traffic to flow. But let us be honest, there is still a lot of work ahead of us. Our constituents, both from Senator Farry's district and my own, continue to feel the impact of this situation. That is why it is vital to extend this emergency declaration, ensuring Pennsylvania maintains access to Federal funds and streamlined procedures. It is the key to swiftly and safely repairing I-95. Governor Shapiro's response, backed by the legislation and our Federal and local partners, shows that we can achieve remarkable things. This resolution is a true testament to that spirit. It is a necessary step toward restoring the full capacity of I-95, and with your support, we will make it happen. I-95 will stand as a monument to what we as Pennsylvanians can achieve when we come together. Now, if we could just figure out how to pass our budget up here in the record time frame that we took to fix I-95, I think we will all be in business. Thank you all for your consideration, and I humbly ask for your affirmative vote.

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

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

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

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

SB 44 (Pr. No. 976) (Rereported)

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in human trafficking, further providing for definitions, for the offense of trafficking in individuals and for the offense of patronizing a victim of sexual servitude; in minors, further providing for unlawful contact with minor; and, in domestic and sexual violence victim address confidentiality, further providing for definitions and for persons eligible to apply.

SB 45 (Pr. No. 927) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of October 25, 2012 (P.L.1618, No.197), known as the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Notification Act, further providing for victim services.

SB 125 (Pr. No. 971) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in changes in records, providing for interstate voter registration cross-check; and, in provisions contingent on Federal law, further providing for removal of electors.

SB 146 (Pr. No. 120) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in fishing licenses, further providing for exemptions from license requirements.

SB 371 (Pr. No. 314) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of November 22, 1978 (P.L.1166, No.274), referred to as the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Law, providing for Indigent Defense Advisory Committee; and establishing the Indigent Defense Grant Program.

HB 804 (Pr. No. 1305) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of December 15, 1982 (P.L.1266, No.287), entitled "An act conferring limited residency status on military personnel, their dependents and civilian personnel assigned to an active duty station in Pennsylvania," further providing for residency of students.

BILL ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bill was as follows:

HB 1171.

And said bill 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, JUNE 29, 2023

3:00 P.M.	JUDICIARY (to consider seven Court of Common Pleas Judicial Nominees: Maura Palumbi, Esquire, Butler County; Julia Rater, Esquire, Centre County; Frank Ruggiero, Esquire, Lackawanna County; Chesley Lightsey, Esquire, Philadelphia County; E. Natasha Taylor-Smith, Esquire, Philadelphia County; Samantha Williams, Esquire, Philadelphia County; and Kay Yu, Esquire, Philadelphia County)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider House Bill No. 479)	Rules Committee Conference Room
Off the Floor	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (to consider Senate Bill No. 382)	Rules Committee Conference Room
Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider certain Executive Nominations)	Rules Committee Conference Room

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise because today marks 6,198 days since this Commonwealth's legislature last passed an increase in our minimum wage. In that time, Mr. President, nearly 17 years have passed, but our legislative failure of action has not been seen by our neighbors. Every State that neighbors our Commonwealth has acted at least once, and many multiple times, to pass minimum-wage reform and provide higher wages to all their workers. Everyone knows our minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour, but what they may not realize is our neighbors to the north and to the east, New York and New Jersey, both pay their workers at least \$14.13 per hour. Mr. President, I was not a math major, but that is nearly double what the worker in Pennsylvania earns, often doing the same work.

Recently, a study was conducted by the Keystone Research Center and Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center to see what the effect of having two drastically different minimum wages is. The results were all doom and gloom, right? Wrong. What did they find? They found that wages increased more in New York and New Jersey, dramatically so in the leisure and hospitality sector, compared to Pennsylvania. They also found that wages increased more in New York and New Jersey. They also found that employment trends differed very little with one exception, leisure and hospitality employment grew significantly more in New York. Mr. President, when workers have more money, they have more disposable income to spend on leisure and hospitality. They also found that Pennsylvania and New York workers, along with northern borders, are behaving quite sensibly. Pennsylvania workers are crossing the border to get a living-wage job. Meanwhile, fewer New Yorkers are likely coming to Pennsylvania to take what would be a poverty-wage job.

Mr. President, across the Pennsylvania border, low-wage employers cannot find workers to fill vacancies because often just miles away workers can cross the border and often double their hourly wage. It makes sense, Mr. President, workers can support their families and support local businesses with increased consumer buying power when wages go up. We have seen time and time again, we are not facing a mass exodus of jobs by raising our minimum wage. What we are seeing is when workers have more money, they participate more fully in our local economy. Mr. President, let us ensure all Pennsylvanians are able to just not survive, but thrive. Let us raise our minimum wage. Let us pass Senate Bill No.12.

Thank you, Mr. President.

RECESS

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Thursday, June 29, 2023, at 6 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 1:30 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.