# commonwealth of pennsylvania Legizlatibe Journal

## FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2023

## SESSION OF 2023 207TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## No. 35

## SENATE

FRIDAY, June 30, 2023

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

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

## PRAYER

The following prayer was offered by Senator CHRISTINE M. TARTAGLIONE:

Gracious and eternal Creator, we gather in this esteemed Chamber. We humbly approach You with reverence and gratitude for the opportunity to serve and guide our Commonwealth. We recognize that the decisions made here impact the lives of countless individuals, and we seek Your wisdom and guidance in our deliberations. Grant us, Lord, the ability to rise above partisan divides, and to work together for the common good of our neighbors. Help us listen with open hearts, to respect differing viewpoints, and to engage in thoughtful and constructive dialogue that leads to just and compassionate legislation. Grant us the courage to champion truth and integrity, to act with honesty and transparency, and to resist the temptations of corruption and self-serving agendas. Help us to govern with the spirit of stewardship and love, and allow us to be mindful of the impact our decisions have on the present and future generations. In Your holy Name we pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Senator Tartaglione.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

## **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:

## June 30, 2023

Senators COLLETT, SAVAL, FONTANA, HUGHES, SCHWANK, KANE, COMITTA, SANTARSIERO, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA, L. WILLIAMS, KEARNEY, MUTH, STREET and CAPPELLETTI presented to the Chair **SB 839**, 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, providing for Asian-American and Pacific Islander history instruction.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, June 30, 2023.

Senators DILLON, BARTOLOTTA, FLYNN, FONTANA, BREWSTER, COSTA, FARRY, TARTAGLIONE, AUMENT, HAYWOOD, KANE, KEARNEY, A. WILLIAMS, SANTARSIERO, PENNYCUICK, GEBHARD, ROBINSON and ROTHMAN presented to the Chair **SB 842**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in assault, providing for the offense of harassment of sports official.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, June 30, 2023.

Senators ROBINSON, ARGALL, GEBHARD, BREWSTER, MILLER, CULVER and LAUGHLIN presented to the Chair **SB 845**, entitled:

An Act establishing tourism improvement districts and tourism improvement district management associations; and providing for powers of counties, for powers of tourism improvement district management associations, for dissolution of tourism improvement district, for annual audit and report and for applicability.

Which was committed to the Committee on COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, June 30, 2023.

Senator BAKER presented to the Chair **SB 847**, entitled: An Act authorizing the release of Project 70 restrictions on certain land owned by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission in Overfield Township, Wyoming County.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOV-ERNMENT, June 30, 2023.

Senators CULVER, SCHWANK, PENNYCUICK, HUGHES, BREWSTER and KEARNEY presented to the Chair **SB 848**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in personal income tax, providing for alternative special tax provisions for poverty.

Which was committed to the Committee on FINANCE, June 30, 2023.

Senators BAKER, YAW, HAYWOOD, BROWN, ROBINSON, A. WILLIAMS, SANTARSIERO, PENNYCUICK, BREWSTER,

BARTOLOTTA, KANE, BOSCOLA, CULVER, COSTA, KEARNEY, SCHWANK, HUGHES, TARTAGLIONE, SAVAL, CAPPELLETTI, STEFANO, LAUGHLIN, MUTH and ROTHMAN presented to the Chair **SB 852**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in criminal history record information, further providing for definitions, for general regulations, for expungement, for petition for limited access, for clean slate limited access, for exceptions, for effects of expunged records and records subject to limited access and for employer immunity from liability.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, June 30, 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:

#### June 30, 2023

Senators BROOKS, PENNYCUICK, BARTOLOTTA and HUTCHINSON presented to the Chair **SR 140**, entitled:

A Resolution urging the Department of Human Services of the Commonwealth to submit a state plan amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to provide reimbursement for emergency medical services for the nontransport of Medicaid patients, and urging the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to expeditiously review and approve the state plan amendment submitted by the Department of Human Services.

Which was committed to the Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, June 30, 2023.

Senators BROOKS, SCHWANK and CAPPELLETTI presented to the Chair **SR 141**, entitled:

A Resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study on the public water and wastewater system acquisitions that have taken place since Act 12 of 2016 took effect and the rate increases for the water and wastewater systems from before and after the acquisitions took place, and to issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, June 30, 2023.

Senators KANE, KEARNEY, CAPPELLETTI, FONTANA, HUGHES, LAUGHLIN, SCHWANK, HAYWOOD, TARTAGLIONE, ARGALL, DILLON, BREWSTER, MASTRIANO, SANTARSIERO, COSTA, COMITTA and MILLER presented to the Chair **SR 142**, entitled:

A Resolution designating August 31, 2023, as "Overdose Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, June 30, 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:

## June 30, 2023

HB 72 -- Committee on Agriculture and Rural Affairs.
HB 665 -- Committee on Health and Human Services.
HB 897, 1067, 1331 and 1408 -- Committee on Education.
HB 1050 -- Committee on Banking and Insurance.
HB 1058 -- Committee on Aging and Youth.
HB 1108 -- Committee on Judiciary.
HB 1160 and 1280 -- Committee on Law and Justice.
HB 1249 -- Committee on Finance.
HB 1283 and 1284 -- Committee on Transportation.

## HOUSE RESOLUTION FOR CONCURRENCE

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

#### June 30, 2023

**HR 154** -- Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness.

## **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 Mastriano.

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

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

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Coleman and Senator Mastriano.

Senator Hughes requests a legislative leave for Senator Cappelletti.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

#### JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of April 26, 2023, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of April 26, 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

4 11	C 1	<b>T 1 1</b>	G ( )
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.

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

## **REQUEST FOR RECESS**

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

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

## **LEGISLATIVE LEAVE**

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

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

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

## RECESS

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations, followed by a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, both to be held off the floor in the Rules room immediately, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

#### **AFTER RECESS**

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

## CALENDAR

### THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

## PREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

**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.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

## LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Anthony Williams 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-49

Argall	Dillon	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	DiSanto		Saval
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 return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same without amendments.

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 third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

### **YEA-49**

Santarsiero

Saval

Schwank

Stefano

Tartaglione

Ward, Kim

Williams, Anthony H.

Williams, Lindsey

Street

Vogel Ward, Judy

Yaw

Argall	Dillon	Langerholc
Aument	DiSanto	Laughlin
Baker	Dush	Martin
Bartolotta	Farry	Mastriano
Boscola	Flynn	Miller
Brewster	Fontana	Muth
Brooks	Gebhard	Pennycuick
Brown	Haywood	Phillips-Hill
Cappelletti	Hughes	Pittman
Collett	Hutchinson	Regan
Comitta	Kane	Robinson
Costa	Kearney	Rothman
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 return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same without amendments.

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 third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

#### **YEA-49**

Argall	Dillon	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	DiSanto	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Farry	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Flynn	Miller	Street
Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Gebhard	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
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 return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same without amendments.

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 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**

Argall	Culver	Langerholc
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin
Baker	DiSanto	Martin
Bartolotta	Dush	Mastriano
Boscola	Farry	Miller
Brewster	Flynn	Muth
Brooks	Fontana	Pennycuick
Brown	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill
Cappelletti	Haywood	Pittman
Coleman	Hughes	Regan
Collett	Hutchinson	Robinson
Comitta	Kane	Rothman
Costa	Kearney	

Saval Schwank Stefano Street Tartaglione Vogel Ward, Judy Ward, Kim Williams, Anthony H. Williams, Lindsey Yaw

Santarsiero

## NAY-0

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

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

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 third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

## LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Mastriano 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:

Costa

#### YEA-50

	<b>a</b> 1	· · ·	a
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 return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same without amendments.

**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 third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

## YEA-49

	~		~ .
Argall	Dillon	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	DiSanto	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Farry	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Flynn	Miller	Street
Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Gebhard	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
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 return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same without amendments. 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 third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

Kearney

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

#### NAY-0

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

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

**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 third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

#### YEA-49

Argall	Dillon	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	DiSanto	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	Dush	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Farry	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Flynn	Miller	Street
Brewster	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Gebhard	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim

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Costa

Collett Comitta Costa Culver

Hutchinson Regan Robinson Rothman

Williams, Anthony H. Williams, Lindsey Yaw

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

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 third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

#### **YEA-49**

Argall Aument Baker Bartolotta Boscola Brewster Brooks Brown Cappelletti Collett Comitta Costa	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
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 return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same without amendments.

## BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 125 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

#### BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 146 (Pr. No. 120) -- 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 exemptions from license requirements.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

Kearney

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

#### 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.

#### BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 149, SB 235, SB 246, SB 346, SB 371 and HB 623 --Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

## BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

#### SB 765 (Pr. No. 863) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 8 (Boroughs and Incorporated Towns) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in powers and duties of elected officials, further providing for surcharge by auditors; in powers, duties and rights of appointed officers and employees, further providing for borough manager created by ordinance and election, for powers and duties, for other offices not incompatible and for organization of commission; and, in taxation and finance, further providing for preparation of budget.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

## Kane Kearney

H.

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

Senator COMITTA. Mr. President, this is a Local Government Commission bill. The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs requested this bill to modernize provisions of the Borough Code. The bill makes four changes to align with recent changes to the revised First Class Township Code. The first change: it adds language that an elected or appointed official may not be surcharged if they acted in good faith on a written or publicly disclosed opinion of the borough solicitor. Second, it authorizes a borough to appoint a partnership, limited partnership, association, or professional corporation as the borough manager. Third, it permits the Civil Service Commission to reorganize within 30 days of the first Monday in January of each even-numbered year. And fourth, it removes a requirement that a preliminary budget be prepared beginning at least 30 days prior to the adoption of the budget. I ask for a "yes" vote on this Local Government Commission bill. Thank you.

And the question recurring, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

#### **YEA-50**

Argall Aument Baker Bartolotta Boscola Brewster Brooks Brown Cappelletti Coleman Collett Coarritta	Culver Dillon DiSanto Dush Farry Flynn Fontana Gebhard Haywood Hughes Hutchinson	Langerholc Laughlin Martin Mastriano Miller Muth Pennycuick Phillips-Hill Pittman Regan Robinson Bachmar	Santarsiero Saval Schwank Stefano Street Tartaglione Vogel Ward, Judy Ward, Kim Williams, Anthony Williams, Lindsey Vow
Conitta Costa	Kane Kearney	Rothman	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 774 (Pr. No. 873) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 11 (Cities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in city administrator, further providing for appointment of city administrator, for employment agreement, for residency and elective city office and for powers and duties; and, in accounts and finances, further providing for powers and duties of chief fiscal officer.

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**

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.

SB 775 (Pr. No. 874) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for scope of subchapter, providing for definitions, further providing for establishment and designation, providing for emergency meetings by authorized telecommunications device, repealing provisions relating to exercise of powers and functions, further providing for declaration of policy and for definitions, repealing provisions relating to enabling authority for emergency interim successors for local offices, further providing for emergency interim successors for local officers and for succession period and repealing provisions relating to term and removal of designees.

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**

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

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions relating to home rule and optional plan government, further providing for definitions, providing for appointment of government study commission in distressed municipality and further providing for first meeting of commission, for function and duty of commission, for hearings and public forums, for report of findings and recommendations, for limitation on enactment of ordinance or filing of petition and for limitation on municipal powers.

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**

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
Collett	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kane	Rothman	Yaw
Costa	Kearney	Rouman	1400

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

## BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1031 (Pr. No. 1047) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating the boat access located on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River in Muncy Creek Township, Lycoming County, as the Representative Garth Everett Muncy Access Area.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally? The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lycoming, Senator Yaw.

Senator YAW. Mr. President, I rise in support of House Bill No. 1031 today. This bill relates to former Representative Garth Everett, who is from my district, and the bill would authorize the naming of a boat launch on the Susquehanna River in Muncy in honor of Representative Everett. Representative Everett was a friend of mine. We graduated from the same high school. He made note that it was at a far different time period, but we did graduate from the same high school. He graduated from Penn State University and enlisted in the United States Air Force. He made a career of the Air Force and finally was discharged as a lieutenant colonel. After discharge from the Air Force, Representative Everett, or Garth Everett, attended law school at Dickinson Law School. He then, after practicing law for a while, became a Member of the House of Representatives, representing the 84th Legislative District in Lycoming County. He retired from the legislature in 2020.

What most people do not know is that for a period of almost 20 years, Garth was a cancer survivor, and he battled many, many episodes of cancer. He died this year in 2023 on January 28, which happened to be his birthday. At that point, he was 69 years old. Garth was a husband, he was a father, he was a grandfather, he was a soldier, he was a lawyer, and he was a legislator. I think few of us can say that we may have accomplished that much in our lifetime. I ask for an affirmative vote on House Bill No. 1031 and just note that it came over from the House of Representatives unanimously. And so, once again, I ask for an affirmative vote on House Bill No. 1031.

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

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

## SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

#### BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 173, SB 282, SB 286, SB 365, SB 373, SB 375 and SB 382 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

## BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 514 (Pr. No. 481) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of November 3, 2022 (P.L.2135, No.150), known as the Childhood Blood Lead Test Act, further providing for legislative purpose and for lead poisoning prevention, assessment and testing.

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

#### BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 748 (Pr. No. 982) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in rules of the road in general, further providing for automated speed enforcement systems in active work zones and for pilot program for automated speed enforcement system on designated highway.

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

## BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 851 (Pr. No. 960) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in rules of the road in general, further providing for enforcement of failure to stop for school bus with flashing red lights.

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 RESOLUTION No. 116, ADOPTED**

Senator PITTMAN, without objection, called up from page 7 of the Calendar, **Senate Resolution No. 116**, entitled:

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.

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 Lycoming, Senator Yaw.

Senator YAW. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Resolution No. 116 and ask for an affirmative vote. Senate Resolution No. 116 would require the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study involving consolidated billing for electricity and electric rates in Pennsylvania. There was some confusion among customers as a result of what happened after the electric shortage that we experienced at Christmastime last year. The result was bills that seemed exorbitant or that people did not understand how they were being billed. So, there are States that have addressed this issue of consolidated billing, for example, Georgia, Texas, and Maryland. And we are just asking that this issue to look at the pluses and minuses of consolidated billing here in Pennsylvania for electric rates be considered, and I ask for an affirmative vote to support this study.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, just very briefly, a number of organizations have expressed opposition to this legislation, particularly as it relates to the combined billing, so to speak, combined notification. I think what folks are concerned about, that it may not appropriately disclose what is being charged. So, for those reasons, we ask for a negative vote.

And the question recurring, Shall the resolution be adopted?

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

#### YEA-28

Argall	Culver	Laughlin	Robinson
Aument	DiSanto	Martin	Rothman
Baker	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Bartolotta	Farry	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brooks	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Brown	Hutchinson	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Langerholc	Regan	Yaw
Coleman	Langernoic	Regan	Yaw

NAY-22

Boscola Brewster Cappelletti Collett Comitta Costa Kearney Miller Muth Santarsiero Saval

Schwank Street Tartaglione Williams, Anthony H. Williams, Lindsey

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

The PRESIDENT. The resolution is adopted.

Dillon

Flynn

Fontana

Hughes

Kane

Haywood

## **BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

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

## HB 611 (Pr. No. 1811) (Amended) (Rereported)

An Act to provide appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools 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; to provide appropriations from special funds and accounts to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023; and to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds to the Executive and Legislative Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

### HB 1100 (Pr. No. 1740) (Rereported)

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.

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will momentarily be at ease. [The Senate was at ease.]

## **LEGISLATIVE LEAVE**

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

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

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

## SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 2

## BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

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 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 gentlewoman from Berks, Senator Schwank.

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, I was not sure that I would have the opportunity to talk about this bill, but I am delighted that I do have that. The property tax and rent rebate program is popular throughout the Commonwealth, and I am sure many of you, most of you, are very actively engaged in helping constituents to apply for this modest rebate that individuals of certain incomes have been able to receive over the years. About two months ago, back in my district, we started a program where we go to some of the senior high rises in our community and actually go on site with computers and sit down with constituents and fill out the property tax and rent rebate with them. It turns out to be a huge social event. The last one that we were at was the B'nai B'rith building--it is a senior high-rise, low-income--and we filled the entire community room. We had a system where people took a number, and they waited their turn to come in and do that. So, while we were doing that--my staff mostly were doing it, I would not be competent enough, quite frankly, to be able to fill it out--however, I would get the opportunity to sit down with these folks. Can I tell you how appreciative they are of these modest checks. Most of them, because this is a rental building, were not really receiving that much money, maybe between \$400 and perhaps about \$700. But every single one of them talked to me about the fact that they are living on Social Security. So this check means the world to them. It is critically important to them. In terms of folks that own their own homes, they come into the office, they come into your office as well, and we fill out the forms with them. That, too, is like a social event. Sometimes I have groups of neighbors who come together so that they can come in and get this filled out. Those folks, too, are relying on relatively modest incomes as we know. So, this check, again, means the world to them.

There are many items in the budget that we do not necessarily agree on, but this is one measure that should be endorsed by all of us, and I certainly think that it will be. Let us look at some of the details of what will happen. First of all, it has been 16 years since we have done it. Even despite that and the inflation that, you know, has increased over the years, people still so much appreciate this check. This will now extend the income to \$45,000 for homeowners, \$45,000 for renters, and it is estimated that an additional 173,000 individuals will be able to qualify now for the program. We are going to make more people more able to afford to live, to not have to make difficult choices as to what they can spend their money on, whether it is medicine, food, or the other essentials, a birthday gift for a grandchild, they will be able to afford that, those kinds of things, we hope. And this has a COLA. It will automatically increase as inflation increases. I want to applaud the Governor for proposing this and our colleagues in the House, who made an effort to make sure that this would get on

our docket so that we could consider it. Like I said, there are so many things in the budget we may not agree on, but I am betting this is one that we will, and I will also bet that our constituents will thank you for it.

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

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 return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendments in which concurrence of the House is requested.

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will briefly be at ease. [The Senate was at ease.]

## SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1

## **MOTION NOTWITHSTANDING SENATE RULE 12**

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, as a special order of business, I call up Senate Supplemental Calendar No. 1 and move the Senate proceed to consider House Bill No. 611, notwithstanding the provisions of Senate Rule 12(m)(2).

On the question, Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

#### YEA-44

Santarsiero

Saval

Schwank

Stefano

Street

Argall	Culver	Langerholc
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin
Baker	DiSanto	Martin
Bartolotta	Dush	Mastriano
Boscola	Farry	Miller

Brooks Flynn Pennycuick Tartaglione Brown Gebhard Phillips-Hill Vogeľ Ward, Judy Coleman Haywood Pittman Hughes Collett Regan Ward, Kim Comitta Hutchinson Robinson Williams, Anthony H. Rothman Costa Kearney Yaw NAY-6 Brewster Fontana Muth Williams, Lindsey Cappelletti Kane

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

## PREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

**HB 611 (Pr. No. 1811)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act to provide appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools 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; to provide appropriations from special funds and accounts to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023; and to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds to the Executive and Legislative Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

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 Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, what we have before us here is a budget, an imperfect budget during imperfect times. But what we have is a responsible, sustainable product that allows this Commonwealth to meet its constitutional obligation to have a balanced budget signed by the Governor on time on June 30. Mr. President, this budget in front of us, which my friend and colleague from Lancaster County will enumerate much more specifically, is yet again a product of divided government.

Just as we had a conversation last night about empowering parents and about empowering families when it comes to the education of children, here we are today talking about a budget that is a reflection of divided government. In this budget, we first and foremost maintain fiscal responsibility. We add \$500 million to our Rainy Day Fund, ensuring that when the recession reaches our doorstep, that we are prepared to protect the taxpayer. We have in front of us a budget that holds the line on increased spending well below the percentage called for by the taxpayer bill of rights. We also have before us a budget that makes historic investments in all forms of education, all forms of education. We have a budget in front of us that makes investments in our transportation infrastructure by ensuring that our Pennsylvania State Police receive adequate funding from the General Fund, and that the dollars the taxpayers pay at the pump are increasingly used for their intended purpose: to support transportation initiatives. We have a budget in front of us that seeks to reinvest in our emergency medical services community, a \$20 million increase to support the first-line responders in our EMS community: urban, rural, suburban. We all know throughout this Commonwealth that our EMS community is strained, it is struggling, and this budget comes to the rescue.

Mr. President, as I said last night, we embarked on an effort with our Governor to empower parents. We worked on this in a bipartisan approach. Today, the document that we are about to vote also reflects a bipartisan approach. We have engaged our Governor on this quite directly. Our friends on the other side of the building clearly have a different point of view of where we should be at this moment in this Commonwealth. But this Senate Republican Caucus, who has made it crystal clear that we are not wed to having a budget in place by June 30, we are wed to having a responsible product in place that protects the taxpayers, that makes the investments that those we represent expect, and that is exactly what this product does. We have said, whether it is before June 30, on June 30, or after June 30, we are worried about ensuring a responsible product.

Well, Mr. President, here we are on June 30, in the bright sunshine of the day at 3:50 p.m., prepared to send a responsible product to the House of Representatives that has the ability to reach the Governor's desk to be enacted and ensure that the services that so many expect from this Commonwealth are funded and that the taxpayers are protected. So, as House Bill No. 611 moves onto its voyage to the House of Representatives, we will see where they go, what they do, and how they react. But this institution, this Chamber, is demonstrating to the people of Pennsylvania that we are here, we are prepared to do our business, we are prepared to complete the business of this Commonwealth. We are prepared to do it in a bipartisan fashion, and further demonstrating that divided government does not need to be dysfunctional government. I ask for support of this very important legislation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to House Bill No. 611. This is the budget bill for this upcoming year and, unfortunately, this budget proposal fails to adequately fund public education, fails to provide full financial support for many critical human service programs that are utilized by many of our residents across our State in every county and every Senate district, and it even fails to address the critical funding needed to ensure sustainability and reliability of our 911/988 dispatch systems and emergency personnel that use these systems to answer calls in times of life, death, and emergency.

Mr. President, when the Governor outlined his budget proposal back in March, the running theme was: we are going to work together. And today's proposed budget jammed in at the final hour yet with a known deadline--it is always interesting to me how everyone rushes to turn in their homework late--and, in this final hour, that there is no meaningful bipartisan collaboration. And to be clear for the public's awareness, having official Senate voting meetings that the public cannot view due to the lack of livestream; having negotiations off the livelihood of people we represent; and increases and new programming dollars for harmful programs backed by special interest and religious groups shows that this budget is indeed a failure to serve the public. While our Caucus was only given a few short hours to review the documents for this \$46-plus billion budget plan funded by the people of this State, the taxpayers of this State, the people who we all represent, I think it is important to highlight some of the many deficiencies within House Bill No. 611.

Proposed funding for rape crisis centers and domestic violence programs in House Bill No. 611, a zero percent increase, zero. And with all the talks of high inflation and how that raises the cost of operations, that also impacts our rape crisis centers and domestic violence programs. A flat-funded zero percent increase is essentially a cut. With demands on local service providers at an all-time high, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, PCADV, requested a \$4 million increase for the 2023-24 fiscal year network of 59 local service providers who provide lifesaving support services for victims of domestic violence 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Because of an increased need across our State, some requests for help could not be fulfilled. During a 2022 single day service count, PCADV programs served over 3,000 victims and nearly 400 service requests were unmet because of the lack of financial resources available to these programs. Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and their children in our Commonwealth, and housing stability is often the number one request from domestic violence victims in Pennsylvania. Of the nearly 400 unmet service requests, 166 were for emergency shelter. Also, staffing for these programs--these are people who do the hard work and are paid very little--retention of staff at a time when families are trying to put food on the table, pay bills, raise a family, pay off student loan debt, it is near impossible mathematically to be paid as any sort of human service worker in this Commonwealth because your paycheck does not cut the budget, it does not have enough dollars. So, this budget proposal has a zero percent increase for these lifesaving programs.

The proposed funding in House Bill No. 611 for public education will cause a reduction for special-ed funding for seven school districts in our Commonwealth, including the Philadelphia School District. And as I said last night, we have a constitutional responsibility to adequately fund public education. This budget doubles down on school privatization by funding a new tuition voucher program with over \$100 million for that program alone in addition to increasing existing EITC by \$100 million. All while cutting Level Up funding for our schools that need it the most, cutting Ready to Learn Block Grants, and cutting school safety and security funding. Giving a voucher to one student in an area while leaving the next kid behind is not adequate public education. It is not a system that is fair or equitable. We have to invest in public education, and this budget proposal in front of us is a simple divestment from our public education system, privatizing quality education for the few that can access it. Now is the time--actually a long time ago was the time--to fix our crumbling, toxic school buildings, ensure our teachers are paid fully and fairly, and ensure that all students have an opportunity to reach their full potential and our public education system as required by the Constitution. This current budget does none of that.

This budget also fails to advocate for the funding necessary for 911 and 988, top priorities of all counties we represent no matter if you are in a red or blue district. I have been told time and time again throughout this budget process that this will be run in a code bill, the 911/988 funding increase will be in this bill, and now, I learned today that it is being put off until the fall. I guess I would say that is: just imagine if we all came in here one day and we were told that we are not going to deal with how you all are going to be paid--you know, the paycheck you use for your family--we are going to deal with that in the fall. And you know what? We are not going to adjust it for inflation, or cost-of-living increases. Well, but wait, that is already in the law that we get that as legislators. So, if you feel good about going home and letting all of our 911 dispatch people who work their tails off hearing horrific things on the phone just hang out for the summer, wait to see what happens, wait for this body to take action, yeah, I cannot do that. I do not feel good about that at all, because 911 and 988 is not a partisan issue. Republicans. Democrats. Libertarians. every single person in this Commonwealth may and can use those resources. They save lives. I cannot wait to see everybody's photo ops over the summer with first responders. Cannot wait.

Also, this budget proposal is really a failure to fund many human service programs. Not investing in the people who we represent is a failure of government. It is not a responsible budget. It is gross negligent of what elected officials are supposed to do. What everyone in this Chamber took an oath to do was fight for the people they represent, make sure they have what they need. That could have been done in a bipartisan manner, but instead, this budget is packed full of the wish list for some of the for-profit special interests that have tried to dismantle many of our public human service systems in this State and the country. Considering we have a historic amount of money in our reserves right now, we have over \$5 billion of revenue surplus; we have over--I do not even know now--in the Rainy Day Fund, billions more. And it is pouring on the people of Pennsylvania. I guess House Bill No. 611 says we are just going to make you wait a little bit longer to be bailed out of the flood or give you an umbrella or give you a nice place that is dry and warm. Just shiver in the rain a little bit longer, the struggle is okay. Because as long as it is done on time, we can check the box. This budget is not based on need, it is based on simple: get it done, have it our way. And for those reasons, I encourage my colleagues to stand up for the public, for the people, and vote "no" on this plan to divest from Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise just very briefly to state where I believe we are with respect to final passage of a product, a General Appropriations bill, today and in the future what it looks like. I think, clearly, both sides could make arguments that there are very positive aspects in the legislation, and we can argue, as we just heard from my colleague, that there are a number of shortcomings that appear that are not in this particular budget. But what I think we have to come to grips with is that whatever a final product looks like, to get to the Governor's desk it has to have agreement from three parties: certainly, the Senate Chamber; the House Chamber; and the Governor. And while there may be some very positive aspects in this particular budget--and the shortcomings, as I mentioned--what I think is important is the message that we received from the Governor--I think some of you may have seen it as well--and it essentially is that this does not represent--this budget, House Bill No. 611 in its current form--does not represent a final agreement. And as the Governor continued, a budget cannot make it to the Governor's desk without agreement from both Chambers, and there is still work to be done to solidify a commonsense budget that addresses the pressing needs and pressing issues facing our Commonwealth. Mr. President, at this point in time, we are not there with that commonsense, a consensus budget, and more work needs to be done. For those reasons, I am asking my colleagues not to support this current version of House Bill No. 611 and ask for a negative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I will be brief and be consistent with the comments that I made in the Committee on Appropriations. At 4 p.m. on June 30, we are still not ready, and we stand in a state of unreadiness to support this bill, this document that is in front of us right now. There is just too much unfinished business. There are just too many facts and details that have still not been revealed to us, that still need to be negotiated, that still need to be discussed in order for us to be in support of, let alone approve and vote for, the budget for fiscal year 2023-24. Consistent with what my colleague, my Leader, Senator Costa said a few moments ago, in a statement by the Governor released at approximately 2 p.m. this afternoon, in short now, I will paraphrase: this document does not represent a final agreement. This document embodied in House Bill No. 611 does not represent a final agreement. It is time for us to come back together--maybe to take a very short pause and catch our breath and get ourselves refreshed after a long week's worth of work--come back together and conclude this business with all parties at the table to have a successful negotiation and put together an agreement that is complete in both broad scope and in fine detail. I ask the Members, both on this side and the opposite side, to vote "no" on House Bill No. 611.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Mr. President, I am not going to take much time here today. I think that Senator Pittman has done a terrific job of outlining how we worked, and you are going to hear from Senator Martin, but I will say, we are a divided government. We have a Republican Senate, we have a Democratic Governor, and a Democratic House. We are a divided government. We are all not going to get everything we want, and we all are going to need to give more than we want. This is a caring budget. We worked closely with the Governor, and we listened to his priorities. He listened to our priorities, and it is a thoughtful, caring budget. It does care for people as well as the economy and the fiscal house that we all live here in Pennsylvania. You know, I have heard some things that, you know, we did not do enough of for some areas. We did a lot. Not every single line item can be increased every year, not every single line item, but we took care of people. There is money for indigent defense. There is money for free breakfast and lunch for kids. We took care of people in the budget. It is not just all numbers; it is just not all numbers that we can throw at each other. Every single one of us can look through this budget and find something we do not like, including me, and say I am not going to vote for it because of that, and that is okay. That is everybody's prerogative. But overall, this is a very strong, good budget for Pennsylvania. Thank you. I encourage a "yes" vote on this.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes, for a second time, the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Muth.

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I will be super quick, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak quickly to correct one thing I said, that the EITC program is \$150 million. I believe I said \$100 million, and I wanted it to be accurate based on this proposal that we were given. And then also something I forgot to mention, as I said, we were reading through this quickly, and I should have made it in bold font. But there is a \$2 million increase in this proposed plan for anti-abortion so-called crisis pregnancy centers that do not require actual healthcare providers to work at them. So, I just wanted to make that note for the public since it is their dollars funding these programs.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I rise to support House Bill No. 611, which is the 2023-2024 General Appropriations bill before us. When we began the budget process back in March, we were faced with a monumental task of creating a spending plan that achieved the priorities of all parties without damaging our financial position going forward. We heard a lot of talk about how the State coffers were overflowing with cash. There was also no shortage of suggestions on how to spend it, but all this talk masked a harsh reality. Our budget has a structural deficit. Emergency funding from the Federal government helped keep our heads above water during the pandemic, but it did not change the fact that the State is spending more money than it is taking in. Thankfully, we have made sound fiscal decisions over the past several years to mitigate the worst impacts of this deficit. We resisted calls to spend one-time money on recurring expenses, and we are better off today because we made those hard choices in prior years and avoid massive budget holes in our upcoming budgets. Other States have made very different decisions. The Wall Street Journal recently detailed some of the challenges these States face. Our neighbors to the north in New York face a \$36 billion shortfall over the next 3 years. Our neighbors to the east in New Jersey saw a 55 percent plunge in income tax collections and a 44 percent drop in corporate taxes last month. And in California, they face a whopping \$32 billion budget deficit this year alone. Again, we made different choices, and we are better off today for the choices we made when we faced difficult circumstances.

So, why is this all important? Because we face similar circumstances today, and we need to make sound financial decisions to put ourselves on firmer financial footing going forward. That is exactly what this budget achieves. Instead of spending beyond our means and creating impossible circumstances in future budgets, we are acting responsibly. We are continuing to build our Rainy Day Fund, which generated \$160 million in interest this year alone, to hedge against any future economic downturn that threatens our Commonwealth. And we are stretching out our existing fund balance to keep our budget in the black, not just next year, but for the next few years. Perhaps even more noteworthy is all we were able to accomplish within that fiscally responsible framework. We are including PASS scholarships to help lift kids trapped in failing schools. We spoke a lot about this last night, and I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Philadelphia, for having the courage and passion to lend his voice in support of the bill. At the end of the day, these scholarships are not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue. It is about helping the kids who need it the most, who are trapped in failing schools, achieve the best educational outcomes.

At the same time, we are making monumental investments in our public school system. This includes more than \$560 million for basic education funding, the largest increase in history, matching what Governor Shapiro requested as part of his budget request. It is worth noting that the amount of new dollars for our K-12 schools is about 6 1/2 times greater than the amount of money dedicated to PASS scholarships, 6 1/2 times greater. Anyone who tells you this budget shortchanges our kids in public schools needs to explain why that amount is not enough. That does not include the record \$125 million in funding to ensure safe and healthy schools or the \$100 million in mental health or the hundreds of millions of new dollars in other programs. When it comes to supporting our kids in our schools, PASS scholarships make up less than one-tenth of all new dollars dedicated to education, less than one-tenth. Keep that in mind when someone tells you you are somehow diverting too much money from public schools. There is not one cent being diverted away from public education to form this critical lifeline to our most desperate families and children.

Equally important is how this budget helps young people train for good-paying careers and attracts quality employers to Pennsylvania. We face tremendous economic and demographic challenges in PA. The only way we tackle those challenges is by growing our economy and encourage more families to stay here, get jobs here, get mortgages here, and build a life here. We are continuing to phase out the job-killing corporate net income tax. We are adding tens of millions of dollars for workforce development, job training, and career and technical education. We are working to eliminate permitting delays and cut through reams of government red tape. We are sending a strong message with this budget that Pennsylvania is open for business, and we are ready to compete in a 21st-century economy. We are also addressing infrastructure challenges by getting State Police funding out of the Motor License Fund, including a schedule that will completely phase that funding out by the fiscal year 2026-27. Eventually, that will make an estimated \$500 million more available for road and bridge projects. This was a key priority for many of us and our Governor, and it will make a world of difference in our ongoing efforts to strengthen our infrastructure.

All of these achievements are only possible based on our diligent work with the Shapiro Administration. It is a testament to what we can accomplish when we set partisanship aside and work together for the people we represent. We have spent the last few weeks negotiating a spending plan with the Governor and his team. That process involved a lot of give and take. There are things in this budget that I am not thrilled about and things I am sure others are not excited to see either, but that is the key in all of this. We compromised, and we are about to vote on a bipartisan budget agreement that strikes at the heart of good government. This great work also would not have been possible without the incredible efforts of my Capitol staff. In particular, my thanks go out to our Committee on Appropriations team led by executive director John Guyer and assistant director Tom Horan. On a side note, I would also like to announce that John and Tom were recently honored as recipients of the 2023 Legislative Staff Achievement Award by the National Conference of State Legislatures and National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices. This well-deserved honor speaks to their incredible dedication to this institution, and I appreciate their incredible depth of knowledge and work ethic, not just in the past several months, but throughout their entire careers. I would also like to thank the rest of our Senate Appropriations team for all the work they have done over the last many months with our team members of Senator Pittman and Senator Kim Ward's office.

Finally, I could not be more proud to work with my fellow Leaders, President pro tempore Kim Ward and Majority Leader Joe Pittman, as well as the Governor and his team as we look to find common ground. This year's negotiations were like no other, and I have been honored to work by their side to achieve our goals and keep our Commonwealth on the right track. When we pass the budget, it is more than numbers or programs or line items. It is also about people. We can never lose sight of that. I am thankful that we developed a budget that the people of Pennsylvania can be proud of, one that shows, as you have heard before, that even though we have divided government, we do not need to be dysfunctional government, and I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill today.

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-29

Argall Aument Baker Bartolotta Brooks Brown Coleman Culver	DiSanto Dush Farry Gebhard Hutchinson Langerholc Laughlin	Martin Mastriano Pennycuick Phillips-Hill Pittman Regan Robinson	Rothman Stefano Vogel Ward, Judy Ward, Kim Williams, Anthony H. Yaw
		NAY-21	

Boscola	Dillon	Kane	Saval
Brewster	Flynn	Kearney	Schwank
Cappelletti	Fontana	Miller	Street
Collett	Haywood	Muth	Tartaglione
Comitta	Hughes	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Costa	-		

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate return said bill to the House of Representatives with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendments in which concurrence of the House is requested.

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

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

#### MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 15, 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, Robert Lee Mitchell, 112 Third Street, Jefferson 15344, Greene County, Forty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Education, to serve until October 1, 2028, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Jonathan Peri, Glen Mills, resigned.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

June 8, 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, C. Kim Bracey, 827 South George Street, York 17403, York County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Ophelia Chambliss, York, whose term expired.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, BUTLER COUNTY

June 16, 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, Maura Palumbi, Esquire, 110 Vista Ridge Lane, Valencia 16059, Butler County, Forty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Butler County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable William R. Shaffer, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, CENTRE COUNTY

June 16, 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, Julia Rater, Esquire, 614 Devonshire Drive, State College 16803, Centre County, Thirty-fifth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Centre County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Pamela A. Ruest, resigned.

> JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, LACKAWANNA COUNTY

June 16, 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, Frank Ruggiero, Esquire, 130 Lakeview Avenue, Greenfield Township 18407, Lackawanna County, Twenty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Lackawanna County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Vito P. Geroulo, mandatory retirement.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

June 16, 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, Chesley Lightsey, Esquire, 110 West Mount Pleasant Avenue, Philadelphia 19119, Philadelphia County, Fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Robert P. Coleman, resigned.

> JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

June 16, 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, E. Natasha Taylor-Smith, Esquire, 6405 North Sixth Street, Philadelphia 19126, Philadelphia County, Third Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas,

Philadelphia County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Lori A. Dumas, resigned.

> JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

June 16, 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, Samantha Williams, Esquire, 3901 Brandywine Street, Philadelphia 19104, Philadelphia County, Seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Leon W. Tucker, resigned.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

June 16, 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, Kay Yu, Esquire, 1901 Callowhill Street #829, Philadelphia 19130, Philadelphia County, First Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Mia R. Perez, resigned.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE

June 12, 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, Catherine Udekwu, 1431 North Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh 15206, Allegheny County, Thirty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Medicine, to serve until November 16, 2024, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Nazanin Silver, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

> JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, Lisa Caulfield, 936 Braddock Road, Pittsburgh 15221, Allegheny County, Forty-third Senatorial District, for

appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Allegheny, Magisterial District 05-2-08, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Thomas P. Caulfield, resigned.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, Charles D. Jonas, 9 Candytuft Road, Levittown 19057, Bucks County, Sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Bucks, Magisterial District 07-1-08, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable John J. Kelly, Jr., resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, David Beyer, 184 A Frame Road, Ebensburg 15931, Cambria County, Thirty-fifth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Cambria, Magisterial District 47-3-07, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Frederick S. Creany, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, Brian Subich, 511 Duwell Street, Johnstown 15906, Cambria County, Thirty-fifth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Cambria, Magisterial District 47-1-01, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Michael J. Musulin, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, Brenda Hess Williams, 15 Glen Alice Lane, Bloomsburg 17815, Columbia County, Twenty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the Counties of Columbia and Montour, Magisterial District 26-3-02, to

serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Richard W. Knecht, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, William Wilt III, 155 Oak Street, Danville 17821, Montour County, Twenty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the Counties of Columbia and Montour, Magisterial District 26-3-04, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Marvin K. Shrawder, resigned.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, Jeffrey Gadley, 10102 Sadie Lane, Girard 16417, Erie County, Forty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Erie, Magisterial District 06-3-08, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Christopher MacKendrick, resigned.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, Kirsten Gardner, 214 South Market Street, Muncy 17756, Lycoming County, Twenty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Lycoming, Magisterial District 29-3-03, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Jon E. Kemp, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, Todd Barnes, 1227 Markley Street, Norristown 19401, Montgomery County, Seventeenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County

of Montgomery, Magisterial District 38-2-09, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Gregory Scott, resigned.

> JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 2023

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL - SENATE

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, Robert E. Madden, 504 Summit Avenue, Jenkintown 19046, Montgomery County, Fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Montgomery, Magisterial District 38-1-02, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Elizabeth McHugh Casey, resigned.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, Scott Zeigler, 3 Banyan Street, Selinsgrove 17870, Snyder County, Twenty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the Counties of Snyder and Union, Magisterial District 17-3-03, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable John H. Reed, resigned.

> JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

## NOMINATIONS LAID ON THE TABLE

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

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

### **EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS**

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Senator BARTOLOTTA,

That the Senate do now resolve itself into Executive Session for the purpose of considering nominations made by the Governor.

Which was agreed to by voice vote.

#### NOMINATIONS TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I call from the table certain nominations and ask for their consideration.

The Clerk read the nominations as follows:

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 15, 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, Robert Lee Mitchell, 112 Third Street, Jefferson 15344, Greene County, Forty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Education, to serve until October 1, 2028, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Jonathan Peri, Glen Mills, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

June 8, 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, C. Kim Bracey, 827 South George Street, York 17403, York County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Ophelia Chambliss, York, whose term expired.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE

June 12, 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, Catherine Udekwu, 1431 North Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh 15206, Allegheny County, Thirty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Medicine, to serve until November 16, 2024, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Nazanin Silver, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, Lisa Caulfield, 936 Braddock Road, Pittsburgh 15221, Allegheny County, Forty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Allegheny, Magisterial District 05-2-08, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Thomas P. Caulfield, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

#### June 16, 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, Charles D. Jonas, 9 Candytuft Road, Levittown 19057, Bucks County, Sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Bucks, Magisterial District 07-1-08, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable John J. Kelly, Jr., resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, David Beyer, 184 A Frame Road, Ebensburg 15931, Cambria County, Thirty-fifth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Cambria, Magisterial District 47-3-07, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Frederick S. Creany, resigned.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, Brian Subich, 511 Duwell Street, Johnstown 15906, Cambria County, Thirty-fifth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Cambria, Magisterial District 47-1-01, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Michael J. Musulin, resigned.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, Brenda Hess Williams, 15 Glen Alice Lane, Bloomsburg 17815, Columbia County, Twenty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the Counties of Columbia and Montour, Magisterial District 26-3-02, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Richard W. Knecht, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, William Wilt III, 155 Oak Street, Danville 17821, Montour County, Twenty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the Counties of Columbia and Montour, Magisterial District 26-3-04, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Marvin K. Shrawder, resigned.

> JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, Jeffrey Gadley, 10102 Sadie Lane, Girard 16417, Erie County, Forty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Erie, Magisterial District 06-3-08, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Christopher MacKendrick, resigned.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, Kirsten Gardner, 214 South Market Street, Muncy 17756, Lycoming County, Twenty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Lycoming, Magisterial District 29-3-03, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Jon E. Kemp, resigned.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, Todd Barnes, 1227 Markley Street, Norristown 19401, Montgomery County, Seventeenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Montgomery, Magisterial District 38-2-09, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Gregory Scott, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

## **LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL — SENATE**

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, Robert E. Madden, 504 Summit Avenue, Jenkintown 19046, Montgomery County, Fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Montgomery, Magisterial District 38-1-02, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Elizabeth McHugh Casey, resigned.

> JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

June 16, 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, Scott Zeigler, 3 Banyan Street, Selinsgrove 17870, Snyder County, Twenty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the Counties of Snyder and Union, Magisterial District 17-3-03, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable John H. Reed, resigned.

> JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

> > Santarsiero

Schwank

Stefano

Street Tartaglione

Vogel

Yaw

Ward, Judy

Ward, Kim

Williams, Anthony H. Williams, Lindsey

Saval

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

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

#### **YEA-50**

Argall	Culver	Langerholc
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin
Baker	DiSanto	Martin
Bartolotta	Dush	Mastriano
Boscola	Farry	Miller
Brewster	Flynn	Muth
Brooks	Fontana	Pennycuick
Brown	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill
Cappelletti	Haywood	Pittman
Coleman	Hughes	Regan
Collett	Hutchinson	Robinson
Comitta	Kane	Rothman
Costa	Kearney	

## NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

## NOMINATIONS TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I call from the table certain nominations and ask for their consideration.

The Clerk read the nominations as follows:

#### JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, BUTLER COUNTY

June 16, 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, Maura Palumbi, Esquire, 110 Vista Ridge Lane, Valencia 16059, Butler County, Forty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Butler County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable William R. Shaffer, resigned.

> JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, CENTRE COUNTY

June 16, 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, Julia Rater, Esquire, 614 Devonshire Drive, State College 16803, Centre County, Thirty-fifth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Centre County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Pamela A. Ruest, resigned.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, LACKAWANNA COUNTY

June 16, 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, Frank Ruggiero, Esquire, 130 Lakeview Avenue, Greenfield Township 18407, Lackawanna County, Twenty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Lackawanna County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Vito P. Geroulo, mandatory retirement.

> JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

June 16, 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, Chesley Lightsey, Esquire, 110 West Mount Pleasant Avenue, Philadelphia 19119, Philadelphia County, Fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common

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Pleas, Philadelphia County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Robert P. Coleman, resigned.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

June 16, 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, E. Natasha Taylor-Smith, Esquire, 6405 North Sixth Street, Philadelphia 19126, Philadelphia County, Third Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Lori A. Dumas, resigned.

#### JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

June 16, 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, Samantha Williams, Esquire, 3901 Brandywine Street, Philadelphia 19104, Philadelphia County, Seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Leon W. Tucker, resigned.

> JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

#### JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

June 16, 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, Kay Yu, Esquire, 1901 Callowhill Street #829, Philadelphia 19130, Philadelphia County, First Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Mia R. Perez, resigned.

> JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

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

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

## **YEA-50**

Culver Argall Aument Dillon Baker DiSanto Bartolotta Dush Boscola Farry Brewster Flynn Brooks Fontana Brown Gebhard Cappelletti Haywood Coleman Hughes Hutchinson Collett Comitta Kane Costa 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 two-thirds majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative. Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION RISES**

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I move that the Executive Session do now rise.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

#### SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

#### **TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2023**

2:30 P.M. EDUCATION (public hearing on "Student Alvernia Univ. Opportunities for Success")

540 Upland Ave. Reading

PA Furnace

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY Allegheny 911 Ctr. 10:30 A.M. PREPAREDNESS (S) and VETERANS 150 Hookstown AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY Grade Road PREPAREDNESS (H) (joint public hearing on Coraopolis Senate Bill No. 792; House Bill No. 843; and urban search and rescue teams)

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023

10:00 A.M. AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (S) Russell E. Larson and AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS Agricultural (H) (joint informational meeting regarding 2023 Research Center Federal Farm Bill) Red Barn Annex 2710 West Pine Grove Rd.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise because today marks 6,200 days-let me repeat that--6,200 days since this legislature last passed an increase in our minimum wage. Today is the day, Mr. President. Our Commonwealth, by midnight tonight, is required by law to have our budget in place, which lays out our Commonwealth's fiscal roadmap for the next year. Just a few moments ago, we passed House Bill No. 611, the budget for the coming year. And just like every year for the last 17, we have failed to meet some of the most basic mandates, including raising the minimum wage. At its core, the minimum wage is intended to establish a baseline standard for living workers. A means to ensure that individuals who work fulltime can meet their basic needs, support their families, and live with dignity. However, Mr. President, the current minimum wage falls far short of achieving this goal, leaving workers trapped in a cycle of poverty and struggling to make ends meet. Raising the minimum wage, we can reaffirm the principle that all work has value and that no one should be forced to do work that will keep them in a cycle of poverty.

Mr. President, we must recognize that individuals who work and contribute to the economy deserve to be compensated fairly and provided with the means to live fulfilling lives. Raising the minimum wage is not just an economic issue, it is a moral imperative. We need to raise our minimum wage, however, Mr. President, not just because it makes good economic sense; we must raise our minimum wage because it is a moral imperative. We need to show Pennsylvanians and the world that our Commonwealth understands all work requires a dignified wage and that no Pennsylvanian should live in poverty when working a full-time job. Senate Bill No. 12 addresses these concerns, puts Pennsylvania's workers on a path to \$15 an hour, and ensures Pennsylvania's low-wage earners never again have to wait 17 years for this legislature to act to provide an increase in their wage. Pennsylvania workers deserve better. Pennsylvania workers deserve Senate Bill No. 12.

Thank you, Mr. President.

#### SENATE AT EASE

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, may we be at ease, and for the information of the Members, we expect no further votes this evening.

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will briefly be at ease. [Senate was at ease.]

## HOUSE MESSAGE

## HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in the resolution from the Senate, entitled:

## SR 136.

## **RESOLUTION SIGNED**

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Austin A. Davis) in the presence of the Senate signed the following resolution:

SR 136.

## **BILLS SIGNED**

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Austin A. Davis) in the presence of the Senate signed the following bills:

## HB 614, HB 615, HB 616, HB 617, HB 618, HB 619, HB 620, HB 621, HB 622 and HB 1031.

## 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 Monday, September 18, 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 6:14 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.