

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023

SESSION OF 2023 207TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 45

SENATE

TUESDAY, October 17, 2023

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Kim L. Ward) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend MALACHI VAN TASSELL, president of St. Francis University, Loretto, offered the following prayer:

Mindful that God is in our midst, we recollect in a moment of silence [pause], and we pray.

Most high, all good, glorious God, we offer You praise for the beauty of creation. We marvel at Your magnificence and give You thanks for Your kindness, mercy, and love. Your created world is a reflection of Your goodness to us. Lord, please bless all who gather in this Chamber. Inspire them in their noble task to work for the common good of all citizens. Grant them wisdom, knowledge, and understanding as they deliberate and legislate. In all that they do, may they devote themselves entirely in heart and soul. May the work of their minds, hearts, and hands yield a harvest of unity, peace, and joy. We offer this prayer to You, who are the Author of all life who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair thanks the Very Reverend Van Tassell, who is the guest today of Senator Judy Ward and Senator Langerholc.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

2022 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CONSTABLES' EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

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

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
3101 North Front Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

October 16, 2023

Dear Governor Shapiro and the Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly:

I am pleased to submit for your consideration and review the Constables' Education and Training Board's 2022 Annual Report. As required by Title 44 Chapter 71, §7144(12), the Annual Report features the accomplishments of the year, including the activities of the Board and the costs of the program and its administration. This year's report highlights the Board's accomplishments.

The successes contained within this report would not have been possible were it not for the members of the Constables' Education and Training Board. Their leadership was instrumental in overseeing the implementation of several new policies and programs that have improved training, and thereby enhanced public safety for the Commonwealth. Their efforts are recognized in this report, and I thank them for their service.

On behalf of PCCD's Commissioners and staff, I thank you for your continued support of our role in training constables and deputy constables throughout Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Lieutenant Governor
AUSTIN A. DAVIS
Chairman

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

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator BAKER, from the Committee on Judiciary, reported the following bills:

SB 55 (Pr. No. 1169) (Amended)

An Act amending Titles 23 (Domestic Relations) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in child custody, further providing for definitions, for award of custody, for factors to consider when awarding custody, for consideration of criminal conviction, for guardian ad litem for child, for counsel for child and for award of counsel fees, costs and expenses; and, in Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, providing for child abuse and domestic abuse education and training program for judges and court personnel.

SB 959 (Pr. No. 1168)

An Act amending the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known as The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, further providing for authority to control.

Senator REGAN, from the Committee on Law and Justice, reported the following bills:

SB 646 (Pr. No. 682)

An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in benefits, providing for supplemental annuities for certain State Police officers commencing 2023.

SB 854 (Pr. No. 1010)

An Act amending the act of December 14, 1988 (P.L.1192, No.147), known as the Special Ad Hoc Municipal Police and Firefighter Postretirement Adjustment Act, providing for 2024 special ad hoc municipal police and firefighter postretirement adjustment; in financing of special ad hoc adjustment, further providing for reimbursement by Commonwealth for 2002 special ad hoc adjustment; and, in administrative provisions, further providing for municipal retirement system certification of adjustments paid and of reimbursable amounts and for municipal receipt of reimbursement payment.

SB 882 (Pr. No. 1031)

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in Pennsylvania Liquor Stores, further providing for sales by Pennsylvania Liquor Stores.

HB 38 (Pr. No. 27)

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations and liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, further providing for applications for hotel, restaurant and club liquor licenses and for application for distributors', importing distributors' and retail dispensers' licenses.

HB 1160 (Pr. No. 1295)

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in licenses and regulations and liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, further providing for sales by liquor licensees and restrictions, for retail dispensers' restrictions on purchases and sales, for breweries and for unlawful acts relative to liquor, malt and brewed beverages and licensees.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Gebhard and Senator Regan, and legislative leaves for Senator Coleman and Senator Langerholc.

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Kearney and Senator Lindsey Williams.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Pittman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Gebhard and Senator Regan, and legislative leaves for Senator Coleman and Senator Langerholc.

Senator Costa requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Kearney and Senator Lindsey Williams.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journal of the Session of June 27, 2023, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of June 27, 2023.

Senator PITTMAN. Madam 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-49

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journal is approved.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Gebhard has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

**GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN M. DiSANTO
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator DiSANTO. Madam President, I rise today to introduce an outstanding group of athletes, the Hershey Bears American Hockey League Team. I am sure many of you have had an opportunity to take in a game at the Giant Center in Hershey during one of your evenings when we are in Session; and if you have not, you must, because they have a fantastic venue, and in my view, the most dedicated fan base around. On June 22, the Bears captured their first national championship since 2010 with a 3-2 overtime victory over the Coachella Valley Firebirds, winning the Calder Cup final series, 4 games to 3. This is their 12th Calder Cup in franchise history. Now, those people in Coachella are nice, but they should stick with music festivals, I believe [laughter]. The Bears began their new official season this past Saturday, and we are pleased they made time between practices to join us today for this recognition.

We have with us: vice president, communication and corporate relations, Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company,

Garrett Gallia; VP, Hersheypark and entertainment operations, Vikki Hultquist; VP of hockey operations, Bryan Helmer; Head Coach Todd Nelson; assistant coaches, Patrick Wellar and Nick Bootland; video coach, Adam Purner; goalie coach, Juha Lehtola; and manager of media relations and broadcasting, Zack Fisch. Several players are also in attendance here with us today: captain Dylan McIlrath; assistant captains, Aaron Ness and Mike Vecchione; Logan Day; Ethen Frank; Hendrix Lapierre; Vinny Iorio; Jake Massie; Julian Napravnik; Henrik Rybinski; Mike Sgarbossa; Hunter Shephard; Joe Snively; Matt Strome; Riley Sutter; and Bogdan Trineyev. We are also joined by additional Bears staff: Dillon Filepas, Kyle Harris, Shawn Fliszar, Max Finley, Jesse Liebman, and Kyle Mason. Please join me in welcoming the 12-time and currently reigning Calder Cup champions, "your Hershey Bears!"

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the Senate please rise and welcome Senator DiSanto's guests.

[Applause.]

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Kearney has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

GUEST OF SENATOR JUDY WARD PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator J. WARD. Madam President, I would like to introduce Father Malachi Van Tassell, president at Saint Francis University, as our guest Chaplain today. Father Malachi assumed office back in 2014. Under Father Malachi, Saint Francis has worked to keep education affordable and accessible to students. Father Malachi is a member of the NCAA Division I Presidential Forum, member and past chair of the Northeast Conference Council of Presidents, and a member and past chair of the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities. Previously, Father Malachi served as Minister Provincial of the Sacred Heart Province and Chairman of the Board of Franciscan University. He spent 12 years at the university as an assistant professor of accounting.

Father Malachi professed vows as a Franciscan in 1999 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2004. He has a Ph.D. in higher education leadership from Capella University and a master's degree in taxation from Arizona State University and an undergraduate degree in accounting and Spanish from Franciscan University. A certified public accountant, he worked for Coopers & Lybrand in Phoenix, Arizona, and Arthur Andersen in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as a tax accountant before he became a Franciscan. Under the leadership of Father Malachi, Saint Francis University has continued to thrive. He has been a true blessing to the university and the students who call Saint Francis home. Please join me in giving a warm Senate welcome to my friend, Father Malachi. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guest of Senator Judy Ward please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR JAY COSTA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming here, again, to the Senate of Pennsylvania students from the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. They are in the audience here today. Founded in 1869, the WPSD is a nonprofit, tuition-free school that provides high-quality educational services, a wide variety of athletic opportunities, and robust extracurricular programs for deaf and hard-of-hearing children from kindergarten through grade 12. Through the years, WPSD has equipped thousands of its students for a successful life after graduation and has empowered them to be able to reach their dreams. WPSD alumni are employed in a wide variety of fields across the Commonwealth and across the country and today are making a positive impact across society. Today, WPSD is proud to serve deaf and hard-of-hearing students throughout all of western Pennsylvania and also across the Commonwealth as the largest comprehensive center for deaf education in the State. Today, visiting the Capitol to learn more about the branches of Pennsylvania government--and quite frankly, they have a fun day outside of the classroom--is an eager group of middle school students from sixth, seventh, eighth grade at WPSD. Today, we are welcoming 10 students to Harrisburg to learn more about our government. I would like to first welcome my two constituents who are here, Anya and Isabella, but also welcome Angela, Raelee, Josue, Adiel, Trevor, Kalilah, Dominic, and Bailey along with their teacher, our former coworker, Matt Campion, who is here joining them. Mr. [Madam] President, please allow all of us to give our warm Senate welcome to the WPSD students and do so by waving our jazz hands.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guests of Senator Costa please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

["Jazz hands" sign language applause.]

GUEST OF SENATOR JAY COSTA AND SENATOR JAMES R. BREWSTER PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, today I rise to provide remarks on behalf of one of Pennsylvania's longest-serving, truly remarkable public servants, who I had the privilege of knowing for three decades, that is John Dindak, the Mayor of West Homestead. Mayor Dindak retired recently, and today myself and my colleague Senator Jim Brewster will provide brief remarks. Mayor Dindak was not able to join us today, but our hope is that we will soon spend time with him to share our remarks and provide a Citation that has been put together. But after more than 53 years in local government, first starting out as a councilman and then later becoming mayor, Mayor Dindak was instrumental in many of the things--particularly during a time in our country, during the 1980s, when communities like ours in western Pennsylvania saw the collapse of the steel industry. Many of you have been to Pittsburgh and no doubt have been to The Waterfront in Pittsburgh where stood the great Homestead Works and many

other steelworks that had been there. Mayor Dindak, along with two other tremendous, small-town mayors who equally served with distinction, Mayor Betty Esper and Mayor Ray Bodnar, served those communities and really were faced with a significant challenge, what to do with these mill sites that had been there for decades and decades and were a significant part of our American history, what to do with those mill sites. Working along together, each of them working together, along with my then-colleague, former colleague here, Senator Mike Dawida, as well as County Commissioner Bob Cranmer at a later point in time, they all began to work together to develop what is now known as The Waterfront—which is really an economic engine of the Mon Valley community, or Steel Valley communities—as you know, is a place that now has housing, it has manufacturing, it has retail, it has anything you need to have in a community along those lines, that has been part of it. And Mayor Dindak, along with the other mayors who I mentioned, were instrumental in that.

But not only that, Mayor Dindak served his country. He was a Navy officer for a number of years and then came back home to serve, as I mentioned, the community there. I had the privilege of working with Mayor Dindak in a variety of ways, and I can tell you that he was always one looking out for the opportunity to better his community. And whether it be securing or trying to secure resources for a new municipal building, which he was successful. And by the way, I would be remiss if I did not mention the work he did with our good colleague from the other side of the building, State Representative Harry Readshaw, who worked closely—and many of you in this room know Representative Readshaw, know the gentleman he is. But that all being said, we had the chance to work with Mayor Dindak on a variety of grants for the fire company, for the police company, for the municipal building, for the streets, you name it; his heart was to better West Homestead. And not only is he a tremendous and true public servant, but his family has followed in line, along those lines, with him by virtue of the work that his son has done as the fire chief, John, but also family members who are sprinkled throughout the West Homestead and Steel Valley community. So, I just stand here to say thank you, John, for the great service that you provided to West Homestead, but also to the region in terms of the Steel Valley community and wish you tremendous success in your retirement.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Brewster.

Senator BREWSTER. Madam President, I too stand to make a few remarks for Mayor Dindak. As a former mayor of McKeesport, I always harken back to the corridor, Clairton, Duquesne, McKeesport, Whitaker, Munhall, Homestead, and West Homestead. Those are the communities—for those of you who are not familiar with that part of Pennsylvania—that were really, as others, were damaged by the shutting down of the steel industry in the early eighties. And the point that I wanted to make on behalf of the mayor, if you look at Mayor Krivacek from Duquesne, Mayor Bodnar from Munhall, Mayor Esper from Homestead, and Mayor Dindak, you are talking about 130 years of public service as mayors all within a mile of each other. And with the loss of almost 40,000 jobs in the Mon Valley—anyone that has been a mayor, I am sure there are some in this room—that is a herculean effort when you are trying to deal with the loss of

industry. West Homestead went from 4,000 to 2,000 people, not a big community, okay, but there were other communities throughout that corridor that lost a lot more. But together with the people I just mentioned and other mayors, they were able to do two things. When you are mayor—for those of you who have been mayors—you plow the snow, you fill the potholes, okay, you tear down the blight. But at the same time, concurrently, you have to figure out where your community is going to be 10 years from now and 20 years from now. And who would have thought in 1983 when the mills started to go down, that we would have that small episode called the Great Recession in 2008. When we could not meet payroll, we could not pay police in these communities, all this was going on back-to-back. Go through there now—for any of you who have ever been to Kennywood Park—and from Kennywood down along the river, the Steel Valley Trail, part of the Great American trail comes through that corridor, from Clairton and West Newton all the way down to Pittsburgh. So, you still have to go through these little towns to get to the big dog, right?

That is what Mayor Dindak and his colleagues did. When I became mayor, they were about halfway through their term. I used their wisdom. I used them as mentors, and together they were able to put The Waterfront, Sandcastle, reinvent their communities, rebuild their tax base, and be self-sustaining. Now, they did that with the help of those of us here in the General Assembly, and that is why I had to speak on behalf of Mayor Dindak, because local government—and I have this friendly debate with folks here, governors, Senators, Representatives—we need them. Mayors meet everybody at the funeral homes, the ball games, the grocery stores, that is where you get the request. And then good mayors, they elevate that to the folks who are sitting in this room, and you make it happen. We need to make sure that people always realize that it is a joint effort by everyone. So, on behalf of thousands of people and West Homestead community, on behalf of all those communities, I want to thank Mayor Dindak for his commitment and his vision and his tenacity, visiting people who move in, even to this day, to say hello, that is what local government is about. So, thank you, Mayor Dindak, and good luck in your retirement.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guest of Senator Costa and Senator Brewster please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR SCOTT F. MARTIN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator MARTIN. Madam President, it is my pleasure to introduce to the Senate, Millersville University's Men's Baseball Head Coach Jon Shehan. I want to congratulate Coach Shehan for his stellar 16-season career and to recognize his many accomplishments, including recently being honored as the 2023 NCAA Division II Atlantic Region Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association and ATEC Sports. This is the fourth time he has earned this distinction.

Millersville's 46 victories in 2023 were the second-most in program history, finishing the season as the number 6th-ranked team in the nation. This was Coach Shehan's sixth time winning

4 [40] or more regular season games. He has amassed a career record of 557 wins and 259 losses, leading my alma mater to the longest active championship appearance streak in the Atlantic Region with 11 appearances. To his great credit, he ranks 13th among active Division II coaches and 25th all-time with a .682 career-winning percentage.

I want to thank Coach Shehan for the impression he has made on the Millersville community. He coaches the principles of sportsmanship and fair play with skill and dedication to each of the young men on his team. His commitment to professionalism and his enthusiasm for athletics has made him a true role model. And in true Marauder fashion, and knowing Jon, he would also give great credit to his coaching staff as well. He is joined today by his fellow Marauder coaches, Ryan Kramer and David Baker. I ask my colleagues to please join me in welcoming Coach Jonathan Shehan and his staff to the Pennsylvania Senate.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guests of Senator Martin please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

The Chair recognizes, for a second time, the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Martin.

Senator MARTIN. Madam President, I rise today to introduce a very special guest to the Senate, the newly crowned 2023-2024 Pennsylvania Dairy Princess, a constituent of Senator Argall, Alexis Butler. Alexis joins us in the Senate gallery today alongside Brady McClintock; Carrie Anderson, her program director; her sister, Alison; her father, Ted; and her mother, Tonya Butler, who many in this Chamber also know as a member of my Committee on Appropriations team.

The first Dairy Princess from Schuylkill County, Alexis is currently a junior at Pine Grove Area High where she participates in archery club, serves as chapter president of her FFA, and serves as the junior class president. She also works at a local dairy farm where she feeds calves and milks cows. When she is not working hard at school or on the farm, she enjoys sewing, singing, and spending time with her family and friends. Alexis was selected after competing in a variety of categories which involved speeches, presentations, a radio spot, and poster display promoting dairy products. In her new role, she will travel across Pennsylvania educating the public on the benefits of dairy products, the farm-to-store process, and the daily life of a dairy farmer. Alexis plans to potentially earn a degree in an agricultural-related major, possibly attending cosmetology school, or potentially both. Regardless, her parents are extremely proud of her and excited to see what the future holds for her. I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Alexis Butler and her family to the Pennsylvania Senate.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guests of Senator Martin rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR NIKIL SAVAL PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator SAVAL. Madam President, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome members of the Consular Corps Association of

Philadelphia to the Pennsylvania Senate. The Consular Corps Association of Philadelphia is the oldest association of its kind in the United States. The Consular Corps focus is on assisting its members to develop and build on relationships with U.S. institutions, including local, State, and Federal government institutions; educational, medical, profit, and nonprofit and non-government organizations; and with the various companies that serve the needs of immigrants and nationals from each of its countries.

The organization currently has 81 members representing countries around the world. Its newest members include diplomats representing Morocco, Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago, Kazakhstan, and Iceland. Consular Corps members are always working on building mutually beneficial relationships with Pennsylvania-based businesses. These relationships include traditional trade relationships, both import and export, but also investment partnerships and market development opportunities. Today, joining us here in Harrisburg are nearly two dozen ambassadors, consul generals, and honorary consuls who serve as members of the Consular Corps. Please join me in extending to them our usual warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guests of Senator Saval please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR GREG ROTHMAN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cumberland, Senator Rothman.

Senator ROTHMAN. Madam President, I am pleased to introduce the faculty and staff from Shippensburg University, who are seated in the gallery this afternoon. Shippensburg University, located in Cumberland County in the 34th Senatorial District, is an important institution of higher education in our Commonwealth, educating and preparing more than 4,000 undergraduate and graduate students each year for in-demand careers.

Led by President Charles Patterson, today's guests are part of the President's Leadership Academy. This academy connects 14 faculty and staff who take part in bi-weekly sessions over the course of the academic year. These sessions promote, foster, and support professional development, contributing to greater overall success at Shippensburg University. The President's Leadership Academy has been gracious enough to visit with us today while touring the Capitol and engaging in various other meetings in Harrisburg. These faculty and staff here today represent the hard-working Ship educators who equip and lead the future of Pennsylvania. Please join me in giving the faculty and staff of Shippensburg University a warm Senate welcome this afternoon.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guests of Senator Rothman please stand and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR KRISTIN PHILLIPS-HILL PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Madam President, I am so pleased to rise to welcome the 2023 U.S. American Miss Junior Princess, Olivia Mummert, from Hanover. Olivia competed at the U.S.

American Miss National Pageant on July 30 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Wowing the judges with her impressive interview skills, Olivia spoke passionately about her love for community service and her own personal charity project, Olivia's Helping Heart. Collecting over 35,000 [3,500] cans of food for New Hope Ministries over the last 2 years, Olivia continues to give back to her community every day, and she hopes to exceed that number in 2024, having thousands more items for donation to New Hope Ministries.

Olivia would not be where she is today if it was not for the support of her family. Seated in the gallery with her today are her parents, Rachel and Christopher Mummert. When we asked her about her title, she said, "I was so happy to be the winner after all of this hard work to get there. I hope I made everyone proud." Olivia, you have made us all so proud. Would my colleagues please join me in welcoming the 2023 U.S. American Miss Junior Princess, Olivia Mummert, and her family to the Senate of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guests of Senator Phillips-Hill please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

GUEST OF SENATOR JUDY SCHWANK PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator SCHWANK. Madam President, in a long day of inviting guests to the Senate, I am very proud to add one more in terms of a student intern who we have in our office this term. My intern, Ella Mahon, is a senior at Kutztown University, majoring in social work and minoring in case management and sociology. In my office, she is assisting my district office staff with constituent services and learning more about the inner workings of State government. In addition to her schoolwork and interning, Ella is a volunteer English second language instructor, helping refugees learn conversational English. After she graduates, Ella plans to pursue a master's degree in social work and would like to continue working with refugees resettling in the United States. Madam President, please join me in giving this wonderful intern, who has hit the ground running in our office and certainly serving in so many welcome capacities, let us offer her a warm welcome to the Pennsylvania Senate.

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

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR SHARIF T. STREET PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator STREET. Madam President, today I rise to welcome my fraternity brothers, the brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Kappa Alpha Psi is a collegiate Greek letter fraternity founded on January 5, 1911, at Indiana University Bloomington. The fraternity has over 150,000 members with 700 undergraduate and alumni chapters in every State in the United States and international chapters in the United Kingdom, Germany, Korea, Japan, the Caribbean, Saint Thomas, Saint Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, Nigeria, Bermuda, Canada, Dubai, the Dominican

Republic, and South Africa. But the international headquarters is in the world's greatest city, the City of Brotherly Love right here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The motto is "Achievement in Every Field of Human Endeavor," and the brothers are here to express their thoughts and positions on many issues, talk with Members, and encourage folks to be more civically oriented. I ask the Senate to recognize the men of Kappa Alpha Psi, my fraternity. Brothers, please rise.

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

[Applause.]

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS MEETING PURSUANT TO SENATE RULE 9

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

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to Senate Rule 9, as a special order of business, the Committee on Appropriations will meet off the floor in the Rules room immediately while the Senate continues with the introduction of guests. The Senate will be at ease momentarily while the Members of the Committee on Appropriations report to the Rules room.

[The Senate was at ease.]

GUEST OF SENATOR JUDY WARD PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator J. WARD. Madam President, I would like to introduce a promising young man from my district, Marklin Myers. Marklin currently lives in Altoona and is a senior at Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School. He is looking to pursue a double major in political science and psychology and then hopes to attend law school. His top schools are currently Duquesne, Dickinson, and Penn State. To help prepare himself for this, Marklin is getting ready to begin an internship at the Blair County Courthouse, shadowing Judge Elizabeth Doyle. In his spare time, he enjoys playing volleyball, spending time with family and friends, and hunting with his grandfather. He also enjoys community service, and for the second year, he has volunteered at the Out of the Darkness Walk at Lakemont Park. As you can see, Marklin has a bright future ahead of him, and I wish him the best in these future endeavors. Will you please join me in giving Marklin a warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guest of Senator Judy Ward please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Lindsey Williams has returned, and her temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

GUESTS OF SENATOR CAROLYN T. COMITTA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator COMITTA. Madam President, I rise today to welcome Shreya Vaidhyanathan and Aryan Rana, who are serving as interns in my West Chester district office. Both are students at Conestoga High School in the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District in Chester County. A senior at Conestoga, Shreya serves as managing editor of the school newspaper, "The Spoke;" president of the speech and debate club; and she is a member of student government. In June, Shreya joined us here in the Capitol to speak at a press conference on legislation I introduced to empower student journalists and support responsible journalism in our schools and communities. She noted it was one of the proudest achievements of her high school career thus far, in addition to earning her first-degree black belt in Tang Soo Do.

Aryan is also a senior at Conestoga High School with an interest in finance and entrepreneurship. Aside from his studies, Aryan is involved in multiple business ventures. He founded Market Works Finance, a company dedicated to helping people to make educated financial decisions, and he is chief financial officer at Beyond Boundaries Apparel, a streetwear clothing company. Aryan aspires to promote a stronger public understanding of financial literacy and ensure financial education and tools are accessible to all young individuals in America. My staff and I are very excited to have Shreya and Aryan join our team this fall. We look forward to continuing to work with them, hearing their perspectives, and harnessing the unique skills and experience they each bring to the job. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Shreya and Aryan.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guests of Senator Comitta please rise for a warm welcome by the Senate, and Tang Soo.

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR CAMERA C. BARTOLOTTA ON BEHALF OF SENATOR ELDER A. VOGEL PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Madam President, unfortunately, Senator Vogel could not be here today and asked for me to give remarks on his behalf. Madam President, we have quite a large group of fourth and fifth graders from Beaver County Christian School with us today in the gallery, and they are constituents of Senator Vogel and Representative Josh Kail. This is just north of my senatorial district in Beaver County as well. Joining them are their chaperones, Ms. Rachel Witterman, who teaches fourth grade; and Ms. Molly Polka, who teaches fifth grade. During their visit today, they have gotten to observe both our Chamber and the House Chamber and see how our legislature operates. I hope they enjoy the rest of their day today and will enjoy the rest of their time here in our beautiful Capitol building--the most beautiful in the country, by the way--and I ask my colleagues to offer their usual warm Senate welcome to these incredible students.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Would the guests of Senator Bartolotta and Senator Vogel please rise for a warm welcome by the Senate.

The Senate will be at ease.

[The Senate was at ease.]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SENATE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

Senators SANTARSIERO, SCHWANK, ROBINSON, COSTA, HUGHES, COLLETT, FONTANA, DUSH, ROTHMAN, CAPPELLETTI, L. WILLIAMS, PENNYCUICK, KEARNEY, BROWN, BOSCOLA, LAUGHLIN, DILLON, CULVER, KANE, BREWSTER, A. WILLIAMS, ARGALL, COMITTA, MILLER, PHILLIPS-HILL, BAKER, STREET, TARTAGLIONE, FLYNN, LANGERHOLC and FARRY, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 191**, entitled:

A Resolution condemning the unprovoked terrorist attack launched by Hamas against the State of Israel on October 7, 2023, during the sacred Jewish Sabbath, also known as Shabbat; and expressing deep condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives as a result of this senseless act of violence.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Santarsiero.

Senator SANTARSIERO. Madam President, my ancestors came to these shores from Italy and Ireland, so it is probably not a shock when I say that I am a Jew by choice, that is to say I converted to Judaism. Growing up, I had a number of friends who were Jewish, but I never fully appreciated what it was for them to be part of so small a minority in our community. When I got to law school, I met a young woman named Ronni Fuchs and fell in love. And I am happy to say, 30 years later, she is still the love of my life. When Ronni and I decided to start a family, we decided that we were going to raise them Jewish, but I still had not taken the step of converting, and frankly, Ronni did not care whether I did or did not. It was only until our kids got to the age of their B'nai Mitzvah that I decided that I was going to convert. And, yes, I did it in part because Judaism appealed to me as an ethical guideline to life, to do things, good works, to make the world a better place. But I must say that the main reason that I chose to convert was because I knew that the day was coming when my kids, who have grown up in a little bubble of love in our community, would confront the ugliness of antisemitism, and I wanted them to know that when that day came, that as their father, I stood publicly with them and their mother.

Jews make up a tiny fraction of the human population on this planet. Over the millennia, Jews have been persecuted in whatever society they have lived in, subjected to the cruelest treatments from discrimination, the massacres, to the planned mechanical and widespread genocide that was the Holocaust. Sadly,

as we stand here in 2023, we cannot say that antisemitism is a thing of the past no more than we can say that racism is a thing of the past. I have never been to Israel. I hope someday that I will have that chance. But I have been to a small city in south-central Poland that the Poles called Oświęcim but is better known to us and the rest of the world by its Germanic name, Auschwitz. No one need visit any other place to understand why there is a need for a Jewish state in Israel. Time and again, throughout history, the Jewish people have found themselves in situations where no one has had their back. Time and again, they have seen that they needed a place of safety. Indeed, to paraphrase the late mayor of New York City, Ed Koch, Israel has been that place, that life raft for a people who all too frequently have needed it, and that, sadly, is no less the case today. Today, all of us in the Jewish community feel vulnerable in the wake of these barbarous attacks. That vulnerability is a result not only of coming to grips with and comprehending the nature of these atrocities and seeing these images and hearing these stories, knowing that people were murdered and knowing that people were kidnapped and even now being held against their will and likely as human shields in any retaliation. No, not only that but also as a consequence of some of the reaction here at home. Rallies in New York City, and I am sad to say, on some college campuses that in the best case sought to draw a false equivalency between these atrocities and the desire of Palestinians to have their own country. And in the worst case, actually celebrated this barbarism using Nazi symbols like the swastika, have been a deliberate attempt by some to minimize the magnitude of the evil that has been perpetrated by Hamas. Some do this knowing full well what they are engaged in, a campaign of propaganda; but others, like many of the college students do it, I believe, out of sheer ignorance of the history, the history of Israel and the history, for that matter, of Jews in America.

Indeed, some of these young people perpetrate antisemitic tropes not knowing; not knowing that during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and the 1960s, many if not most of the white people who marched with Dr. King and other leaders of the movement, who rode the buses as Freedom Riders throughout the South, and indeed, 2 of the 3 young people murdered in Mississippi in June of 1964, were Jews. Indeed, let us pause to say their names: James Chaney, an African American; Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, Jewish Americans from New York City. I am amazed that many of our young people, self-described progressives, are unaware of this history. And if there is any silver lining in this horrible, horrible tragedy, it is perhaps that we can begin to educate them and start that discussion. Indeed, my wife was amazed—I think she might have seen it in a newspaper or perhaps online—a photo of a young college student with an LGBTQ tee shirt that said something to the effect that he or she stood with Palestine. I wonder whether that young person knows that as an LGBTQ youth, they would not be accepted in the Gaza controlled by Hamas, or for that matter, in most of the Middle East. There is one place where they would be accepted, where their rights are protected, and that is in the democracy of Israel. Israel's democracy is not perfect, we have seen that over the last year. Neither is ours. But in all those protests we saw over the last 6 months or so, hundreds of thousands of Israelis protesting the so-called judicial reform, along with those Israeli flags were often pride flags. Something that I think perhaps some of these young people either forgot or never saw. Now the response, the response

to these horrible attacks of October 7 by some has been a call for de-escalation. In the case of some Members of Congress has been a call for a ceasefire. Indeed, what is happening in Gaza right now, and what is likely to happen in Gaza if there is an invasion by the IDF, has been described as an unfolding humanitarian crisis, and that surely is what it is and what it will be.

War is, by definition, a humanitarian crisis. And that, that is why we should always do everything we can to avoid war. Indeed, my late father, who was a veteran of the United States Army during World War II and fought in the Battle of the Bulge, frequently said that anyone who has been in battle, anyone who has been through a war, hates it and knows that it should be avoided at all costs. But when a sovereign nation is brutally attacked, unprovoked attack, deliberately aimed at civilians, it has a right, no, a duty to defend itself. That duty is all the more urgent for the State of Israel because the very existence of that Jewish state that is so necessary, as history has shown, is at stake. And as Americans, we should understand this; innately, we should understand this. No one was calling for de-escalation or a ceasefire after Pearl Harbor. No one was calling for de-escalation or a ceasefire after September 11. Why? Because everyone understood that in both cases we had been attacked, and we had every right to defend ourselves and to defend democracy and everything that we hold dear. Hamas has a different agenda. As I said a moment ago, they have taken hostages. They fully intend to use those hostages as human shields. They have used their own people and continue to use their own people as human shields.

Right now, the Israeli military is planning their next step, and I am sure an important part of that plan is to do everything it possibly can to minimize the loss of innocent civilian lives. And that, of course, is the irony here, because between the two parties in this conflict, only Israel has that concern. Hamas, actually, is doing everything in its power, as it has, to create more civilian casualties. Why? Because that will aid it in its propaganda moving forward. This is an important moment for the Jewish people; for many of us who have been at odds with the current government in Israel, but who nonetheless have been steadfast in our support of Israel even before this attack and will continue to be; for the Israeli people themselves, whose very existence has been a struggle since day one and will continue to be a struggle until a lasting peace is ultimately arrived at. And I believe that peace is possible. It is the unfortunate casualty of this conflict that perhaps the day of reaching that peace will be further delayed. That the discussions on a peace agreement with Saudi Arabia, the United States, and Israel may be put off for a bit, and that I am sure was part of the intention of Hamas. But I, like many American Jews, fervently hope that one day there will be peace, two States living in peace, side by side, both prosperous. But that day will not be achieved under the rule of a terrorist group whose very charter dedicates it to the destruction of the State of Israel.

This is, as I said, a time when many of us in the Jewish community feel vulnerable. So, a resolution like this, while it has no legal effect on the policy of the United States of America or any other country, is nonetheless a strong statement not just to the people of Israel, but to the American Jewish community that this body stands with them, that it condemns the barbarous attacks that were undertaken and the actions that Hamas continues to this moment, and that there is a recognition, a recognition that the State of Israel is that important place for the Jewish people that

cannot be allowed to be destroyed. I fervently hope for better days. We are in difficult days now, and they will get more difficult in the weeks and months to come, and there will be more people who rise up and speak out against Israel. We have to be ready, and we have to gird ourselves for that. But standing together today and making this statement, I hope all of us with one voice, that helps us. It helps us in the Jewish community, and I am sure it helps our brothers and sisters in Israel and the families who have lost loved ones in this horrible, horrible tragedy. I am proud, Madam President, to stand with my dear friend and colleague Senator Judy Schwank in offering this resolution. Her leadership with Representative Frankel and our Jewish caucus here in the General Assembly has been invaluable, and I am grateful for her service to our Commonwealth, but more importantly, for her example as someone who stands up for our people. I ask for a unanimous vote in favor of this resolution.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator SCHWANK. Madam President, I too rise today to express my support for Senate Resolution No. 191. On Saturday, October 7, not only the Jewish Sabbath, but also a joyous religious holiday, Shemini Atzeret, Israel was brutally attacked by Hamas, a terrorist organization based in the Gaza Strip. Hundreds of terrorists stormed over 20 Jewish settlements and kibbutzim in southern Israel, savagely murdering men, women, children, toddlers, and babies in such barbaric ways that mere words cannot describe it. We now know over 1,400 Israelis were killed, thousands more were wounded, and in a terrifying statement of their murderous intentions, the terrorists took roughly 200 innocent people, again, including children, infants, and disabled elderly hostage. This has been the worst incidence of violence inflicted on the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Israelis and Jews in the United States and elsewhere are in a state of shock, deeply traumatized, and grieving not only the loss of life, but the loss of a way of life.

As the details of this horrific attack unfolded, nations throughout the world affirmed the right of Israel to defend itself. Across the globe, it became clear that Hamas had one goal: to cause terror, death and destruction, and the end of the State of Israel. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has had close ties with Israel, from trade councils and technology exchanges to religious missions. In my own trip to Israel, I was able to see some of the agricultural research that they have done, amazing work that we have actually adopted in the United States as well. And in response to what has happened, Jewish communities all over Pennsylvania quickly responded to the crisis and organized vigils for the victims of the attacks and to reaffirm our support for the Israeli people. Hundreds of people of all races, nationalities, and faiths attended the solemn events and stood in solidarity with the State of Israel. Thus, it is fitting and appropriate that the Senate of Pennsylvania also express its support for the State of Israel and its right not only to defend itself, but merely to exist.

The resolution before us today does not ask us to pledge fealty to one side of this conflict. It does not ask us to side with one religion over another, and most certainly, it is not intended to incite hate or target anyone other than the group that carried out this heinous attack. This resolution condemns the acts of Hamas and expresses support for the people of Israel who are still reeling

from this assault launched during a holy day. Perhaps most importantly, this resolution calls on the United States government to do all it can to help broker an honorable peace, with justice, that brings an end to bloodshed and allows for all people to live with safety and security. Madam President, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of this Senate Resolution, and I will end with an anthem that I think many of you have heard over the past week or so: "Am Yisrael Chai!" That is Hebrew for "the people of Israel live." Thank you.

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

Senator HAYWOOD. Madam President, I rise to vote for this resolution but also share something that some of my colleagues are aware of that many may not be. I was scheduled to visit Israel and Palestine beginning October 12, 5 days before the horrific, unimaginable Hamas attack [sic]. I could have been killed, taken hostage, or unable to get out. I have the deepest sorrow for the victims held in Israel, their families. These events have been immensely tragic--Israel, Palestine, and in America. In America, I went to service at Reform [Congregation] Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park Friday night. There was a tremendous fear of antisemitic attacks here in the United States. That morning--afternoon, actually--I attended service at the North Penn Mosque in Lansdale--also a tremendous fear of retaliation, antisemitic retaliation, Arab American retaliation, fear. Hostages are still being held, a humanitarian crisis may be unfolding, and my hope is that somehow, we can get the peace; that we can get to coexisting so that individuals can live together by racial differences, ethnic distances, faith differences; and we can see the human dignity in each of us. I want to thank Senator Santarsiero and Senator Schwank for their leadership.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Madam President, I rise out of a requirement for humanity. I will not necessarily talk about foreign policy and the struggle in the Middle East, I will be very direct. The person who was raised in a family that was involved in the Civil Rights Movement in this country, it taught me a lot of things about who I was and how to react to circumstances in a way that did not turn me away from this country but, frankly, required me to engage people in this country. The wonderful thing about the General Assembly and being in the Senate is that we are--whether we like it or not--we are at some point in time, probably in a lunchroom with someone who we do not know much about, and their activity, their lifestyle, their hobbies, we discover are kind of similar to ours. We want to have a family that is at peace. We want to have an opportunity to have shelter. We want to provide experiences that are memories for our families. And that allows us to understand that you may be Polish, Irish, Italian, Black, African American, Latino, Jewish, whatever it is, but we are all Pennsylvanians, and we desire similar things. This moment, it has captured international attention. It is not about simply Israel and Palestine. It is not simply about Jews and those who do not like them. It is about humanity. If we do not face that reality that there are people who are different than us and approaches are different than us, then we are not doing our due diligence. I am standing here because I have friends who have died in Israel as a result of murderous terrorists. I am not apologizing for describing it for

what it is because that is who they are and what they did. And there is no challenging it as suggesting it is something other than what it is. It is not resistance, it is murder. And some of my friends who are Jewish in a minority are smaller than me and do not feel the security and safety as an American, let alone as an Israeli.

So, I offer myself as a blanket, as an African American man who understands what the consequence of being different and not liked simply because you are different. But not only that, because I have been a benefactor of people who do not look like me, who fought for me, who have allowed me the opportunity to be present, included, and seen, and amongst them are certainly my friends who are Jewish. I hope that all of us understand that we are walking a dangerous path in this country. I heard about slavery; I read about slavery; I heard about it in my household; I read about the Holocaust--which did happen--I had friends who talked about it, but I never thought I would be in a lifetime where I saw such hatred and division involved in us that would take me back to those memories and begin to think about the possibility that we actually could claim that space. My friends, we are there. This is not just simply a declaration against those people who murdered innocent human beings. This is a declaration about what this country should stand for, liberty and justice for all. And those who do not agree, you do not tolerate; do not tolerate it. And when it happens to someone else, we stand up for them because whether we like it or not, we are brothers and sisters chained by a Constitution that allows the liberty of all of us to express ourselves. And because our friends overseas are now under attack by a murderous crew, we should come to their defense. There should not be a question about it; there should be no negotiation about it; there should not be any amplification of the reasons behind it. It is simply those who will murder other people will be served justice, and we will be a part of that with no apology.

I am grateful that we have taken up the time for this resolution because there are not enough hours in the day, enough days in the week, not enough weeks in the month, and enough months in the year to talk about what we have to get done in this country. And it is an event which represents what we really need to focus upon. I am so sorry for my friends who lost their loved ones, grandmothers and grandchildren slaughtered just simply because they existed--on video in ways that were repeated in memories of people who are here. That pain will never leave us. I pray that they rest in peace, and I pray that those who are left behind find some level of peace and that, most importantly, they find some comfort that those of us who may not be from their tribe are part of their family. God bless.

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

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Madam President, I will be very brief. I have heard people speak of Israel, and many people are so incredibly passionate. It is very moving to me, and even those who have never been there, but I have been there. I was there in February of 2019, and I spent 2 weeks there. We visited--my husband, Bill DeWeese, and I were in Israel in 2019. He had been there seven times prior. He had been there in 1981, 1983, 1984, many, many times. He worked on a kibbutz in Ramat HaKovesh with his dear friends Sara and Yosi Rosenbaum. And when we were there in 2019, we were able to stay there for a few days before going on a trip. Interestingly enough, it was a culinary trip through Israel. We traversed the entire country, which is not very

large, I mean, it is about the size of New Jersey, I think, but filled with the most remarkable, diverse people I have ever met. I have also become friends with--he is now a dear friend of mine--Gideon, many of you may have been visited by him this week. He lives in Tel Aviv, and he came here to talk with us about a certain project, but he has become a dear friend, and the stories he has told me and the images he has seen and the stories he has seen are absolutely gut-wrenching. Things are happening in Israel right now to the people there that truly, truly are things you can never get out of your mind. I stand with Israel; I stand with the people of Israel; I stand with the families who are here in America that are so terribly worried about their loved ones, their safety, and those who have tragically been slaughtered--really, that is the word for it. I am grateful that there are resolutions today in support of Israel and condemn the attack of Hamas. So, I thank our colleagues on both sides of the aisle today because this truly is completely a bipartisan effort and acknowledgment. And our deepest prayers go to our dear friends in Israel.

Thank you, Madam President.

LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Rothman has returned, and his personal leave is cancelled.

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

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I rise to add my voice to the voices--the eloquent voices, I should say--of our colleagues to support for the people of Israel who have lost loved ones due to the horrific Hamas attack. Our 43rd Senatorial District, which I call home, is home to a very vibrant community of Jewish individuals and people who, quite frankly, was rocked to its core in 2018 when a gunman murdered 11 worshippers. I have had the distinct honor and privilege, and I have been humbled to enjoy the support of folks in the community of the 43rd Senatorial District, specifically, the Squirrel Hill community, which I just mentioned, suffered that horrific loss in 2018. And many of these individuals I continue to call my friends. They were my classmates; they are our neighbors. Today I join them once again, however, and grapple with the violence, with the death, and horrific acts of hatred. Weekends ago, as we heard, over 1,100 Jewish men, women, and children were killed in a horrific attack. I stand here today, certainly, to condemn the horrific act, the horrific loss of life, of Israel, but more importantly to reaffirm my strong belief that Israel must be allowed to defend itself.

The scope of loss is hardly fathomable, and I can only begin to understand the depth of the grief that the folks have been experiencing. While Israel may seem to be a world apart, the Jewish and Israeli communities in Pittsburgh in my district and in Pennsylvania and across this country are grieving a catastrophic tragedy, and I am here to support them in this unprecedented moment of anguish and uncertainty. May the memories of the lost be a blessing, and may we all condemn antisemitism in all of its forms as we begin to heal from this deep sorrow. I want to thank my colleagues for their eloquent remarks and certainly thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for allowing the opportunity

for this resolution and the subsequent resolution to be considered here today on the Senate floor and ask my colleagues to join all of our colleagues together in saying "yes" in supporting this resolution.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

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

YEA-49

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The resolution is adopted.

Senators MASTRIANO, PHILLIPS-HILL, MARTIN, ROTHMAN, PENNYCUICK, LANGERHOLC, BROWN, LAUGHLIN, CULVER, BAKER, ROBINSON and FARRY, by unanimous consent, offered **Senate Resolution No. 185**, entitled:

A Resolution condemning the recent Hamas attacks and expressing condolences and support for the State of Israel and its people in opposition to barbaric terrorism.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator MASTRIANO. Madam President, our Commonwealth shares a splendid and special relationship with Israel going back generations, and Israel was granted its independence in 1948 by a consent of the United Nations. Not too many years thereafter, the Pennsylvania National Guard stood side by side with Israel. During the Land for Peace negotiations in the Sinai with Anwar Sadat, the Pennsylvania National Guard frequently, and even recently, deploys to the Sinai Peninsula as part of the ongoing international peacekeeping mission to ensure that the 1978 Camp David Accords are enforced. Our relationship with Israel with our Commonwealth goes deep, as well as with our people. My own family was blessed to visit Israel. I have been to the Wailing Wall and prayed there several times. We stood at the Valley of Elah where King David--then a young shepherd boy--fought Goliath, walked where Jesus walked, stood on the Golan, stood side by side with soldiers of the IDF on the Jordan border

and even near Gaza at Ashkelon; special people chosen and blessed by God.

On October 7, the world witnessed one of the most heinous terrorist attacks in the world's history. These sorts of things are rare in modern times, especially making it tragic that many Israeli families were at rest on Shabbat, which coincided with the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah, on the heels of Sukkot, as well as not too long after Yom Kippur. I do not think we have any comparative American holidays, how solemn and holy and family-oriented those days are and how special they are. The horror on 7 October began at a music fest not too far from Gaza, where young men and women from Israel, and from around the world for that matter, were gathered to dance and have fun. The fun soon sadly turned to horror as Hamas gunmen on motorcycles, paragliders, and on foot stormed the festival grounds and began shooting, indiscriminately, everybody they came in contact with. They brutally raped women and took so many, as we have seen tragically on video, as hostages. Almost 300 were massacred just at this festival alone. The road outside of the festival grounds were littered with bodies and burned-out cars of those trying to escape that tragic situation. That alone turned my gut--somebody with 30 years in uniform being in Bosnia and Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan--it is too much to see and to hear the stories, the tragedy. But it did not end there.

The terrorists proceeded with further bloodshed, attacking the communal towns nearby. Families in these communal towns--known as kibbutz--were under attack, rushed into their safe rooms for protection or their bomb shelters where groups of terrorists would break into their houses, burn the houses down, brutally shoot and maim innocent Israelis huddling together begging for their lives. And this included entire families of men, women, children, and elderly. The death toll, according to the IDF today, stands at more than 1,400 at this point--just unfathomable--with another 3,400 injured. Among the dead are at least 30 American citizens with many more still missing. Nearly 200 hostages remain--it is believed--in Hamas hands to be used brutally and as human shields. Beyond these shocking statistics are the images that we see and the stories of that day that are etched into our minds. We saw a young Jewish woman named Shani Louk who was stripped, raped, and paraded around as a trophy through the streets of Gaza--horrible, unfathomable. A camera on one of the terrorists caught an innocent festivalgoer hiding beneath his car begging for mercy being executed. A baby in a kibbutz was found charred to death, burned beyond recognition. A family of five was found embracing each other after they were executed by Hamas. This included Aviv Kutz, 54-year-old father, embracing his wife, Livnat; his daughter and their two sons--their twin sons--found dead together in Kfar Aza.

As public officials, we have a duty to condemn these recent attacks and express our condolences and support for the State and people of Israel in opposition to this barbaric terrorism. We also must support Israel's right to defend itself to eliminate the terrorist threat that Hamas poses. Why is such a resolution necessary? After the horrors of the Holocaust in World War II, many in the world said never again. Here we are 80 years later, and it seems like we have already forgotten. The tragedy is not lost on us. In America and around the world in Europe and elsewhere, rallies were held in support of the barbarism of Hamas. We heard chants, even in Pennsylvania, that the people of Israel should be driven

from the land, from the river to the sea. Where else would they go, and what does that entail? No matter where anyone lines up on these hard political issues, there is no way that it is acceptable that anyone would celebrate or join together in applauding the horrors committed by Hamas against innocent men, women, and children. My hope and desire is that we make it clear that the Senate of Pennsylvania stands resolutely with Israel, prays for peace for all, and calling on all freedom-loving people that we can stand together in the face of such evil. I respectfully ask for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator DUSH. Madam President, like the previous resolution, I stand in support of this resolution for Israel. The Reverend George Khalil was my pastor in the first 16-17 years of my life. He was a Palestinian Christian. He grew up 12 miles outside of Jerusalem. His heedings of growing up in the early 1900s in that area of the warmth and the hospitality of the people, both Jews and Palestinians, who wanted to live in peace. It was a true blessing to me and to getting to know the cultures, both their differences but many similarities. I am so grateful we are devoting so much time to this today, to stand in defense of these people who have been faced with these brutal and inhuman attacks. In Iraq, there is a place outside of Baghdad near the airport. It is called the Perfume Palace. It is where Uday and Qusay would pick up children off the streets and take them to become a harem. They are children, and I liken those actions to the bestial things that have been going on with these innocent children that have been taken by Hamas, equally as inhuman of actions as one can imagine. You know, the Father, Jehovah, never intended for this. He wants us to live in peace. But in this fallen world, we are so far from it.

Again, the culture in the Middle East, the hospitality end of that thing is just, it is in such a stark contrast to what we are seeing going on there in Israel at this time. But the Israelis have every right to defend that sovereign nation. They are a sovereign people; they are a sovereign nation. And to be attacked in this way, America needs to understand that, first of all, the religious freedoms that William Penn, the founder of this great State, brought to America and the gift that he gave us in our republican form of government. We need to make sure that we stand in support of the only place in the Middle East that has a similar type of governance and governing body. It is a place of freedom, and there are so many different things right now. There are so many competing emotions going on in me that--well, not competing, they are very similar--but competing to come to the top. I will just say this, God promised Abraham: those who bless you, I will bless; those who curse you, I will curse. And repeatedly throughout history, Esther and Malachi, when Haman plotted against Israel, the way God turned it around on them--Haman's gallows and the people who had plotted against Israel, did not turn out too well for them. My prayer, my hope, is that those who may have been in support of Hamas would have their hearts turned and changed, Madam President, and that those who, no matter what, are going to continue to rise up and try to destroy Israel, that what happened with Haman and those who worked with him have a similar result. God bless Israel. Thank you.

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

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

YEA-49

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The resolution is adopted.

As a Special Order of Business, and in the wake of the evil and indefensible atrocities committed against the people of Israel by Hamas and with unequivocal condemnation of these terroristic acts, will the Members, as well as all staff and guests, please rise for a moment of silence.

[Whereupon, the Senate en bloc stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect for the people of ISRAEL.]

RECESS

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a Republican caucus, which will be held immediately in the Majority Caucus Room.

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, Senate Democrats will meet in the rear of the Chamber for a brief caucus as well.

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

AFTER RECESS

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

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Culver, Senator DiSanto, and Senator Argall.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Schwank and Senator Santarsiero.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Culver, Senator DiSanto, and Senator Argall.

Senator Costa requests legislative leaves for Senator Schwank and Senator Santarsiero.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 22, SB 282, SB 346, HB 404 and SB 842 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 897 (Pr. No. 1095) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in licensing of drivers, further providing for schedule of convictions and points; in rules of the road in general, further providing for meeting or overtaking school bus; and imposing penalties.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Luzerne, Senator Baker.

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senate Bill No. 897. As we observe National School Bus Safety Week, we are reminded, there are too many reports of drivers ignoring the safety laws regarding school bus zones and school buses. Someone who violates the school traffic laws is fundamentally guilty of one of two offenses: aggressive or distracted driving. Neither is defensible or acceptable. Deaths and injuries are entirely preventable. There is nothing onerous in our bill or controversial in the proposed enhancements. We are looking to increasing the stopping distance, bringing our laws in line with those in many other States, forcing drivers to begin stopping actions earlier, and increasing penalties for repeat offenders.

Imagine, imagine standing with your children, waiting for them to be picked up at the school bus stop. The red lights are flashing as the bus stops, and the crossing arm is extended. You begin to let go of each of your daughters' hands and allow them to cross the street when suddenly a driver blows by, not on the left side, but on the right side, traveling partially into your own

driveway and directly through the path that your children are about to take. You pull them back just in time while the car tears off down the road, not knowing, not knowing that you were a whisper away from your children potentially being harmed seriously. This is just one of several frightening incidents a member of my staff and her family have experienced with school bus zone. And it is far too many of these near misses that we hear about from constituents, accounts that never make it into the statistics.

So, providing for greater public safety, better protecting our children, are two of the most frequently expressed goals of our Senate debates. This measure, this measure directly achieves a higher level of each. Coupled with Senator Langerholc's efforts to extend Pennsylvania's school bus stop-arm enforcement laws, Senate Bill No. 897 sends a strong message to motorists that school buses and students cannot be ignored. I would like to thank the [Pennsylvania] School Bus Association for their support and assistance with this bill, as well as the Senate Committee on Transportation chair, Senator Wayne Langerholc. So today, we take a commonsense approach to hold those who violate our school bus laws accountable, and to hold repeat offenders to a higher degree and a higher standard. I ask for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

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

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

NAY-0

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 933 and SB 934 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 941 (Pr. No. 1148) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in powers and duties of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, further providing for powers and duties and providing for regulatory flexibility during opioid epidemic.

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 Mercer, Senator Brooks.

Senator BROOKS. Mr. President, many of us in this Chamber remember a time when our communities were not plagued by prolific illicit drug use. But unfortunately, today, it has become far too common that we hear of the overdose tragedies. Almost everyone knows someone who suffers from addiction or who has lost their lives to these lethal substances. In 2021 alone, 5,168 Pennsylvanians died from an opioid overdose. Already, the 2022 data from January through September shows there were 5,356 reported overdose deaths in the State. The Department of Health estimates that the 2023 amounts will continue to climb, and on average, Pennsylvania is nearing 16 overdose deaths reported each day.

In recent years, the General Assembly has put many safeguards in place to help curtail prescription drug diversion and help combat addiction. However, treatment is a very important part of recovery, and access is the greatest pathway to treatment. But with significant workforce shortages and increased demands for treatment, we need to be thinking differently and outside the box to come up with solutions. This legislation is a vital step forward in expanding the workforce that helps people combating substance use disorders access the treatment they so desperately need. Therefore, we must take action to ensure our providers remain in our communities and help as many people as possible. Senate Bill No. 941 will help address these challenges by requiring the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to submit an annual report to the General Assembly on additional barriers to workforce recruitment and treatment. But most significantly, it provides regulatory flexibilities during an opioid epidemic that creates real solutions to the workforce shortage and directly helps those in need of treatment get access quicker, because hours and days can be a matter of life and death. It speaks volumes that Pennsylvania's two largest statewide addiction treatment provider associations have come together in collaboration, compromise, and support of the product before us today. In doing so, this bill passed the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

unanimously earlier this month. I look forward to continuing to work with our partners in the House, and the associations, to get this legislation to the Governor's desk as quickly as possible, as the need is greater than ever before. I especially want to thank Senator Yaw and Senator Tartaglione for their time and input on this legislation, and I ask my colleagues to vote in support of Senate Bill No. 941.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 941. This legislation is a product of a bipartisan understanding, an understanding that we need to do more to bolster and support our drug and alcohol addiction treatment organizations in the time of their greatest need. Senator Brooks and I have been working on ways to combat this horrific opioid epidemic for quite some time, and I thank her for her partnership on this legislation. In my district, which contains Kensington and Allegheny, I have explored creative solutions such as mobile wound units, needle exchange programs and MAT, and mobile methadone clinics as well, and directed as much funding as I could towards helping our hospitals, nonprofits, and recovery organizations serve people suffering from the disease of addiction--many of these harm-reduction measures that are vitally important in saving lives. But we also need to focus our attention on saving livelihoods. We cannot forget about recovery, that difficult but necessary end goal in combatting addiction and the lasting impact it makes on people's lives. To my colleagues, you need not look no further than me, right here, to see the importance of addiction treatment and recovery. I am 20 years in recovery from alcohol addiction and would not be speaking on this floor of this esteemed Chamber today if not for the help of drug and alcohol addiction treatment associations.

Our drug and alcohol addiction treatment associations are essential partners in the process of recovery, and they cannot be ignored in our efforts to end this epidemic. We must guarantee greater support for their work and provide pathways for those struggling with addiction to utilize their services. This legislation is low-hanging fruit to that effect and is supported by our stakeholders in the recovery community. Current regulations are preventing the hiring of qualified addiction counselors and are focusing addiction treatment centers to turn away those who make that brave and crucial step towards confronting their addiction and working on their sobriety. Senate Bill No. 941, through regulatory flexibility, will provide immediate and long-term relief to both addiction recovery providers and their patients. This legislation goes a long way towards addressing the workforce shortage currently impacting the recovery community and, as I understand, may be amended with other beneficial additions in the House that embrace the roles of lived experience in the qualifications of counselors and make it easier and less costly for recovery specialists to earn certification. I ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

NAY-0

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

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

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 210, SB 365, SB 375, SB 399, SB 563, SB 577, HB 689, SB 721, SB 723, SB 745 and SB 792 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

HB 1354 (Pr. No. 1495) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of October 24, 2012 (P.L.1209, No.151), known as the Child Labor Act, further providing for penalties.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

HB 735 (Pr. No. 1739) (Rereported)

An Act establishing the Flood Insurance Premium Assistance Task Force.

HB 1351 (Pr. No. 2124) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in public assistance, further providing for medical assistance payments for institutional care and providing for emergency transportation services and for case-mix rates for nursing facilities; in Statewide quality care assessment, further providing for definitions, for implementation, for administration, for restricted account and for expiration; continuing the Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center Authority and the Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center Fund; and making a repeal.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1

BILL AMENDED

HB 1351 (Pr. No. 2124) -- The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in public assistance, further providing for medical assistance payments for institutional care and providing for emergency transportation services and for case-mix rates for nursing facilities; in Statewide quality care assessment, further providing for definitions, for implementation, for administration, for restricted account and for expiration; continuing the Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center Authority and the Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center Fund; and making a repeal.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

PITTMAN AMENDMENT A2598 AGREED TO

Senator PITTMAN offered the following amendment No. A2598:

Amend Bill, page 4, line 11, by inserting after "OF":
the highest

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

It was agreed to.

Without objection, the bill, as amended, was passed over in its order.

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will briefly be at ease.

[The Senate was at ease.]

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 2

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. 2 and move the Senate proceed to consider House Bill No. 1351, notwithstanding the provisions of Senate Rule 12(p)(2)(ii).

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

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

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1351 (Pr. No. 2159) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in public assistance, further providing for medical assistance payments for institutional care and providing for emergency transportation services and for case-mix rates for nursing facilities; in Statewide quality care assessment, further providing for definitions, for implementation, for administration, for restricted account and for expiration; continuing the Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center Authority and the Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center Fund; and making a repeal.

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

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

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

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bills were as follows:

SB 55, SB 646, SB 854, SB 882, SB 959, HB 38 and HB 1160.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023

9:00 A.M.	STATE GOVERNMENT (public hearing on testimony from the Secretaries of State for Florida and Ohio regarding ERIC and voter list maintenance)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
10:30 A.M.	EDUCATION (to consider Senate Bill No. 7)	Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider certain Executive Nominations)	Rules Committee Conference Room

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023

12:00 P.M.	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS and GAMES AND FISHERIES (joint public hearing to discuss crop damage with the PFB and the PGC)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023

9:30 A.M.	INTERGOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS (public hearing on data sharing practices between PennDOT, Department of State and third parties)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
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PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Mr. President, with the passage of Act 1, Pennsylvania now leads the nation in helping individuals get a breast cancer diagnosis much earlier. More than 12,000 women a year are diagnosed with breast cancer in Pennsylvania. Many of us in this Chamber have been affected--either ourselves, a relative, or a friend--by this disease, and that has brought us all together. As I have often stated, the fight against breast cancer is not red or blue, it is a pink issue. It is a woman's issue. And while we have different political views, we can work together on a lot of issues, especially matters that are important to women and their families, and Act 1 proves it. Thank you, Senator Tartaglione, for your continued partnership on this issue and for being a cosponsor with me on this resolution. Senator Gebhard, thank you for championing efforts to bring greater awareness to metastatic breast cancer. And Senator Robinson, thank you for your work on the BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene testing. It is important that we do not let this silent killer take over and take lives. We cannot put off our mammograms. We need everyone in this room to go to your friends, your family, anybody, and make sure they are getting a 3D mammogram every single year.

It matters; early detection matters. This disease, if caught really early, you have a 99 percent chance it is not coming back, but you let it go a year and that number drops tremendously. So, it is important for anyone listening, mammograms do not hurt, but they may save your life. So, please join me in bringing awareness to this very, very important issue. Thank you.

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I am honored to join my friend Senator Kim Ward today in asking my Senate colleagues to join in support of Senate Resolution No. 182, which designates October 2023 as [National] Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Friday, October 20, 2023, as [National] Mammography Day in Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, nearly every family, including mine, has been touched by breast cancer in some way and knows the devastating effects this disease can have. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in the United States other than skin cancers. It is estimated to account for nearly 30 percent of all new female cancers each year. A woman's odds of getting breast cancer at some point in her life is 1 in 8. Right now, there are more than 3.8 million breast cancer survivors in the United States, including one right here in our Chamber. When detected early enough, also termed the localized stage, the 5-year survival rate of breast cancer is nearly over 99 percent. And as a legislator, we must continue to raise the awareness and enact policies that allow all women the ability to detect and receive quality treatment early. I once again ask my colleagues to join us in designating this October as [National] Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Friday, October 20, as National Mammography Day.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise because today marks 6,309 days since our Commonwealth's legislature last passed an increase in our minimum wage. In 2023, it seems fair to say it is undeniably important that we come together and raise our minimum wage. It is not merely an economic or political decision though, Mr. President. It is a moral imperative that will directly impact the lives of countless Pennsylvanians across each and every one of our districts. To understand the urgency we should be feeling, we need to look no further than Pennsylvania's border to understand that we need to raise our minimum wage.

According to a recent report from the Keystone Research Center, Pennsylvania's minimum wage lags significantly behind that of our neighboring States. While Pennsylvania's minimum wage remains at a mere \$7.25 an hour, all our neighbors have taken substantial steps to uplift their workers. New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Ohio, and even West Virginia have all increased their minimum wages, providing a much-needed boost to the livelihoods of their residents. Pennsylvania's low-wage labor market is in dire need of reform. Workers across the State are struggling to make ends meet, often working multiple jobs or leaving Pennsylvania to work the same job for a higher wage in our neighboring States. No disrespect to West Virginia or Ohio or any other of our neighbors, but we should be leaders in workers' rights, not lagging behind all of them.

Raising Pennsylvania's minimum wage is an opportunity for us to address this crisis head-on by providing a lifeline to thousands who are grappling with the burden of economic insecurity

and poverty. As we look at the disparities between Pennsylvania and our neighboring States, it becomes evident that the status quo is simply unacceptable. Our workers deserve better. They deserve fair wages, not wages that keep them stuck in the nearly unbreakable cycle of poverty. But this call for change is not just about economic fairness, it is about ensuring the well-being of our communities. Study after study shows that raising the minimum wage is linked to improved health outcomes, better social determinants of health, reduced reliance on special programs, and allowed for greater educational opportunities for workers and families. When workers earn more, they spend more on their local communities, fostering economic growth and stability. It is a win-win situation, Mr. President. When we raise the minimum wage, employees gain economic security and local businesses benefit from increased consumer spending. That is why I introduced Senate Bill No. 12, because Pennsylvania needs to be a leader in workers' rights space, not continue to fall behind as we have for the last decade and a half. Senate Bill No. 12 is right now sitting in committee waiting for a vote. And I am confident, Mr. President, that if given the chance, Senate Bill No. 12 would pass both Chambers of Pennsylvania's legislature and would be signed quickly by the Governor. Let us pass Senate Bill No. 12, Mr. President. Thank you.

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

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Mr. President, today I rise to speak on Senate Resolution No. 188, which recognizes Period Action Day on October 14. Period Action Day was first introduced in 2019 by PERIOD, a nonprofit that works to eradicate period poverty and stigma through service, education, and advocacy. It was originally named National Period Day, and in the year 2020, it was renamed Period Action Day. Period Action Day has been commemorated as a day to raise awareness of the challenges faced by menstruating girls, women, and people in this Commonwealth and around the world. About half of all residents of the Commonwealth have a period which could last between 3 to 8 days, once a month, for around 40 years. Menstruating individuals need period products such as pads and tampons to be able to go about their daily activities. Having access to such products should not be a privilege for anyone. Did you know that about two-thirds of low-income women in the United States, and more than 11 million to be precise, reported being unable to afford their period products? Half of those women report having to choose between period products and food, and 1 in 5 report having to miss school or work as a result.

No one should be unable to afford or have access to basic hygiene period products. Not being able to maintain personal hygiene because of lack of access affects their physical and mental health as well as disrupts education, job performance, and limits economic potential. We need period products to be widely available in our schools, places of work, prisons and jails, and homeless and refugee shelters. We must remember the things that some of us take for granted are things that others may consider the greatest of blessings. For those who can afford period products or those who are not menstruators, it is likely you have not thought twice about what life could be like every month without the health and hygiene products that make you feel clean, healthy, and able to function without worry or embarrassment.

While we have a long way to go, it is important to recognize that this is an issue that needs to be fixed, and I would like to take a moment to highlight legislation that I have cosponsored with Senator Collett entitled the Pennsylvania Menstrual Equity Act. This bill requires public agencies serving those who are young, low-income, homeless, or incarcerated to make period and menstrual hygiene products available at no cost. I want to thank and recognize the hard work of the activists and nonprofits that are working to combat period poverty in our Commonwealth and across this nation. I hope you will join myself and Senator Collett in recognizing October 14 as Period Action Day. Thank you.

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

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, today I rise to speak on a resolution I am introducing with Senator Cappelletti, which designates October 14, 2023, as Period Action Day in Pennsylvania. And I am proud to have partnered with Senator Cappelletti to introduce this resolution and bring some much-needed attention to the physical, social, and financial costs of simply having a period. Period Action Day, as you heard, was first recognized in 2019 as part of a growing, youth-led movement to reduce the stigma associated with menstruation and raise awareness about period poverty, defined as the lack of access to sanitary products, menstrual hygiene education, toilets, handwashing facilities, and/or waste management. Ensuring access to period products is both a public health and economic issue. As you heard my colleague say, some women and girls miss days of school or work because they do not have the products they need to productively or comfortably go about their day, or they may choose to use items like socks, toilet paper, or newspapers. And as a nurse, I can tell you just how dangerous it can be to use unsanitary substitutes. It can lead to infections and even greater long-term complications like infertility.

In honor of Period Action Day this month, my district office is collecting pads and tampons to be distributed by a local nonprofit, Mitzvah Circle. To date, Mitzvah has provided over 700,000 menstrual products to our neighbors throughout Montgomery County. And while we are eternally grateful for our nonprofit partners, there are actions we can and must take on the State level to alleviate some of this need. That is why I was pleased to introduce the Pennsylvania Menstrual Equity Act along with Senator Amanda Cappelletti this Session. Our legislation would require State-supported schools, agencies, shelters, and correctional facilities to make pads and tampons available in their bathrooms at no cost to individual users, just like they do toilet paper, soap, and hand towels. I encourage all of my colleagues to sign on so that every Pennsylvanian can tend to their basic hygiene needs with ease and dignity.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, today I rise to address the situation in Israel and Gaza. Once again, I reiterate my complete condemnation for the historic terrorist attack by Hamas on innocent civilians in Israel. I acknowledge that Israel had the right to defend itself against Hamas and that war generally has casualties. I support and encourage the Biden Administration to continue work to end terrorism and to minimize the casualties in Israel and Gaza. The lives of noncombatant Palestinian civilians are important, and humanitarian efforts to preserve all life, including the

life of innocent Palestinian people as well as innocent Israeli people, must be considered as war is waged. Our hearts go out to all of the people who mourn loss.

Thank you, Mr. President.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

RECALL COMMUNICATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

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

MEMBER OF THE CONSTABLES' EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

October 17, 2023

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated September 5, 2023, of Aaron H. Danks, 1801 North Second Street #2, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Constables' Education and Training Board, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Francis Peitz, Pittsburgh, deceased.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF TORRANCE STATE HOSPITAL

October 17, 2023

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated June 22, 2023, of Amanda Warren, 213 Locust Street, Unit 301, Harrisburg 17101, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Torrance State Hospital, to serve until January 21, 2025, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Wayne McGrew, Derry, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF TORRANCE STATE HOSPITAL

October 17, 2023

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated June 22, 2023, of Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Torrance State

Hospital, to serve until January 16, 2029, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Thomas Kissell, Greensburg, deceased.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF WARREN STATE HOSPITAL

October 17, 2023

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated September 5, 2023, of Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Warren State Hospital, to serve until January 21, 2025, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Burt Alexander, Warren, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

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

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF CLARKS SUMMIT STATE HOSPITAL

October 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Antoinette Hamidian, 13 Union Mill Road, Covington Township 18444, Lackawanna County, Fortieth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Clarks Summit State Hospital, to serve until January 16, 2029, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Warren Watkins, Clarks Summit, deceased.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE CONSTABLES'
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

October 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Joshua Stouch, 58 Amberly Court, Boyertown 19512, Montgomery County, Twenty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Constables' Education and Training Board, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Francis Peitz, Pittsburgh, deceased.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF TORRANCE STATE HOSPITAL

October 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Michael McElfresh, 160 Penn Avenue, Latrobe 15650, Westmoreland County, Forty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Torrance State Hospital, to serve until January 21, 2025, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Wayne McGrew, Irwin, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF TORRANCE STATE HOSPITAL

October 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Joni Melnick, 74 Johnson Avenue, Blairsville 15717, Indiana County, Forty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Torrance State Hospital, to serve until January 16, 2029, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Thomas Kissell, Greensburg, deceased.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF WARREN STATE HOSPITAL

October 17, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, John DiMattio, 911 Ruth Avenue, Erie 16509, Erie County, Forty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of Warren State Hospital, to serve until January 21, 2025, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Burt Alexander, Warren, deceased.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

RECESS

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

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 11 a.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 4:50 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.