

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023

SESSION OF 2023 207TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 46

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, October 18, 2023

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

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend ADAM MEREDITH, of Antrim Brethren in Christ Church, Chambersburg, offered the following prayer:

Thank you all for the honor of praying here today.

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, thank You for the privilege of approaching You in prayer. You have made the heavens, even the highest heavens, the Earth, and all that is in it, and yet You care for each one of us. How wonderful is Your love toward those You have made. And so, in that love, we ask You today for wisdom for all the decisions that are about to be made. We pray for peace, Your peace, for Pennsylvania and for the nations in the midst of a confused and troubled world. And You know that bringing that about is too great a task for us on our own, so would You help us and guide us.

Thank You for each one of these Senators and the work of service they do. And knowing that each one represents and impacts many thousands of others, we ask for Your grace to sovereignly superintend every thought, every word, every attitude and behavior, that You would lead us in the way we should go, for You are worthy of this, and it will be for our good as well as Your glory. So, I ask these things standing here in the finished work of Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Pastor Meredith, who is the guest today of Senator Mastriano.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

HOUSE MESSAGE

SENATE BILL RETURNED WITH AMENDMENTS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 694**, with the information the House has passed the same with amendments in which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The PRESIDENT. Pursuant to Senate Rule 13(c)(2)(i), the bill will be referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations.

BILL INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

October 18, 2023

Senators LAUGHLIN, A. WILLIAMS, LANGERHOLC, SCHWANK, DILLON, FLYNN, PENNYCUICK, YAW, BROOKS and BOSCOLA presented to the Chair **SB 962**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 9, 1976 (P.L.817, No.143), known as the Mental Health Procedures Act, providing for involuntary examination and treatment of substance use disorders.

Which was committed to the Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, October 18, 2023.

**GUESTS OF SENATOR
DOUGLAS V. MASTRIANO
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to introduce Pastor Adam Meredith, who served as pastor in Franklin County for 12 years. He has a degree in chemistry from Yale, as well as a Master of Divinity from the Seminary of Columbia International University. Adam is pastor of the Antrim Brethren in Christ Church in Chambersburg, just not too far from my house. He believes that the word of God works actively in those who believe, and that the church is meant to display God's glory and wisdom on Earth. Pastor Meredith is grateful for the opportunity to be here, and he is joined up in the gallery by his wife, Danielle; and 2 of their 3 sons, Graham, Davis--and Sullivan he said is 1 year old and it is better for us that he is not here today, right [laughing]? So, thank you for being here.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

[Applause.]

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

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

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

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

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

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

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of June 28, 2023, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of June 28, 2023.

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

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

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

YEA-48

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

GUESTS OF SENATOR DAVID G. ARGALL PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Schuylkill, Senator Argall.

Senator ARGALL. Mr. President, in the gallery today are guests from the Williams Valley School District, which Senator Rothman and I represent. These students are part of the transition

class, which offers daily instruction in many areas including social skills, independent living, preparing for postsecondary education and employment. I ask that my colleagues join me in welcoming these students, as well as their instructors Mr. Paul and Ms. Guzinski, to the Pennsylvania State Senate.

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

[Applause.]

BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator ARGALL, from the Committee on Education, reported the following bill:

SB 7 (Pr. No. 1174) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, providing for parental control relating to instructional materials and books containing sexually explicit content.

RECESS

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

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

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

AFTER RECESS

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

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

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Costa.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests a legislative leave for Senator Judy Ward.

Senator Tartaglione requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Costa.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

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

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 404 (Pr. No. 1301) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in professional and occupational licenses, further providing for retention of licenses and certifications of persons entering military service.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-48

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

NAY-0

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 735 and SB 842 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 933 (Pr. No. 1109) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military Affairs, further providing for advisory councils for veterans' homes.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 933. This measure would enhance the oversight at our six State veteran homes through their advisory councils. This bill would stipulate that the advisory councils are to advise the Adjutant General of our State on resident care management operations and compliance as well, and most importantly, for the well-being of our veterans residing there. Additionally, it would re-vamp the councils to include 15 members that would also encompass a family member of a current or past resident, something that my colleague Senator Baker worked with me on. Nominations would come from veterans' organizations from around the homes. It would also require the department to provide subject matter expertise to be available at each meeting. Additionally, it would make the meetings open for public review and consideration and require an annual report to be provided to this body. This language was worked on with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and is supported by the U.S. Department of Defense-State Liaison Office as well. It is important that we do our utmost to uphold the standard and care for our veterans in our six homes across the State, and this measure would do just that.

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

And the question recurring, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-48

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

NAY-0

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

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

SB 934 (Pr. No. 1079) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), known as the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, in repeals, further providing for general repeal.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cambria, Senator Langerholc.

Senator LANGERHOLC. Mr. President, I rise to ask for support for Senate Bill No. 934. Senate Bill No. 934 will amend Act 247 of 1968, which is the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, to exempt the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission from local ordinances that are more stringent than the Department of Environmental Protection. What Senate Bill No. 934 will do--it will place the Turnpike Commission under the same exemption as PennDOT, providing uniformity which supersedes local ordinances in the discharge of traffic laws. As mentioned, unlike PennDOT, the Turnpike Commission is not exempt from these local ordinances and must follow stringent regulations to design, permit, and construct stormwater reduction strategies and the like. Without this bill, the commission must continue to address these conflicts and spend upwards of \$25 million. This will save upwards of \$25 million across the board, provide uniformity with the same exemptions that PennDOT is afforded to the Turnpike Commission. I would ask for an affirmative vote to help reduce project delivery costs and provide for uniformity across the Commonwealth's transportation system.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator DiSANTO. Mr. President, I support the legislation and the maker of the bill, but I would also like to point out that local and statewide businesses have to go through this same process every day. And I certainly hope that Governor Shapiro's Administration follows up on their recommendation to eliminate overregulation of businesses in Pennsylvania and try to make us more competitive in the marketplace. Thank you.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-43

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

NAY-5

Cappelletti	Muth	Saval	Williams, Lindsey
Collett			

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

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

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

HB 38 (Pr. No. 27) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in 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.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 55, SB 210, SB 365, SB 375, SB 399, SB 563, SB 577, SB 646, HB 689, SB 721, SB 723, SB 745, SB 792 and SB 854 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 882 (Pr. No. 1031) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 959 (Pr. No. 1168) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

HB 1160 (Pr. No. 1295) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in 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.

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

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

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

MEMBER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

October 3, 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 July 26, 2023, of Moriah Hathaway, 112 Juniata Hall, Middletown 17109, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, to serve until July 1, 2025, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Laura Ellsworth, Sewickley, resigned.

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 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 INDUSTRIAL BOARD

September 21, 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 19, 2023, of Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Industrial Board, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice James Holzman, Harrisburg, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
BUTLER COUNTY

September 22, 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 Addie Abelson, Esquire, 158 Erford Road, Apartment 404, Camp Hill 17011, Cumberland County, Thirty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Butler County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable William R. Shaffer, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

October 2, 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 22, 2023, of Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice Rayford Means, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY

October 3, 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 July 26, 2023, of Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Robert Loughery, Perkasio, whose term expired and whose last day was April 23, 2021.

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

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 2, 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 Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Beaver, Magisterial District 36-3-02, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable C. Douglas Loughner, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 2, 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 Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Berks, Magisterial District 23-3-02, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Michael G. Hartman, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 2, 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 22, 2023, of Aaron H. Danks, 1801 North Second Street #2, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Northumberland, Magisterial District 08-3-04, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice Michael P. Toomey, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 2, 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 Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Potter, Magisterial District 55-3-01, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Annette L. Easton, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 6, 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 October 2, 2023, of Bryan Phelps, 304 South East Street, Coudersport 16915, Potter County, Twenty-fifth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Potter, Magisterial District 55-3-01, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Annette L. Easton, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

NOMINATIONS RETURNED TO THE GOVERNOR

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

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

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

**REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES
AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS**

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

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON AGING

September 13, 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, Mary Elizabeth O'Connor, 745 South Glenwood Street, Allentown 18103, Lehigh County, Forteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Council on Aging, to serve until October 8, 2024, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Samuel Trychin, Erie, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON AGING

September 13, 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, Melanie Titzel, 12419 Station Road, North East 16428, Erie County, Forty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Council on Aging, to serve until October 8, 2024, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Veronica Comfort, Macungie, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

October 2, 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, Diana Bucco, 124 Radcliff Drive, Pittsburgh 15237, Allegheny County, Thirty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, to serve until July 20, 2025, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Rasheedah Phillips, Philadelphia, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

October 2, 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 Paone, 8610 Thomas Mill Terrace, Philadelphia 19128, Philadelphia County, Seventh Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, to serve until July 20, 2029, and until the successor is appointed and qualified.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE INDUSTRIAL BOARD

September 21, 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, Thomas R. Harley, 1220 East Pike Road, Indiana 15701, Indiana County, Forty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Industrial Board, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Greg Woodring, Philadelphia, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

October 2, 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, Damaris Garcia, Esquire, 1600 Arch Street, Apt. 1513, Philadelphia 19103, Philadelphia County, First Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Rayford A. Means, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS'
EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMISSION

September 22, 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, Steven Plaugher, 11 Court Drive, Downingtown 19335, Chester County, Nineteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission, to serve for a term of three years, and until

the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Joseph Pizano, Exeter, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD

September 19, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Donald Enders, Jr., 7074 Beaver Creek Road, Harrisburg 17112, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Employees' Retirement Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Glenn E. Becker, Exton, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD

September 19, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, J. David Henderson, 125 Dutch Creek Drive, Zelenople, 16063, Butler County, Forty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Employees' Retirement Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice David R. Fillman, Hummelstown, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF VEHICLE
MANUFACTURERS, DEALERS AND SALESPERSONS

June 9, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, William Heeney (Public Member), 418 Markle Street, Philadelphia 19128, Philadelphia County, Seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Vehicle Manufacturers, Dealers and Salespersons, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Rene Barczak, Philadelphia, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 2, 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, Steve Necaster, 144 Patricia Drive,

Beaver Falls 15010, Beaver County, Forty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Beaver, Magisterial District 36-3-02, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable C. Douglas Loughner, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 2, 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, F. Richard Drumheller, 85 South Sunrise Lane, Boyertown 19512, Berks County, Twenty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Berks, Magisterial District 23-3-02, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Michael G. Hartman, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 2, 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, Bryan Ruth, 805 Southwood Drive, Shippensburg 17257, Cumberland County, Thirty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Cumberland, Magisterial District 09-3-01, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable H. Anthony Adams, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 2, 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, Rachel Wiest Benner, Esquire, 5 North Second Street, Sunbury 17801, Northumberland County, Twenty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Northumberland, Magisterial District 08-3-04, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Michael P. Toomey, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

NOMINATIONS LAID ON THE TABLE

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

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

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Which was agreed to by voice vote.

NOMINATIONS TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

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

The Clerk read the nominations as follows:

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON AGING

September 13, 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, Mary Elizabeth O'Connor, 745 South Glenwood Street, Allentown 18103, Lehigh County, Fourteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Council on Aging, to serve until October 8, 2024, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Samuel Trychin, Erie, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON AGING

September 13, 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, Melanie Titzel, 12419 Station Road, North East 16428, Erie County, Forty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Council on Aging, to serve until October 8, 2024, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Veronica Comfort, Macungie, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

October 2, 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, Diana Bucco, 124 Radcliff Drive, Pittsburgh 15237, Allegheny County, Thirty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, to serve until July 20, 2025, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Rasheedah Phillips, Philadelphia, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

October 2, 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 Paone, 8610 Thomas Mill Terrace, Philadelphia 19128, Philadelphia County, Seventh Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, to serve until July 20, 2029, and until the successor is appointed and qualified.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE INDUSTRIAL BOARD

September 21, 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, Thomas R. Harley, 1220 East Pike Road, Indiana 15701, Indiana County, Forty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Industrial Board, to serve until January 19, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Greg Woodring, Philadelphia, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS'
EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMISSION

September 22, 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, Steven Plaughter, 11 Court Drive, Downingtown 19335, Chester County, Nineteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Joseph Pizano, Exeter, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD

September 19, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Donald Enders, Jr., 7074 Beaver Creek Road, Harrisburg 17112, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Employees' Retirement Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Glenn E. Becker, Exton, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD

September 19, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, J. David Henderson, 125 Dutch Creek Drive, Zelenople, 16063, Butler County, Forty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Employees' Retirement Board, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice David R. Fillman, Hummelstown, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF VEHICLE
MANUFACTURERS, DEALERS AND SALESPERSONS

June 9, 2023

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, William Heeney (Public Member), 418 Markle Street, Philadelphia 19128, Philadelphia County, Seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Vehicle Manufacturers, Dealers and Salespersons, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Rene Barczak, Philadelphia, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 2, 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, Steve Necaster, 144 Patricia Drive, Beaver Falls 15010, Beaver County, Forty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Beaver, Magisterial District 36-3-02, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable C. Douglas Loughner, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 2, 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, F. Richard Drumheller, 85 South Sunrise Lane, Boyertown 19512, Berks County, Twenty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Berks, Magisterial District 23-3-02, to serve until the first

Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Michael G. Hartman, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 2, 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, Bryan Ruth, 805 Southwood Drive, Shippensburg 17257, Cumberland County, Thirty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Cumberland, Magisterial District 09-3-01, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable H. Anthony Adams, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

October 2, 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, Rachel Wiest Benner, Esquire, 5 North Second Street, Sunbury 17801, Northumberland County, Twenty-seventh Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Northumberland, Magisterial District 08-3-04, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Michael P. Toomey, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

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

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

YEA-48

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

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

NOMINATION TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

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

The Clerk read the nomination as follows:

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

October 2, 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, Damaris Garcia, Esquire, 1600 Arch Street, Apt. 1513, Philadelphia 19103, Philadelphia County, First Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2024, vice the Honorable Rayford A. Means, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

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

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

YEA-48

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

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RISES

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILL ON FIRST CONSIDERATION**

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bill was as follows:

SB 7.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, for the information of the Members, we expect no further votes today. We will be keeping the desk open in anticipation of communications from the House later today. So, we will be at ease following petitions and remonstrances for most of the day, but there will be no further votes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023

9:30 A.M.	EDUCATION (public hearing to consider structured literacy and Senate Bill No. 801)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
12:00 P.M.	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS and GAME AND FISHERIES (joint public hearing to discuss crop damage with the PFB and the PGC)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (to consider House Bills No. 295 and 1170)	Rules Committee Conference Room
Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 7, 353 and 456; and House Bills No. 156, 157 and 1094)	Rules Committee Conference Room
Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 694 and 851)	Rules Committee Conference Room

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023

9:30 A.M.	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bill No. 927; and House Bills No. 1231 and 1232)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
10:00 A.M.	BANKING AND INSURANCE (to consider Senate Bill No. 943; and to consider the nomination of Wendy S. Spicher as Secretary of Banking and Securities)	Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
10:00 A.M.	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (to consider Senate Bill No. 265; and House Bill No. 1246)	Room 461 Main Capitol
10:30 A.M.	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (to consider Senate Bills No. 668, 736 and 828; and House Bill No. 507)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

10:30 A.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to consider Senate Bill No. 501; and House Bill No. 269)	Room 8E-B East Wing (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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10:30 A.M.	CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE (to consider Senate Bills No. 142, 403 and 910)	Room 461 Main Capitol
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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

10:00 A.M.	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (joint public hearing with the Ohio Public Utilities Committee on Inter-State Relationships within PJM Grid)	William Penn Omni Hotel Lawrence Welk Room Pittsburgh
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PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Senate Resolution No. 192, sponsored by Senator Langerholc, Senator Argall, and myself that designates this week of October 16 through 20 as School Bus Safety Week in Pennsylvania. Each year, hundreds of thousands of school buses across our nation travel over 4 billion miles, transporting roughly 25 million students to and from school and school-related activities. Our school bus drivers do this with an impeccable safety record compared to the general public, and for that, we thank them. School Bus Safety Week is recognized in accordance with the National Association for Pupil Transportation, and both PennDOT and the PA School Bus Association have put out reminders to motorists on how they can do their part to ensure safe passage of our children. Each of these organizations include a wealth of information on school bus safety, and I encourage all motorists to review these tips to keep our kids safe. Our school bus drivers are directly responsible for the well-being of our most precious resource when they are traveling on our roads. It is important that we thank them and encourage our fellow motorists to be mindful of all traffic laws and regulations when in their vicinity. Designating this week of October 16 through 20 as School Bus Safety Week helps do just that.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, October is recognized as Down Syndrome Awareness Month across this nation, and I am proud to continue to bring attention to the value that nearly 400,000 people living in the United States with Down syndrome have in our communities. Those living with Down syndrome can have different physical and mental characteristics, but the lives they live are truly extraordinary. With early intervention, therapies, quality education, and support from families in our communities, individuals with Down syndrome adapt, and they thrive. They attend school, complete college and job training programs, obtain full-time employment, get married, climb mountains, and achieve things some of us never dare to try. They experience fulfilling lives, and the message we send with this resolution is that

these lives are valued and worthwhile. Our friends and neighbors with Down syndrome bless us every day, and it is my hope that we can continue to honor them by designating October 2023 as Down Syndrome Awareness Month in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senate Resolution No. 83, a resolution that I have introduced along with Senator Lindsey Williams and Senator Pennycuick, which would designate the week of October 15 through October 21 as Military Sexual Trauma Survivor Week in Pennsylvania. The resolution, which was drafted by two veterans who are survivors of military sexual assault, has been previously introduced every year since 2019. Mr. President, this is such a serious issue and troubling issue in our military. And while our military, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense have started to address this issue, we can, and we must, do so much more; at minimum, at least by acknowledging that this is a persistent problem and has already impacted hundreds of thousands of our own constituents of people that have served in our military serving our country.

According to VA statistics, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 50 men report that they experienced sexual harassment and/or sexual assault during military service when asked by their VA healthcare provider. Anyone in the military can experience military sexual trauma regardless of their age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, physical abilities, or branch of service. MST can occur at any time or place during this military service assignment while on or off duty or on or off base. The psychological impact of the assault and resulting trauma can push survivors out of the service and lead to tremendous difficulty readjusting to civilian life. Although MST can be a life-changing experience, sometimes for the worst, obviously, survivors are remarkably resilient. Some recover on their own, but most need additional support and the experience of an MST therapist to help deal with the aftermath of what has happened to them.

In addition to Senate Resolution No. 83, Senator Lindsey Williams and I have also introduced Senate Bill No. 924, which would establish an annual day of recognition and awareness to honor the strength, resolve, perseverance, and acknowledge what happened to many of our armed service members. We need to work urgently to end sexual violence in the military and throughout our entire society and throughout this Commonwealth. And it can start with something as simple as acknowledging and recognizing those who have already been harmed and are victims of military sexual trauma by passing Senate Bill No. 924. Thankfully, the House is taking this issue seriously, and with the leadership of Representative Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz, the House adopted the companion resolution to Senate Resolution No. 83. House Resolution No. 189 passed by a vote of 202 to 1 on Monday. And yes, you did hear that right. There was one "no" vote, and I cannot imagine who would not want to support survivors of military sexual trauma. Mr. President, this is not a partisan issue, and every elected official should stand up to support our survivors all across this country and all across this Commonwealth. I ask my colleagues to support all survivors of military sexual trauma and support this resolution and work with our Caucus to get Senate Bill No. 924 passed and signed by the Governor.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise because today marks 6,310 days since our Commonwealth's legislature last passed an increase in our minimum wage. To put it bluntly, Mr. President, we are failing Pennsylvanians. I am sure that all of my colleagues are familiar with the crisis that is facing down the American workforce, as the number of people in the labor force who are 75 and older grew 53.7 percent from 2010 to 2020 and is projected to continue to grow 96.5 percent between 2020 and 2030. Too many of our seniors and older Pennsylvanians are well behind where they need to be to retire, Mr. President. How can we expect minimum-wage and low-wage workers to save for retirement when they are not even paid enough to ensure their basic needs are taken care of? Raising the minimum wage is not just a matter of economic fairness, it is a crucial step towards ensuring that Pennsylvania seniors can retire with dignity and financial security. The current state of retirement savings in the United States and Pennsylvania paints a grim picture, with a substantial portion of the aging population ill-prepared for their golden years because they are not paid well enough to both meet their current financial needs as well as prepare for their future.

Mr. President, I am sure you know the recommended savings for retirement is 6 times one's current income at the age of 50. For minimum wage earners, achieving this target is nearly impossible, leaving their future financial situation in a perilous place. With no discretionary income and no flexibility in their budgets, low-wage earners are being left behind when it comes to building wealth and saving for their future. Mr. President, raising the minimum wage is a critical step towards addressing one of the leading causes of the retirement crisis facing many seniors and workers of all generations. It not only would help individuals save more effectively, but also promote economic equity. Ensuring older Pennsylvanians can retire comfortably is not just a matter of good economic policy, it is a fundamental aspect of social justice and compassion. Senate Bill No. 12, which I introduced at the beginning of this legislative Session, would raise our minimum wage and help address the underlying issue behind the lack of retirement savings facing far too many seniors across our Commonwealth. Pennsylvania workers need to pass minimum wage reform. Pennsylvania's workers need Senate Bill No. 12.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATE AT EASE

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

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the Senate to **HB 1351**.

SENATE BILL RETURNED WITH AMENDMENTS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 851**, with the information the House has passed the same with amendments in which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The PRESIDENT. Pursuant to Senate Rule 13(c)(2)(i), the bill will be referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations.

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

October 18, 2023

Senators MARTIN, LANGERHOLC, ARGALL, LAUGHLIN, HUGHES, FONTANA, DUSH, COMITTA, CAPPELLETTI, PHILLIPS-HILL, MILLER, BROOKS, CULVER, BREWSTER, HUTCHINSON and COSTA presented to the Chair **SR 192**, entitled:

A Resolution designating October 16 through 20, 2023, as "School Bus Safety Week" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, October 18, 2023.

BILLS SIGNED

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

HB 404 and **HB 1351**.

RECESS

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, October 23, 2023, at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 3:51 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.