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Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023

SESSION OF 2023 207TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 52

SENATE

TUESDAY, November 14, 2023

The Senate met at 1 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend ROB SPARR, of Graystone Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Indiana, offered the following prayer:

Before I pray, let me say that I grew up in western PA, as my wife grew up in Zelenople, and for 10 years, the Lord sent us to northeast Ohio, and 3 years ago, he brought us back. And I can tell you that we will never take the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for granted again. It is good to be here.

Let us pray.

Lord, we come to You today in thanksgiving for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that we are able to call home. We thank You for the days passed, where great battles were fought, and freedom and liberty were achieved and kept. We thank You for the days of the future, where You continue to open our eyes to understanding more about this world and for the technologies and truths that You will allow us to discover. We thank You for Your present work. I ask You today to pour out Your blessings on us. Please bless the great institutions of higher education, from the large universities of Penn State, Pitt, and Temple to the smaller universities in Mechanicsburg, Beaver Falls, and Indiana, PA. Please bless those who are serving as the medical staff in our great hospitals in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and continue to be with those who are doing medical research and the nurses who show great love to those in our nursing homes who are struggling with memory issues in age. Please bless the workers on Lake Erie, the factory workers, the farmers in the center of our State, and the small business owners in our inner cities and small towns who are seeking to revive areas that once were booming but have grown quiet.

Please bless those who are working with our children, from the teachers to the preschool instructors, to the after-school volunteers who spend their time tutoring and mentoring those who need extra support and academics in life. And, Lord, please bless these Senators, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the State House. I thank You for each one of these leaders who are simply seeking to do what is best for the Commonwealth and our people. Please give them great wisdom, understanding, and hope, and please protect them from the flaming arrows of some of their constituents who forget that they are humans who are doing their

best to serve. Thank You, Lord, for hearing us and for Your presence in the hallowed halls of this great Capitol. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Pastor Sparr, who is the guest today of Senator Pittman.

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 500**, 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.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the Minority Leader has made the following appointments:

Senator Lisa Boscola as a member of the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority.

Senator Maria Collett as a member of the Children's Health (CHIP) Advisory Council.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

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

SB 975 (Pr. No. 1228) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in assault, further providing for the offense of terroristic threats.

HB 917 (Pr. No. 2302) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, adopting the Uniform Family Law Arbitration Act.

HB 1278 (Pr. No. 2303) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in wiretapping and electronic surveillance, further providing for definitions and for exceptions to prohibition of

interception and disclosure of communications, providing for public access and for Department of Corrections retention policy and further providing for expiration of chapter.

Senator DUSH, from the Committee on State Government, reported the following bills:

SB 228 (Pr. No. 197)

An Act providing for museum unclaimed loaned property.

SB 634 (Pr. No. 673)

An Act amending the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law, in procedure, further providing for exceptions for public records.

SB 686 (Pr. No. 754)

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Department of Agriculture and the Governor, to grant and convey to Joshua R. Snyder a certain tract of land located in Windsor Township, Berks County.

SB 847 (Pr. No. 999)

An Act authorizing the release of Project 70 restrictions on certain land owned by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission in Overfield Township, Wyoming County.

HB 1419 (Pr. No. 1598)

An Act amending Title 15 (Corporations and Unincorporated Associations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in foreign associations, further providing for termination of registration.

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

SB 977 (Pr. No. 1224)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in miscellaneous provisions relating to operation of vehicles, providing for the offense of interference with operation or movement of a public transit vehicle.

RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SR 178 (Pr. No. 1227) (Amended)

A Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study evaluating the outcomes of Act 44 of 2018 and to issue a report of its findings and recommendations.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Judy Ward, Senator Brown, Senator Brooks, and Senator Regan, and legislative leaves for Senator Rothman, Senator Hutchinson, Senator Pennycuick, and Senator DiSanto.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Flynn, Senator Haywood, Senator Muth, Senator Santarsiero, and Senator Anthony Williams, and a legislative leave for Senator Collett.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Judy Ward, Senator Brown, Senator Brooks, and Senator Regan, and legislative leaves for Senator Rothman, Senator Hutchinson, Senator Pennycuick, and Senator DiSanto.

Senator Costa requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Flynn, Senator Haywood, Senator Muth, Senator Santarsiero, and Senator Anthony Williams, and a legislative leave for Senator Collett.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of September 18, 2023, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of September 18, 2023.

Senator AUMENT. 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 AUMENT and were as follows, viz:

YEA-50

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Flynn, Senator Santarsiero, and Senator Muth have returned, and their temporary Capitol leaves are cancelled.

**GUESTS OF SENATOR JOE PITTMAN
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, it is my distinct honor, for the second day in a row, to introduce our guest pastor for Session. I am pleased today to introduce Pastor Rob Sparr and welcome him to the Senate as our Chaplain. He currently serves as senior pastor of the Graystone Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Indiana County. Pastor Sparr is joined here today by his wife, Heather. I have to say, Mr. President, Pastor Sparr and his family have been a great addition to the Indiana County community. And as he had indicated before he began his prayer, he moved here from Ohio, and it is great to have him back in Pennsylvania. I ask that my colleagues give Pastor Sparr and his wife, Heather, our usual warm welcome.

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

[Applause.]

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

GUEST OF SENATOR JAY COSTA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome our office's legal intern, Amber Paulino. Amber is currently a juris doctorate candidate at Penn State Dickinson Law School. As a Dean's Fellow and a merit scholarship recipient, Amber has demonstrated not only academic prowess, but also a commitment to excellence that goes above and beyond. Her active involvement in various student organizations, including the Penn State Dickinson Law Student Bar Association and the American Constitution Society, showcases her dedication to fostering a collaborative and inclusive legal community. In addition, she holds a paralegal study certification from George Washington University, where she graduated magna cum laude as a member of the LEX national paralegal honor society. Her bachelor of arts degree in history with a political science major from the University of South Florida, where she also earned magna cum laude, reflects her broad academic interest and commitment to a well-rounded education.

Amber's professional experience further highlights her commitment to public service and advocacy. As a congressional intern and later a staff assistant at the United States House of Representatives, Amber managed the congresswoman's daily briefing book, supervised the front office, and engaged in constituent correspondence. Her work extended beyond the office as well, where she escorted foreign and domestic dignitaries into the Capitol complex and spearheaded the completion of Capitol tours and a congressional flag request for constituents. As an intern for the Community Law Program's Amendment 4 project, she investigated legal precedents to restore voting rights for returning citizens. Her efforts in client intake and support for driver's license registration [restoration], also voter enfranchisement and criminal records sealing, demonstrate a commitment to social justice and the empowerment of disenfranchised communities.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Amber is a passionate advocate for causes close to her heart. Whether it is leading community outreach for the Florida Democratic Party, supporting

environmental causes as the environmental policy chair of the Climate Action Coalition, or mentoring students as a humanities student instructional and learning assistant at the University of South Florida, Amber's dedication to making a positive impact is clearly evident. In addition to her impressive professional and academic achievements, Amber finds great joy in cooking Puerto Rican and Dominican dishes, curating music playlists, and sharing her cultural heritage with those around her. Not only that, she has been an outstanding intern, working closely with the legal staff of the Senate Democratic Caucus and is someone we are very pleased to have had joined us for this internship program, and we thank her for her service, and I ask my colleagues to give Amber a warm Senate welcome.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

[Applause.]

GUEST OF SENATOR RYAN P. AUMENT PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to introduce my guest for the day, Scott Creason. Scott is a junior at Elizabethtown Area High School, where he is in the top 10 percent of his class with a 4.0 GPA. For years, he has participated in marching band, the mountain biking team, men's volleyball team, and both chamber and concert choir. He has also been a staff writer for the high school newspaper for 3 years. Scott works as a cook's helper at the Masonic Village and has volunteered with the Mary Mother of the Church Parish in Mount Joy. I appreciate his interest in exploring State government and political career opportunities, and I am pleased he was able to join us here today. I hope this experience gives him a much more complete understanding of what it means to be a public servant. Please join me in welcoming my guest, Scott Creason, to the Pennsylvania Senate.

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

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR ELDER A. VOGEL PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Beaver, Senator Vogel.

Senator VOGEL. Mr. President, I would like to introduce some special guests I have with me today. Over 50 Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School students and their parents, along with the school's CEO, Brian Hayden, join us today as they tour our beautiful Capitol building and learn more about the legislative process. Pennsylvania Public Cyber Charter School has been serving Pennsylvania families for over 20 years and is currently serving approximately 11,000 students from every county in Pennsylvania. Please join me in giving them our usual warm Senate welcome.

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

[Applause.]

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

GUEST OF SENATOR VINCENT J. HUGHES PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome and introduce our fall intern, Romario R. Ricketts, to the Senate Chamber. Romario has been a wonderful addition to our team, and we appreciate all of his work. Romario is currently attending Penn State Dickinson Law. He will be graduating in about 2 years in spring of 2025, but his list of accomplishments is already long and quite impressive. Romario is a Dean's Fellow, Faegre Drinker scholar, and is attending law school on a full-tuition scholarship. He is currently a research assistant, focusing on public school funding, school re-segregation, and structural racism in child welfare. He is also the president of the Black Law Students Association and a regional director for career development for the Mid-Atlantic Black Law Students Association. Prior to law school, Romario attended Lehman College in New York, where he graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's in political science. His senior honors thesis examined the effects of bail reform on crime in New Jersey.

Romario is a first-generation college graduate and immigrant, which fuels his passion for helping underserved communities. He moved to the United States from Jamaica--Westmoreland, I happened to, married somebody from down there--shortly before beginning his undergraduate studies. He is also a two-time ACLU intern and has worked for the Brennan Center for Justice, Berlin-Rosen, and then-Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams. He will be starting his next internship in January of 2024 with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in Washington, D.C. If his accomplishments to date are any indication, his future is extremely bright. Again, I am very proud to have such an ambitious and hardworking individual on my team, and I look forward to seeing how he continues to make an impact on the world around him. I know, I know he is going to continue to do some incredible things. I ask, Mr. President, that the Chamber join me in giving Romario our traditional warm Senate welcome.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR ARTHUR L. HAYWOOD AND SENATOR SHARIF T. STREET PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator HAYWOOD. Mr. President, I rise to ask that we welcome students from Martin Luther King High School, who have come to the State Capitol today, had a tremendous tour, and unbelievably perceptive questions for legislators. This is all thanks to an organization called Philly Youth Matters, [Youth Matters: Philly] and it includes leadership from DIVAS ministries and EMIR, two significant nonprofits in northwest Philly. Now, I

would like to further thank Senator Sharif Street. He has organized many of these visits with young people so they can see how government works here in Harrisburg. And it is his leadership that has brought a series of young people to the Capitol. I would also like to extend a sincere appreciation for the insightful students who asked questions about incarceration, schools, employment, housing, and many questions so important to us here in the Senate and across the Commonwealth. Students, I hope you had a good experience, learned from what you have seen here. I did commit to these students, and I will be meeting with them back in the district for a longer conversation with their questions. And now, I certainly would like to yield to my good friend and colleague Senator Street.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I join my colleague, Senator Haywood, in welcoming these young people, most of whom I believe are from Martin Luther King High School. We thank all the adults who helped bring them here, but especially Reverend Jeanette Davis, the executive director of DIVAS Ministry Group; Philly Youth Matters [Youth Matters: Philly] initiative; and Ms. Serita Lewis, executive director of UrbnSEEK; and Ms. Chantay Love, executive director of EMIR Healing Center. It is so important that we welcome young people. These students, we thank them for coming here. They had some issues that were important to them. They wanted to talk to legislators about making sure we continue to fund education. They wanted to talk to us about making sure that their communities would be safe, and they wanted to talk about opportunities and many, many more opportunities. So, if you get a chance to say hello to them, talk to them, they are full of ideas. And young folks understand that just as today you are in the gallery, in the future, you may be down here on the floor. So, we thank you for being here. We thank you for your participation, and we thank you for asking so many questions of so many legislators and helping us to be better at our job. If Members could rise and join us in welcoming the students from Martin Luther King High School. We thank you.

The PRESIDENT. Would the Senate please welcome the guests from Martin Luther King High School.

[Applause.]

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

PERMISSION TO ADDRESS AND MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the late Judge James Kelley, who passed away peacefully on November 1 at the age of 92. Judge Kelley grew up in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and he graduated from Saint Vincent College and received his JD from Catholic University. Judge Kelley was admitted to the United States Supreme Court, the Courts of the District of Columbia, and the Federal and State Courts of Pennsylvania.

Judge Kelley committed his life to service. He began his career as a lawyer and practiced in both PA and the District of

Columbia. And his tenure in politics started in Westmoreland County, where he served as county commissioner for 6 years. Judge Kelley also served as a member of the Democratic National Committee from 1972 to 1980. Judge Kelley was a Member of this Chamber. He was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate for the first time in a special election in 1974. As a Member of the Democratic Caucus, he faithfully served the people of the 39th Senatorial District for 14 years.

Following his service here in the Senate, Judge Kelley was appointed to the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court to fill the unexpired term of Judge Berry. Judge Kelley was subsequently elected to a full term twice in 1991 and again in 2001, and he served on the court until 2011. Judge Kelley was the youngest of nine children and the father of six children. He prioritized family, faith, and service, and that was reflected in the way that he lived his life and served this Commonwealth in many ways. Please join me in celebrating the life of Judge James Kelley and his service to this Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and I ask my colleagues to join me for a moment of silence in honor of our dear friend who has recently passed, Judge James Kelley.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Costa has requested a moment of silence. Will Members, as well as staff and guests, please rise for a moment of silence.

[Whereupon, the Senate en bloc stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect to the memory of the Honorable JAMES R. KELLEY.]

RECESS

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

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to be held in the Rules room, to be followed by a Republican caucus meeting to be held in the Majority Caucus Room.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, at the conclusion of the meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, Senate Democrats will meet in the rear of the Chamber for a caucus.

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

AFTER RECESS

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

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Judy Ward, Senator Collett, Senator Anthony Williams, and Senator Brown have returned, and their respective leaves are cancelled.

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 Mastriano, Senator Dush, Senator Bartolotta, and Senator Martin, and a legislative leave for Senator Aument.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Pittman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Mastriano, Senator Dush, Senator Bartolotta, and Senator Martin, and a legislative leave for Senator Aument. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

NONPREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 1461 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 346 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 507 (Pr. No. 2289) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 20, 2002 (P.L.154, No.13), known as the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Act, in medical professional liability, providing for informed consent in pelvic, rectal and prostate examinations.

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 pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Collett.

Senator COLLETT. Madam President, today I rise to offer my strong support for House Bill No. 507, legislation which, once signed, will end the violating practice of examining a patient without their permission. Madam President, right now, no law requires Pennsylvania healthcare providers to obtain consent from patients undergoing anesthesia before a medical student conducts a pelvic, prostate, or rectal exam on them for training purposes unrelated to their treatment. In 2023, I would not have expected us to be here needing to address this in legislation because the concept seems so far-fetched. Yet, a 2019 survey found 92 percent of medical students had performed pelvic exams on anesthetized patients, and a whopping 61 percent of those students did not have, quote, explicit patient consent for the exam. Such an

unauthorized invasion of bodily autonomy can be incredibly traumatizing for both patients and medical students.

As a nurse who received much of my training in teaching hospitals, I can attest to just how critical it is that providers have the ability to learn how to administer care on actual patients instead of just in simulation labs. But that training should never come at the expense of a patient's opportunity to provide consent to such treatment. House Bill No. 507 would close this archaic loophole by ensuring medical schools, teaching hospitals, and medical institutions receive a patient's consent for all procedures and exams performed under anesthesia. I have been proud to work closely with my colleague, Senator Muth, to sponsor our companion bill. I would note that both House Bill No. 507 and Senate Bill No. 549 have received unanimous support each time they have been brought up for a vote. I would urge all of my colleagues to join us in one final "yes" vote. Let us get this done for the patients of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator MUTH. Madam President, I echo the comments from Senator Collett and commend Representative Fiedler--who is in the gallery right now--for also being persistent and getting this issue taken care of and also bringing it to my general attention. I was not aware that current law allows for such a practice, meaning any one of us who are under anesthesia would be subject to a medical student's evaluation of a pelvic, rectal, prostate exam, and I am glad that this is finally coming across the finish line. And also, I just want to say thank you to Senator Brooks for giving a bill with Katie Muth on it a chance out of committee. So, thank you very much.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-50

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

NAY-0

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 597 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 668 (Pr. No. 1180) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities Act, providing for certified medication aides; and imposing duties on the Department of Education.

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

Senator J. WARD. Madam President, I rise today in support of legislation I introduced with Senator Collett, Senate Bill No. 668, which would create the position of certified medication aide. Under this legislation, the Department of Health is directed to establish a certified medication aide training program that includes a minimum of 40 hours of classroom and clinical training. Senate Bill No. 668 creates additional career opportunities for dedicated healthcare professionals. Certified nurse aides would have new advancement opportunities that would enable them to deliver expanded care to the patients they serve. This legislation is a win for our long-term care facilities as well. These facilities face a tremendous workforce shortage that directly impacts their ability to provide quality care. This new position improves long-term care facilities' ability to attract and retain critical staff and gives them greater flexibility in how they effectively deliver medication. Put simply, Senate Bill No. 668 is a win for healthcare professionals, facilities, and patients. This bill is supported by the Pennsylvania Health Care Association and LeadingAge PA. Both the Department of Health and the SEIU were involved in the development of this legislation. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation, and I respectfully ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator COLLETT. Madam President, today I rise to join my co-prime sponsor, the gentlewoman from Blair County, to urge our colleagues to pass Senate Bill No. 668, which will allow career development opportunities for our certified nursing aides while bolstering the quality and availability of the care team throughout all of our long-term care settings. It is no secret that Pennsylvania is facing a healthcare workforce crisis. Compounding several years of unrelenting pandemic and viral disease seasons with our increasing older adult population facing increasing acuity while in care, these essential workers are burnt out and in desperate need of reinforcements. While we continue our efforts

to address staffing gaps, it is critical that the dedicated healthcare workers we do have are empowered to provide the highest level of care they can. In both personal care and assisted living communities, staff who have completed a certified medication administration program are authorized to administer prescribed medication to residents. However, the same certification is not available to CNAs in the skilled nursing setting. Under Senate Bill No. 668, the Pennsylvania Department of Health will establish a medication aide training program that allows CNAs to become certified medication aides. Providing CNAs with the opportunity to pursue this additional certification would not only enable career growth and development, but it would also help reduce the inefficiencies and improve health outcomes. Senator Judy Ward and I worked diligently with stakeholders to develop this legislation, and I would humbly ask my colleagues to join us today in casting an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Mercer, Senator Brooks.

Senator BROOKS. Madam President, I would like to submit comments for the record, please, for Senate Bill No. 700.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

[The submitted remarks were intended for Senate Bill No. 700, which follows.]

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-50

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

NAY-0

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

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

SB 700 (Pr. No. 1183) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in certification of teachers, further providing for Career and Technical Instructional Certificate.

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 pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Mercer, Senator Brooks.

Senator BROOKS. Madam President, I would like to submit comments for the record for Senate Bill No. 700.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentlewoman from Mercer, Senator BROOKS:)

Madam President, I rise today to speak on Senate Bill No. 700, which will allow for a greater number of qualified individuals to obtain career and technical instruction certificates. As many of you are aware, we are facing a shortage across the State of certified instructors at our vital career and technical centers. The bill before us will provide flexibility in addressing that shortage while still maintaining high standards for those instructing our students. Currently, an applicant is issued a career and technical instruction intern or Level I certificate upon presenting evidence of 8,000 hours, equivalent to 4 years full-time, wage-earning experience in the occupational area to be taught, in addition to other requirements mandated by the State Board of Education.

This legislation was crafted in partnership with the administrative directors at Mercer County Career Center and Central Westmoreland County Career and Technical Center, the Pennsylvania State Education Association, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators. It would provide three additional pathways to attain these certifications: evidence of a minimum of 4,000 hours, equivalent to 2 years full-time, of wage-earning experience in the occupational area to be taught plus a bachelor's degree; evidence of a minimum of 8,000 hours, equivalent to 4 years full-time, of experience as a volunteer firefighter or emergency medical technician in the occupational area to be taught; or evidence of a minimum of 8,000 hours, equivalent to 4 years full-time, of experience teaching post-secondary courses at a regionally accredited institution of higher education in the occupational area to be taught.

Under Senate Bill No. 700, an applicant will only need to satisfy one of these options. This will be extremely beneficial in creating additional teaching opportunities for firefighting and emergency medical services personnel, as many of these highly skilled individuals are volunteers that may not meet the current 4 years of wage-earning experience to teach in their field. I would like to add that the PA Chamber supports this legislation as well, and so, I am asking my Senate colleagues for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Madam President.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-50

Argall	Culver	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	DiSanto	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Farry	Miller	Street
Brewster	Flynn	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Fontana	Pennycuick	Vogel

Brown	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hughes	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kane	Rothman	Yaw
Costa	Kearney		

NAY-0

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

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 867, SB 882, SB 887 and SB 945 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 958 (Pr. No. 1178) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 42031, located on that portion of U.S. Route 219 over Pentz Run on the border of Sandy Township and the City of DuBois, Clearfield County, as the Trooper First Class Brad Wilson Honorary Bridge.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-50

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

NAY-0

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

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 1096 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 55, SB 194, SB 259, SB 265, SB 365, SB 375, SB 501, SB 563 and SB 577 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL AMENDED

HB 689 (Pr. No. 1988) -- The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

LANGERHOLC AMENDMENT A2988 AGREED TO

Senator LANGERHOLC offered the following amendment No. A2988:

Amend Bill, page 2, line 9, by striking out "9121(B)(1) AND (2)" and inserting:

9121(B)

Amend Bill, page 3, line 25, by striking out all of said line and inserting:

(3) A court or the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts may not disseminate to an individual, a noncriminal justice agency or an Internet website any criminal history record information relating to a charge which is the subject of a court order for limited access as provided in section 9122.1 or 9122.2. Nothing in this paragraph shall permit a county clerk of courts or any other official to refuse access to criminal history record information related to convictions that have not been afforded limited access solely because one or more charges arising out of the same conduct or criminal episode have been afforded limited access, as provided in sections 9122.1 or 9122.2 or nolle prossed, withdrawn or dismissed.

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.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 736 (Pr. No. 853) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in decrees and records, further providing for definitions and for original birth record.

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,
AMENDED AND REREFERRED

SB 745 (Pr. No. 889) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 62 (Procurement) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in contracts for public works, providing for contracts for information technology commodities and services.

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

PHILLIPS-HILL AMENDMENT A2196 AGREED TO

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL offered the following amendment No. A2196:

Amend Bill, page 1, line 12, by striking out "meet" and inserting:
be capable of being configured, secured and maintained in a manner that meets

Amend Bill, page 1, line 13, by inserting after "Technology":
(NIST)

Amend Bill, page 1, line 13, by striking out "and" where it occurs the second time and inserting:

or industry
Amend Bill, page 1, line 14, by striking out the period after "security" and inserting:

to the extent that the guidelines or industry best practices are applicable to the end point devices, services and solutions being procured.

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

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Madam President, this amendment makes several technical fixes and is supported by the Office of Administration.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the amendment?
It was agreed to.

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

It was 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, as amended, was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 831 (Pr. No. 921) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for the injection of carbon dioxide into an underground reservoir for the purpose of carbon sequestration, for the ownership of pore space in strata below surface lands and waters of the Commonwealth, for conveyance of the surface ownership of real property; imposing duties on the Department of Environmental Protection; and establishing the Carbon Dioxide Storage Facility Fund.

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED
SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 907 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 979 (Pr. No. 1206) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in domestic animals, providing for posted notice with information on dangerous transmissible diseases.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 1086 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

HB 1304 (Pr. No. 2279) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in 911 emergency communication services, providing for a Legislative Budget and Finance Committee study and further providing for termination.

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

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

HB 1540 (Pr. No. 2278) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, further providing for Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence.

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

HB 1556 (Pr. No. 1817) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law, in State-related institutions, further providing for reporting, for contents of report and for copies and posting and providing for contracts.

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 1661 (Pr. No. 2091) -- 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 definitions and for prohibited acts and penalties; and providing for secure storage of xylazine.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.
The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will be at ease.
[The Senate was at ease.]

BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator PITTMAN, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported the following bill:

SB 500 (Pr. No. 1175) (Rereported) (*Concurrence*)

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in public assistance, providing for medical assistance coverage for pasteurized donor human milk.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Gebhard, and a legislative leave for Senator Vogel.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Pittman requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Gebhard, and a legislative leave for Senator Vogel. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1**

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 500 (Pr. No. 1175) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in public assistance, providing for medical assistance coverage for pasteurized donor human milk.

On the question,
Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 500?

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 500.

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

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

YEA-50

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

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate inform the House of Representatives accordingly.

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

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 meeting of the Committee on Appropriations, which will be held immediately in the Rules room.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held off the floor in the Rules room immediately, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Baker.

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

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 596 (Pr. No. 1146) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in theft and related offenses, further providing for the offense of organized retail theft; and establishing the Office of Deputy Attorney General for Organized Retail Crime Theft.

SB 910 (Pr. No. 1080) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 63 (Professions and Occupations (State Licensed)) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in powers and duties, further providing for civil penalties.

HB 301 (Pr. No. 2311) (Amended) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in preliminary provisions, further providing for special provisions applicable to limited school years; in duties and powers of board of school directors, further providing for additional schools and departments; in grounds and buildings, further providing for limitation on new applications for Department of Education approval of public school building projects; in school directors'

associations and county boards of school directors, further providing for powers and duties; in intermediate units, further providing for visual services and for school safety and security enhancements; in certification of teachers, further providing for substitute teaching permit for prospective teachers and for locally issued temporary certification for substitute teachers, repealing provisions relating to permit for classroom monitors and providing for permit for classroom monitors; providing for the Educator Pipeline Support Grant Program; in pupils and attendance, further providing for compulsory education of physical defectives, for school lunch and breakfast reimbursement, for dependent children, for actual cost of tuition and maintenance of certain exceptional children in the four chartered schools for education of the deaf and the blind, for payment of cost of tuition and maintenance of certain exceptional children, for transfer of funds for transferal programs and for children under six with defective hearing and parent or guardian advised of schools, etc.; in safe schools, further providing for definitions and for Office for Safe Schools, repealing provisions relating to regulations and to reporting, further providing for policy relating to bullying and for maintenance of records and repealing provisions relating to Safe Schools Advocate in School Districts of the First Class, to standing, to enforcement and to construction of article and other laws; in school safety and security, further providing for definitions and for school safety and security committee, providing for duties of committee, further providing for School Safety and Security Grant Program, providing for Targeted School Safety Grants for Nonpublic Schools and School Entities Program, for standardized protocols, for county safe schools' collaborative and for school mental health grants for 2023-2024 school year, further providing for school safety and security coordinator training and providing for reporting and memorandum of understanding, for safe schools advocate in school districts of the first class and for enforcement; in school security, further providing for definitions, for school police officers, for annual report and for school security guards; in character education program, further providing for character education program; in community colleges, further providing for financial program and reimbursement of payments; in educational tax credits, further providing for definitions, for qualification and application by organizations and for limitations; in school districts of the first class, further providing for qualifications of principals and teachers; in funding for public libraries, providing for State aid for fiscal year 2023-2024; in reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for definitions and for payments on account of pupils enrolled in career and technical curriculums, for payments on account of courses for exceptional children, for payments to intermediate units, for assistance to school districts declared to be in financial recovery status or identified for financial watch status, for payments, for payments on account of pupil transportation, for Ready-to-Learn Block Grant and for payment of required contribution for public school employees' Social Security; in construction and renovation of buildings by school entities, further providing for applicability; providing for School Environmental Repairs Program; and making an editorial change.

HB 1058 (Pr. No. 1471) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in juvenile matters, further providing for definitions and for notice and hearing.

HB 1556 (Pr. No. 1817) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law, in State-related institutions, further providing for reporting, for contents of report and for copies and posting and providing for contracts.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 2

BILL AMENDED

SB 596 (Pr. No. 1146) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in theft and related offenses, further providing for the offense of organized retail theft; and establishing the Office of Deputy Attorney General for Organized Retail Crime Theft.

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

SANTARSIERO AMENDMENT A2983 ADOPTED

Senator SANTARSIERO offered the following amendment No. A2983:

Amend Bill, page 1, line 16, by striking out "\$300" and inserting: \$1,000

Amend Bill, page 1, line 17, by striking out "\$1,199" and inserting: \$4,999

Amend Bill, page 2, line 2, by striking out "\$1,200" and inserting: \$5,000, but not more than \$19,999

Amend Bill, page 2, by inserting between lines 3 and 4:
(3) If the retail value of the stolen merchandise in the possession of or under the control of the organized retail theft enterprise is at least \$20,000, the offense is a felony of the first degree.

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

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

Senator SANTARSIERO. Madam President, this amendment is an agreed-to amendment to Senate Bill No. 596. I want to thank the maker of the bill for working with us to find a compromise position on an issue that I think is generally acknowledged to be a serious one in the Commonwealth and one which the General Assembly should take action on. In brief, what this amendment would do is simply lower the thresholds for a felony of the third degree under the bill from--actually, increase the thresholds, excuse me--from \$300 to \$1,000 in a range of \$1,000 to \$499. And in the case of a felony of the second degree, raise the threshold from \$1,200 in the existing bill to a range of \$5,000 to \$19,999. Thank you.

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

Senator DUSH. Madam President, I am going to have to be in opposition to this amendment. I know it is actually an agreed-to amendment, but our small business owners--for them, it can basically negate what the intent of this legislation is about. I cannot remember what the exact numbers were, but when I was down at the University of Louisville at the National Crime Prevention Institute, I think it was for every dollar that is stolen in merchandise, they have to make up with \$8--any amount that is being taken. I agree with the caps in the original bill, or the floor on it. But for these small business owners, if they have got a group of people coming in and robbing them, and if you have to bump it up to \$1,400, for them to make up all that money to have a group of people come in and rob them of that much money, that is a huge burden on our small businesses, and it is something that I just cannot be in support of. Thank you.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

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

YEA-46

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

NAY-4

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

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

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 910 (Pr. No. 1080) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 63 (Professions and Occupations (State Licensed)) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in powers and duties, further providing for civil penalties.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lehigh, Senator Coleman.

Senator COLEMAN. Madam President, imagine getting a parking ticket and having that stay on your driving record for your entire life, potentially impacting future employment and your reputation. Senate Bill No. 910 would expand an expungement to include civil penalties specific to each licensed profession found in Title 49, Chapter 43b, Subchapter A. Many of these civil penalties are analogous to parking tickets. Under current law, there are only two instances where the Commissioner of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs may expunge a disciplinary record. The first is failure to complete continuing education requirements, and the second is for practicing for 6 months or less on a lapsed or expired license, registration, certificate, or permit. Arguably, the civil penalties in Senate Bill No. 910 will make eligible for expungement, or that the penalties that are eligible for expungement are less severe than the exceptions currently eligible for expungement under law. Senate Bill No. 910 only applies under very stringent circumstances and ensures that people are given a second chance for a clean slate for a one-time mistake. I would request an affirmative vote and your

support in providing relief for licensed professionals in Pennsylvania. 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:

YEAS-50

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

NAY-0

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

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION**

Senator DUSH. Madam 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 228, SB 634, SB 686, SB 847, SB 975, SB 977, HB 917, HB 1278 and HB 1419.

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, NOVEMBER 15, 2023

9:30 A.M. URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING (public hearing on the status of housing in Pennsylvania) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023

1:00 P.M. EDUCATION (public hearing on school mandate relief) Parkland S.D. Admin. Center 1210 Springhouse Rd., Allentown

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Madam President, I rise because today marks 6,337 days since our Commonwealth's legislature last passed an increase in our minimum wage. For over a decade and a half, hardworking Pennsylvanians have grappled with wages that condemn them to an unrelenting cycle of poverty, Madam President. But we do not need to continue to force Pennsylvanians to work for our poverty-level minimum wage, Madam President. We, in my Senate Bill No. 12, have the opportunity to change the course of our Commonwealth and put our low-wage earners on a path to \$15 an hour. But like every time increases to minimum wage are discussed, we are already hearing the negativity and misinformation that minimum wage increases will kill the economy and put millions out of work.

But Madam President, a recent study out of the University of California, Berkeley, titled "Minimum Wage Effects and Monopsony Explanations" 2023 stands as a beacon of hope for our low-wage earners. Contrary to those common misconceptions, the Berkeley study reveals that raising the minimum wage has little or no effect on reductions in the workforce. The study's insight dispels the apprehensions often voiced by opponents of such policies, providing empirical evidence that workforces across our nation can and do adapt positively to minimum wage increases. If we raise our minimum wage, Madam President, we can help lift tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians out of poverty without compromising job opportunities. The study affirms that a higher minimum wage is not only economically viable but ethically imperative. Madam President, let us not be bound by the chains of inaction any longer. The time has come to pass Senate Bill No. 12 to usher in a new era of economic justice and dignity for all Pennsylvanians.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator DUSH. Madam President, recognizing that communism as a political philosophy is incompatible with liberty, prosperity, and preserving the dignity of human life, I have introduced Senate Resolution No. 198 to declare November 7, 2023, as Victims of Communism Memorial Day in Pennsylvania. November 7, 2023, marks 106 years since the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia resulted in the world's first communist regime under Vladimir Lenin. In our constitutional republic, we the people have the right to own and secure property. In wickedly evil and disturbing contrast, communism makes the false promise of equality but only delivers atrocities.

"The Black Book of Communism [: Crimes, Terror, Repression]," it was written by a group of socialists out of France by Stéphane Courtois and others. She was citing something here from it that goes to the display that we have had, the genocide of the Ukrainians that is down in the East Wing Rotunda this week. She said the child of the Ukrainian kulak deliberately starved to

death by the Stalinist regime is worth no less than a Jewish child in the Warsaw ghetto starved to death by the Nazi regime. There are countless stories since the fall of the Soviet Union that--that book is huge and it documents, it actually has the writings of Lenin and Stalin. It has the writings of Chairman Mao and the decrees that ordered the isolation of entire villages. The black-listed villages would be surrounded by armed detachments, all food and seed supplies would be removed, and deliveries of any kind of goods were prohibited. Trade was prohibited. Adding an inhabited location or territory to the blacklists was equivalent to placing a death sentence to the entire population of those villages.

Under communist rule, the State owns everything. The resultant want of things such as food and clothing in those regimes causes disturbances, which have led to more than 100 million victims of communism being unconscionably slaughtered and more interred in quote, unquote, reeducation camps for speaking out against government injustice and tyranny. If you truly believe in our founding documents from the Declaration of Independence to the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, then you cannot subscribe to the teaching of Karl Marx or condone the genocidal actions of Joseph Stalin, Pol Pot, or Chairman Mao. Article I, Section 1 of the Pennsylvania Constitution makes it abundantly clear that all men are born equally free and independent and have certain inherent and indefeasible rights. Among those are: of enjoying and defending life, liberty; of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property and reputation; and pursuing their own happiness.

If you cherish your freedoms and individual liberties as an American citizen, you simply cannot embrace a tyrannical ideology that has resulted in more than 100 million killed by communist regimes just in the last century. With studies consistently revealing that our young people do not truly know the history of communism, the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation has advocated that State legislatures introduce legislation to remember the victims of communism on November 7, 2023, so that we may all pause and remember those who have lost their lives. As it is written in Galatians 5:1: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by the [a] yoke of slavery".

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator KANE. Madam Chair, I would like to submit my remarks for the record.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentleman from Chester, Senator KANE:)

Madam President, I rise today to urge support for Senate Resolution No. 209. Senate Resolution No. 209 designates the month of November as Good Samaritan Law Awareness Month in Pennsylvania. This law, also known as Act 139 of 2014, grants legal immunity to those who report drug overdoses. Its purpose is to offer a safety net to those battling addiction and to assure others they can intervene without fear of legal repercussions. During my tenure as the business manager of the Plumbers Union Local 690 amid the recession, I witnessed the devastating impact of addiction. I saw hardworking and honest folks trapped in substance abuse who tragically lost everything, including their lives. If awareness about our Good Samaritan Law had been widespread and someone had been present at those critical moments, lives could have

potentially been saved. However, the effectiveness of this law relies heavily on public awareness.

I implore us as a Commonwealth to intensify our efforts to raise awareness about this life-saving law. It is crucial that everyone in Pennsylvania understands they will not face legal consequences for reporting a drug overdose. In emergencies, every minute counts, and sometimes a few extra minutes can mean the difference between life and death. Let us ensure everyone knows they should never hesitate to call for help when they spot someone in distress. Thank you.

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I rise this afternoon--or late this afternoon--to talk about two measures that I have been working on that I want to share with my colleagues and ask for their support with regard to these measures. The first one is legislation--Senate Bill No. 995 [955]--related to dental coverage. Dental coverage is an essential part of everyone's healthcare coverage, and regular dental checkups play a critical role in early detection of oral, head, and neck cancers. However, Madam President, in 2011, cuts were made to the dental coverage under our State's Medicaid assistance program, which prevent many low-income Pennsylvanians from receiving the oral healthcare that they need. The current plan does provide for routine cleanings and fillings, but services like root canals, periodontal disease work, and emergency exams were eliminated out of concern for their cost. That is why I am working with my colleagues in the House as well as here in the Senate and introducing legislation to restore dental coverage for medical assistance recipients.

Our legislation ensures that, moving forward, medical assistance provides a dental benefit package that includes those coverages that I mentioned and that existed before the cuts were made in 2011 without removing any other existing dental coverage. This legislation will save Pennsylvania money. It will save money by treating smaller dental issues before they become significant and more serious medical or physical health emergencies. And more importantly, Madam President and colleagues, it is the right thing to do. No matter what our background is, what our income levels might be, we all deserve to have healthy teeth and gums. I look forward to continuing to champ this legislation--this critical legislation--and deliver top-quality oral healthcare for every Pennsylvanian we know. Madam President, as we know, Medicaid coverage and care for Medicaid patients in Pennsylvania is difficult. Oftentimes, providers simply do not want to be able to go down that path. We can continue to encourage them to be able to do that. We think it is most appropriate that these changes will allow that to occur going forward. We recognize that they were cut in 2011 because of the costs associated with it, but this investment in healthcare--oral healthcare--will save us significant amounts of money on the back end, as I mentioned, with regard to physical health and other types of conditions.

The second piece of legislation represents legislation that deals with evictions and those individuals who have had eviction notices filed against them but have not made it to the point where they were evicted from their homes. We are looking to do legislation. I am working with my colleague Senator Saval, as well as Senator Judy Schwank here in the Senate, as well as Representative Smith-Wade-El, and calling for the passage of House Bill No. 1769 [not yet introduced] or our Senate version, as I mentioned, which would seal eviction records that do not result in rulings in

favor of the landlord. That is what is important here, because what happens is these eviction notices get filed. In many instances, they get resolved through the court process, and they do not result in an eviction notice, but yet, they stay on the individual's record, so to speak, as it relates to their housing issues going forward. What happens after that is they are to find themselves in a position when they need to go look for another apartment or buy a home, this information pops up and serves as a barrier to be able to apply and be able to find new housing along those lines. This is an important legislation because we believe everybody deserves to have safe housing. Everyone deserves the opportunity to remove barriers that are going to be preventing them from being able to secure that housing.

We also want to make certain that we are not penalizing those individuals who, through no fault of their own, particularly over the last several years, where we have seen folks now responding with regard to the number of evictions that have taken place. When I look at the numbers in Allegheny County, the studies have shown in Penn Hills and in Wilkinsburg and in Mount Oliver--some of the communities that lead the county in the number of eviction notices that have been filed--what we need to recognize is these folks have the opportunity to be able to have those records expunged or sealed when, in fact, they no longer result in a verdict for the landlord. So, these are the things that are very, very important to all of us to be able to ensure that we do that along those lines.

Just recently, I shared a panel discussion with my colleague, our colleague, Senator Art Haywood on the state of Black Pennsylvania. And I can tell you that we had about 12 individual groups present having a conversation at the University of Pittsburgh, and every single one of those groups stated, unequivocally, that housing was a critical piece of some of the things that we need to do to improve one's stock in life. And that is something we continue to be able to advocate for. That is why housing is extremely important, and any barrier that relates to eviction notices needs to be removed. I am not referring to those individuals who had eviction notices filed and were actually evicted from their homes or from their apartments or wherever the case might be. These are only those instances where the individual has had an eviction notice filed against them, but it never materializes in an eviction. They clean up what needs to be done and they move forward, but that eviction notice on their record follows them. This equates to that individual who gets arrested for some offense and later is not guilty or the charges were never filed. Those individuals have the opportunity to go and expunge their record because they were cases that were either dismissed or never resulted in a guilty verdict. This is no different than removing those barriers for folks to go forward, and that is why I ask my colleagues to join all of us in a collective way to ensure that. As we go in our final weeks here in Harrisburg, I look forward to more robust conversation in December and hopefully, as we go forward in the new Session, in the new year next year, having the opportunity to be able to speak about those.

Thank you, Madam President.

BILLS SIGNED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Kim L. Ward) in the presence of the Senate signed the following bills:

SB 500 and HB 295.

APPOINTMENT BY THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair wishes to announce the Minority Leader has made the following appointment:

Senator Christine Tartaglione to serve in his stead on the Pennsylvania Election Law Advisory Board.

RECESS

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 10 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 5:34 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.