

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024

SESSION OF 2024 208TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 34

SENATE

THURSDAY, July 11, 2024

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

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

PRAYER

The following prayer was offered by Senator CRIS DUSH:

Today, I offer a prayer that I have modified from President George Washington.

Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that You will keep the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens and their elected Representatives, Senators, and other officials to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to the covenants You inspired, which we call our constitutions. That they would entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens; that You would provide those of us who are making the law of the land, regarding the resources we take from our citizens, with the humility to utilize it wisely and to be good stewards. And finally, that Thou wilt graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were characteristics of the divine Author of our blessed religion without a humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair thanks Senator Dush.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

**RECALL COMMUNICATION
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

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

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

July 11, 2024

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 21, 2024, of Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, to serve until April 1, 2029, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Ralph Yanora, Pittston, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

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

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

July 11, 2024

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, Ralph Yanora, 23 Winter Street, Pittston Township 18640, Luzerne County, Twenty-second Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, to serve until April 1, 2029, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

JOSH SHAPIRO
Governor

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

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

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Cappelletti, Senator Comitta, and Senator Anthony Williams.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Pittman requests a legislative leave for Senator Regan.

Senator Costa requests legislative leaves for Senator Cappelletti, Senator Comitta, and Senator Anthony Williams.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

CALENDAR

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

HB 2132 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

HB 2132 (Pr. No. 3436) -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 5 of the Second Consideration Calendar, by Senator PITTMAN, as a Special Order of Business.

BILL REREFERRED

HB 2132 (Pr. No. 3436) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Pennsylvania-Ireland Trade Commission and the Pennsylvania-Ireland Trade Commission Fund; imposing duties on the Department of Community and Economic Development; and making an editorial change.

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

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I move that House Bill No. 2132 be rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

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

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

YEA-49

Table listing names of Senators who voted 'YEA' for HB 2132, including Argall, Aument, Baker, Bartolotta, Boscola, Brewster, Brooks, Brown, Cappelletti, Coleman, Collett, Comitta, and Costa.

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill is rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

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 DiSanto.

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 25 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 327 (Pr. No. 2082) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 19, 1931 (P.L.589, No.202), referred to as the Barbers' License Law, further providing for licensure of manager-barbers and barber-teachers.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

Table listing names of Senators who voted 'YEA' for HB 327, including Argall, Aument, Baker, Bartolotta, Boscola, Brewster, Brooks, Brown, Cappelletti, Coleman, Collett, Comitta, and Costa.

NAY-0

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 365 and **SB 366** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 663 (Pr. No. 2229) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in pupils and attendance, further providing for residence and right to free school privileges.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

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

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

SB 766, SB 795, SB 812 and **SB 976** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 1026 (Pr. No. 1592) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 19, 1975 (P.L.604, No.173), entitled "An act to facilitate the use of electronic funds transfer systems by providing that credits to accounts in financial institutions designated by recipients shall satisfy legal requirements for payments by cash or checks," further providing for electronic funds transfers, for consumer protections and for payroll card accounts.

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 gentleman from Lehigh, Senator Miller.

Senator MILLER. Madam President, I rise today asking my colleagues for an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 1026, my payroll modernization legislation. This bill provides the framework for employers who elect to go all electronic when paying earned wages, providing a safer, more efficient way for employers to do their payroll. This will help our local businesses, particularly our small businesses, by realizing time and cost savings, and they can choose to streamline resources, which will help offset delivery and postage charges as well. I want to be clear, Madam President, this bill will not mandate any changes, it simply provides employers with the proper guidance if they choose to integrate more modern technology. I would like to thank my colleague Senator Baker for her bipartisan support, co-leading this bill, for her partnership, and I ask my Senate colleagues for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator BAKER. Madam President, thank you for the opportunity to speak on Senate Bill No. 1026, which I cosponsored with Senator Nick Miller from Allentown. The bill addresses an issue that surfaced about 10 years ago when I chaired the Committee on Labor and Industry. It involved a class action lawsuit and settlement with a small group of franchise owners and fast-food restaurants using payroll cards. Since that time, the overall issue has remained, even though electric banking has come a long way and is now used by most Americans. Senate Bill No. 1026 resolves the matter in a favorable way for employers while continuing crucial protections for employees. With this bill today, we are listening to the employers and employees alike and advancing a product that has shared interest. In these economic times, and with the tight costs of competing while working to control prices, there means a need for greater emphasis on efficiency. That is what this bill brings. It benefits both the employees and the employers by using technology readily embraced by most people. The bill is supported by the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business & Industry, Pennsylvania Retailers' [Association], Pennsylvania Food Merchants [Association], NFIB, and Community Legal Services. So, I urge an affirmative vote and ask for your consideration today. Thank you.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Hughes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Hughes. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-44

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

NAY-5

Coleman	Hutchinson	Laughlin	Mastriano
Dush			

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1058, SB 1087, SB 1269 and HB 1446 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1540 (Pr. No. 3496) -- 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 third time and agreed to,
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

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

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.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 1619, HB 1700 and HB 1820 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1853 (Pr. No. 2921) -- 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, in licensing of health care facilities, further providing for administration.

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, today I rise in opposition to House Bill No. 1853. Unfortunately, this seems to be yet another example of government actively obscuring public inspection of meetings. The bill legalizes secret meetings between the Department of Health and nursing homes across the Commonwealth. These meetings will be unavailable for public scrutiny and largely not subject to the Right-to-Know Law. I am happy that there are a couple exceptions to the discovery and Right-to-Know prohibitions, including one of which allows for independently corroborated information. To me, this would be as simple as someone saying they personally had taken part in the meeting, witnessed, had knowledge of, or received firsthand reports of such discussions. In the end, although good, this exception does not outweigh the concerns I have over the potential to stymie investigations, litigation, or public inspection of the meetings

through the Right-to-Know process. For these reasons, I will be a "no." Thank you.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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 Martin.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Pittman requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Martin. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-47

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

NAY-2

Coleman Mastriano

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

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

HB 1889 (Pr. No. 2367) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in weights and measures, further providing for meter required.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

Argall	Culver	Kearney	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Langerholc	Saval
Baker	DiSanto	Laughlin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Dush	Martin	Stefano

Boscola	Farry	Mastriano	Street
Brewster	Flynn	Miller	Tartaglione
Brooks	Fontana	Muth	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			

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.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 2161 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 117 and **SB 349** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL RECOMMITTED

SB 988 (Pr. No. 1776) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 44 (Law and Justice) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in DNA data and testing, further providing for policy, for definitions, for State DNA Data Base, for State Police recommendation of additional offenses and annual report, for DNA sample required upon conviction, delinquency adjudication and certain ARD cases, for DNA data base exchange, for expungement and for mandatory cost; and making an editorial change.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1208, SB 1271 and **SB 1280** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY

The SECRETARY. Permission has been granted for the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to add Senate Bill No. 688 to its agenda when the committee meets off the floor in the Rules room during Session today. The committee's agenda now includes the following: Senate Bill No. 24, Senate Bill No. 654, Senate Bill No. 656, Senate Bill No. 688, Senate Bill No. 700, Senate Bill No. 1001, Senate Bill No. 1009, Senate Bill No. 1150, Senate Bill No. 1154, and Senate Bill No. 1246.

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 Rules and Executive Nominations, which will be held in the Rules room at 1:45 p.m.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to be held off the floor in the Rules room at 1:45 p.m., 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.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 654 (Pr. No. 1815) (Amended) (Rereported) (*Concurrence*)

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in sales and use tax, further providing for exclusions from tax; in personal income tax, further providing for definitions and for classes of income and providing for transfer to Clean Streams Fund; in corporate net income tax, further providing for definitions and providing for determination of net loss deduction; in bank and trust company shares tax, further providing for ascertainment of taxable amount and exclusion of United States obligations; in realty transfer tax, further providing for transfer of tax; in Historic Preservation Incentive Tax Credit, further providing for tax credit certificates; in Coal Refuse Energy and Reclamation Tax Credit, further providing for application and approval of tax credit and for limitation on tax credits; in city revitalization and improvement zones, further providing for definitions, for establishment or designation of contracting authority, for approval, for reports, for transfers, for restrictions, for transfer of property and for review; in Manufacturing and Investment Tax Credit, further providing for definitions, for rural growth funds, for claiming the tax credit and for revocation of tax credit certificates; in Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit, further providing for tax credit and for grant of tax credit; providing for 529 savings account employer matching contribution tax credit and for employer child care contribution tax credit; in Computer Data Center Equipment Incentive Program, further providing for definitions and for sales and use tax exemption; providing for tuition account programs; and making an editorial change.

SB 656 (Pr. No. 1811) (Rereported) (*Concurrence*)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in liquid fuels and fuels tax, further providing for definitions and for imposition of tax, exemptions and deductions and providing for electric vehicle road user charge; and imposing a penalty.

SB 1246 (Pr. No. 1805) (Rereported) (*Concurrence*)

An Act amending Title 74 (Transportation) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sustainable mobility options, establishing the State Safety Oversight Office and providing for its powers and duties.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 4****SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS**

SB 656 (Pr. No. 1811) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in liquid fuels and fuels tax, further providing for definitions and for imposition of tax, exemptions and deductions and providing for electric vehicle road user charge; and imposing a penalty.

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 656?

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. 656.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

Senator ROTHMAN. Madam President, I want to thank the Members of the House of Representatives for the changes they made to Senate Bill No. 656. It makes this even a better bill. This bill simplifies government, it eliminates the alternative fuel tax for people who drive electric vehicles, and it ensures that we have adequate funding for our roads and bridges. Senate Bill No. 656 creates a registration fee for electric vehicle drivers, and it replaces the tax that they pay now. A tax that is both cumbersome and also often ignored. Now this bill will generate close to \$20 million for our roads and bridges and allow those people who drive electric vehicles to contribute their fair share to the maintenance of our transportation systems. I want to thank the Members of the Committee on Transportation in both the Senate and the House and all the leadership to get this done. It is a truly bipartisan, very good government--makes government way more efficient and also will help to ensure that we have the adequate resources for our roads and bridges.

Thank you, Madam President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

YEA-44

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

NAY-5

Cappelletti	Laughlin	Muth	Williams, Lindsey
Coleman			

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

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

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 1246 (Pr. No. 1805) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 74 (Transportation) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sustainable mobility options, establishing the State Safety Oversight Office and providing for its powers and duties.

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 1246?

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. 1246.

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-48

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

NAY-1

Coleman

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

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

RECESS

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, Senate Democrats will recess for a caucus meeting immediately.

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I do request a recess of the Senate so the Senate Democrats can caucus. Following their caucus meeting, I do expect a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held off the floor at the conclusion of their conversation.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For purposes of a Democratic caucus followed by an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Appropriations, 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.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 1118 (Pr. No. 1781) (Rereported)

An Act amending Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in magisterial district judges, further providing for adjudication alternative program; in licensing of drivers, further providing for drivers required to be licensed, for suspension of operating privilege, for suspension of operating privilege for failure to respond to citation and for driving while operating privilege is suspended or revoked, providing for driving while operating privilege is suspended for certain other offenses, for relief from administrative suspension and for relief from administrative suspension participation requirements; in fees, further providing for reinstatement of operating privilege or vehicle registration; and, in penalties and disposition of fines, further providing for inability to pay fine and costs.

HB 115 (Pr. No. 958) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in dispositions independent of letters, family exemption, probate of wills and grant of letters, further providing for payments to family and funeral directors.

HB 897 (Pr. No. 3505) (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 transfers of credits between institutions of higher education, further providing for definitions and for duties of public institutions of higher education, providing for guaranteed admission and further providing for applicability; in higher education accountability and transparency, further providing for definitions and providing for transparency and accountability; in miscellaneous provisions relating to institutions of higher education, providing for Dual Credit Innovation Grant Program; providing for institutions of higher education and for coordination of higher education; and making editorial changes.

HB 1633 (Pr. No. 3504) (Rereported)

An Act prohibiting the enforcement of certain noncompete covenants entered into by health care practitioners and employers and providing for a study by the Health Care Cost Containment Council.

HB 2310 (Pr. No. 3506) (Amended) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in emergency COVID-19 response, further providing for emergency education relief to nonpublic schools; providing for State Health Insurance Exchange Affordability Program; in Treasury Department, further providing for investment of moneys; in oil and gas wells, further providing for Oil and Gas Lease Fund; in transportation network companies, motor carrier companies and parking authority of a city of the first class; providing for operation of taxicabs; in assessments, further providing for intermediate care facilities for persons with an intellectual disability assessments and for hospital assessments; in Attorney General, providing for costs of investigation and litigation under Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law; providing for Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority and for Agriculture Innovation Grant Program; in special funds, providing for Pennsylvania Convention Center; in Tobacco Settlement Fund, further providing for establishment of special fund and account and for use of fund; in Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund, further providing for distributions from Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund; in miscellaneous limitations and transfers, providing for refund of 2009 assessment by Insurance Department; in Clean Streams Funds, further providing for Clean Streams Fund; in Service and Infrastructure Improvement Fund, further providing for deposits; in general budget implementation, further providing for Executive Offices, for Department of Agriculture, for Department of Community and Economic Development, for Department of General Services, for Department of Labor and Industry, for Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and for Commonwealth Financing Authority, providing for Mixed-Use Revitalization Program, further providing for Supreme Court, for Federal and Commonwealth use of forest land and for Multimodal Transportation Fund and providing for School Safety and Security Fund; in 2023-2024 budget implementation, further providing for Department of Human Services and for Department of Transportation; providing for 2024-2025 budget implementation, for 2024-2025 restrictions on appropriations for funds and accounts, for Streamlining Permits for Economic Expansion and Development Program, for Pennsylvania Strategic Investment to Enhance Sites (PA SITES) Program and for fiscal supplements to statutory programs; making repeals; and making an editorial change.

**REQUEST RULING OF THE CHAIR
PURSUANT TO SENATE RULE 20**

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

Senator FARRY. Madam President, during today's Committee on Appropriations meeting, I requested a ruling of the Chair as to whether I would be excused from voting on an amendment to House Bill No. 2310 and House Bill No. 2310, as amended, and was advised that I was not excused from voting. As House Bill No. 2310 passed out of committee and will be placed on a Calendar for potential consideration by this body later today, I rise now to seek a ruling of the Chair pursuant to Rule 20.

Madam President, as part of this bill involves a redefinition of land within a Keystone Opportunity Zone, if the bill is passed, a parcel of land owned by a company for whom I do local government relations work unrelated to the KOZ and for whom my law firm performs legal work will now be included in the KOZ. My law firm's legal work includes work related to the parcel of land affected by the change to the KOZ. However, the legal work required of my firm has and will occur regardless of whether this

bill is passed. Am I excused from voting under these circumstances, Madam President?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Farry requests a ruling of the Chair pursuant to Rule 20(c): whether the Member has a direct, personal, private, or pecuniary interest in this bill. The Senate will be at ease while the Chair considers the matter.

[The Senate was at ease.]

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair thanks the gentleman for his inquiry about a conflict of interest in the factual situation just given. The Chair would rule that there is no conflict of interest and that, in accordance with Senate Rule 20, the Senator must vote on House Bill No. 2310 when that bill comes before the Senate for the following reasons. First, the Chair does not find that any votes that you may cast on this bill would be particularly personal to you or privately affect you alone or that you would derive a direct pecuniary interest from such a vote. Second, passage of the bill may or may not impact the clients, not you. Therefore, it is the ruling of the Chair that you must vote on House Bill No. 2310 when that bill is considered by the Senate.

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 Farry.

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

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

**BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

HB 115 (Pr. No. 958) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in dispositions independent of letters, family exemption, probate of wills and grant of letters, further providing for payments to family and funeral directors.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

Argall	Culver	Kearney	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Langerholc	Saval
Baker	DiSanto	Laughlin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Dush	Martin	Stefano
Boscola	Farry	Mastriano	Street
Brewster	Flynn	Miller	Tartagliano
Brooks	Fontana	Muth	Vogel
Brown	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hughes	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.

Collett Comitta Costa	Hutchinson Kane	Robinson Rothman	Williams, Lindsey Yaw
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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.

SB 1118 (Pr. No. 1781) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in magisterial district judges, further providing for adjudication alternative program; in licensing of drivers, further providing for drivers required to be licensed, for suspension of operating privilege, for suspension of operating privilege for failure to respond to citation and for driving while operating privilege is suspended or revoked, providing for driving while operating privilege is suspended for certain other offenses, for relief from administrative suspension and for relief from administrative suspension participation requirements; in fees, further providing for reinstatement of operating privilege or vehicle registration; and, in penalties and disposition of fines, further providing for inability to pay fine and costs.

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 gentleman from Fayette, Senator Stefano.

Senator STEFANO. Madam President, today I rise to ask support for Senate Bill No. 1118, which would allow a magisterial district judge to determine if an individual is unable to bear the costs of the fines and fees associated with a traffic offense and then assign that individual community service as a payment alternative to an indefinite license suspension. Too often, young people and economically disadvantaged drivers struggle to escape the prison of debt created by those fines and fees from traffic violations. This jeopardizes their ability to drive due to the suspensions caused by that consistent nonpayment. Senator Costa and I first introduced this legislation three legislative Sessions ago after an analysis published by the Buhl Foundation found that failure to pay fines and fees and failure to appear in court are the two most common reasons for license suspension among young drivers aged 16 through 24. In rural communities, like those I represent--Bedford and Fayette and Somerset Counties--residents are incredibly dependent on their vehicles to get anywhere they need to go: to work, the grocery store, doctors' appointments, and sometimes even the hospital or school. To live in those areas without the ability to drive is beyond inconvenient, it is debilitating. Stunting an individual's opportunity to build a productive life due to the inability to pay off debt from traffic violations does no service for that individual's potential, and furthermore, caps our workforce in Pennsylvania. Senate Bill No. 1118 provides a more feasible option for those who have been under the threat of license suspension due to an insurmountable hurdle of debt.

Allowing community service to be served as an alternative form of payment empowers drivers to get back on the road to pursue employment or educational opportunities, thus aiding the betterment of all communities, both rural and urban, big and small, across the Commonwealth. I kindly ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I too rise and ask my colleagues to join my colleague from Fayette County, Senator Stefano, in supporting Senate Bill No. 1118. I will really echo the comments that he made as the importance of this legislation as it relates to those individuals, particularly our young folks in many parts of rural Pennsylvania and other areas across the Commonwealth as it relates to their inability to be able to pay fines that result in indefinite suspensions of their driver's license. This is very thoughtful legislation, as he indicated. We have worked for a number of years working with this. I would be remiss if I did not mention the research done by the Buhl Foundation and Fred Thieman and the work that he has done to providing the data to support what we are doing and the leg work that he did along those lines with the various agencies: PennDOT, in particular, the work that was done there. I will submit the balance of my remarks for the record, but I would be remiss if I did not also say thank you to Senator Langerholc for moving the bill through the Committee on Transportation. And I do know that other colleagues have raised just a couple of concerns about how district justices will be able to dispense hours and to reduce fines and the like. I think that is something we need to consider, talk about as we go forward. But what is most important here is this is a comprehensive piece of legislation that provides an opportunity for folks to regain their license through community service, but also allows for a due process along those lines as well. So, I join my colleague from Fayette County and ask for a positive vote.

Thank you, Madam President.

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 Allegheny, Senator COSTA:)

Madam President, Senate Bill No. 1118 is legislation that would reduce burdens on low-income drivers who lose their driver's licenses to indefinite and subsequent suspensions due to an inability to pay traffic-related fines and fees. Senate Bill No. 1118 clarifies due process rights and notification requirements regarding alternatives to license suspensions based on unpaid fines, including the ability to perform community service, if individuals cannot afford fines for routine traffic violations. The bill also gives drivers a path forward to restoring their driving privileges if they are already serving indefinite or related suspensions.

PublicSource found that in February 2020, as many as 376,000 Pennsylvanians had their driver's licenses suspended for unpaid traffic tickets. Of the most common reasons for a PA license suspension: 36 percent were suspended because of the failure to pay fines associated with motor vehicle citations; 17 percent were suspended because of the failure to respond to a citation. In calendar year 2023, 330,973 indefinite suspensions were imposed as a result of a failure to respond to or pay a citation. Young people are especially susceptible to these types of suspensions, as well as suspensions for driving without a license or driving with a suspended license.

According to the Buhl Foundation, between 2014 and 2017, 172,000 youth aged 16 to 24 were served with license suspensions, with almost

125,000 of them being indefinite. In addition to youth, the inability to pay fines and the resulting license suspensions have a greater impact on low-income populations and people of color, who statistically face more licensing hurdles. The impact of license suspensions is particularly acute in rural and suburban communities where there is no public transit to get people where they need to go. Prohibiting individuals from driving keeps them from getting to work, school, and appointments--as well as socially--and financially isolates them from their communities. Often these situations are hard to escape, as the inability to drive to a job keeps people from being able to pay the very fines that caused the suspension in the first place.

My and Senator Stefano's legislation would alleviate the suspension of driving privileges solely based on a person's inability to pay fines and fees. Senate Bill No. 1118 clarifies the ability of a magisterial district judge to hold a hearing to determine an individual's ability to pay fines and costs for traffic violations, even for current suspensions based on unpaid fines. If the judge determines the individual cannot pay the fines, the judge may offer community service as an alternative to fines or suspensions. Driving privileges are maintained pending completion of community service so people can continue to work and reach other obligations.

I would like to thank Senator Stefano, who has worked closely with me on this bipartisan proposal to soften the harshest impacts of driving suspensions in the Commonwealth that prevent Pennsylvanians from accessing employment and giving back to society. With this bill, Pennsylvania will join nearly 25 other States, including Arizona, Maryland, Mississippi, and Minnesota, who have identified more effective ways to collect debt for non-safety-related license suspensions. Pennsylvanians are owed due process instead of being subjected to a homebound debtor's prison simply for trying to work and live in the Commonwealth.

I ask for an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 1118 to correct the inequity of license suspensions based on an individual's inability to pay.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

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

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.

HB 1633 (Pr. No. 3504) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act prohibiting the enforcement of certain noncompete covenants entered into by health care practitioners and employers and providing for a study by the Health Care Cost Containment Council.

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, today I rise in support of House Bill No. 1633. This legislation is the result of numerous stakeholder discussions, and it is my hope that it lends some assistance in keeping our doctors here in Pennsylvania. This bill will help establish some flexibility for our physicians moving forward on how long and where they choose to practice. The doctors were, of course, part of this discussion, and I strongly believe they need to continue to be a part of all of the discussions, not only on this issue, but on how the legislature can help promote more physicians practicing here in Pennsylvania because first and foremost, people want doctors in their communities, not only in my rural district, but all across the Commonwealth. We need to find ways to make Pennsylvania a place physicians want to live, work, and raise their families. I believe our doctors should be valued and treated fairly and that we should also remove barriers and burdensome regulations to help them provide the best patient care possible. The people of Pennsylvania not only deserve access to healthcare, but access to quality healthcare. I would like to thank all the stakeholders and staff who made this bill possible, and in particular, I would like to thank Representative Dan Frankel for his commitment to this issue. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and join me in supporting our doctors who are practicing here in Pennsylvania today and encouraging the doctors of the future to make our State their home.

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-48

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

NAY-1

DiSanto

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.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 2**

MOTION NOTWITHSTANDING SENATE RULE 12

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I call up Senate Supplemental Calendar No. 2 and, notwithstanding the provision of Senate Rule 12(m)(2), I move the Senate proceed to consider Senate Bill No. 654, contained on Senate Supplemental Calendar No. 2.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

**SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE
AMENDMENTS AS AMENDED**

SB 654 (Pr. No. 1815) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in sales and use tax, further providing for exclusions from tax; in personal income tax, further providing for definitions and for classes of income and providing for transfer to Clean Streams Fund; in corporate net income tax, further providing for definitions and providing for determination of net loss deduction; in bank and trust company shares tax, further providing for ascertainment of taxable amount and exclusion of United States obligations; in realty transfer tax, further providing for transfer of tax; in Historic Preservation Incentive Tax Credit, further providing for tax credit certificates; in Coal Refuse Energy and Reclamation Tax Credit, further providing for application and approval of tax credit and for limitation on tax credits; in city revitalization and improvement zones, further providing for definitions, for establishment or designation of contracting authority, for approval, for reports, for transfers, for restrictions, for transfer of property and for review; in Manufacturing and Investment Tax Credit, further providing for definitions, for rural growth funds, for claiming the tax credit and for revocation of tax credit certificates; in Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit, further providing for tax credit and for grant of tax credit; providing for 529 savings account employer matching contribution tax credit and for employer child care contribution tax credit; in Computer Data Center Equipment Incentive Program, further providing for definitions and for sales and use tax exemption; providing for tuition account programs; and making an editorial change.

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House, as further amended by the Senate, to Senate Bill No. 654?

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. 654, as further amended by the Senate.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Erie, Senator Laughlin.

Senator LAUGHLIN. Madam President, I rise today to speak in support of Senate Bill No. 654. Within this bill is a provision that I am particularly proud of, a provision that would grant the city of Erie a City Revitalization [and] Improvement Zone, or CRIZ for short. This has been a goal of mine for nearly 8 years now, and it is deeply gratifying to see us this close to making it a reality.

Erie is a city with a rich history and an even richer potential for the future. However, like many cities in our Commonwealth, it has faced its share of challenges. Economic shifts, population changes, and the evolving landscape of industry and commerce have tested Erie's resilience, but throughout it all, the spirit of Erie has remained strong. It is this spirit that has driven me to work tirelessly towards securing a CRIZ for the city. A CRIZ is more than just a designation, it is a catalyst for transformation, and it provides the tools and incentives necessary to attract new businesses, spur economic development, and most importantly, create jobs. It allows us to revitalize our downtown, improve infrastructure, and breathe new life into areas that have long been in need of investment. For Erie, this means not just growth, but a resurgence, a chance to reclaim our standing as a vibrant, thriving community. The passage of Senate Bill No. 654 and the establishment of a CRIZ in Erie will unlock significant opportunities for investment and development. It will enable us to harness the potential of our waterfront, invigorate our commercial districts, and create a more dynamic and prosperous future for all of our residents. Importantly, it will also provide much-needed revenue to support essential public services, ensuring that the benefits of economic growth are felt across the entire community.

I would like to take a moment to thank my colleagues for their support and collaboration on this effort, as I know that without them, this would not be possible without the support and strong advocacy by my colleagues, not only across the aisle here, but also in the House as well. Bringing a CRIZ to Erie has been a long journey, and I would also like to give a shout-out for the former Senator Wiley who fought for this as well. This has been marked by countless discussions, planning sessions, and advocacy efforts. It has required the dedication and partnership of many, and I am deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed to this cause. As we stand on the brink of this significant milestone, I am filled with optimism and excitement for what lies ahead. CRIZ designation will not only help us rebuild and revitalize Erie, but it will also serve as a model for other cities facing similar challenges throughout the Commonwealth. It demonstrates what is possible when we come together with a shared vision and a commitment to progress. So, in closing, I would like to thank my colleagues, and I urge an affirmative vote. Thank you.

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

Senator HAYWOOD. Madam President, I rise to raise some serious concerns related to the Tax Code that is before us this afternoon. On the one hand, there are some very positive provisions in this Tax Code, including the increases to the PHARE Program,

which will get us to \$100 million over time to increase the affordable housing for Pennsylvanians, and Senator Vogel and I have been proponents of increasing this amount year after year, and I am very, very glad to see it in the Code. At the same time, there was a significant solution for SEPTA, which is a mass transit agency in the Philadelphia area. And this is a transit agency that serves some of the key counties in the Commonwealth. These counties are a source of tremendous revenue for the Commonwealth as well. Much work needs to be done to make sure that SEPTA receives the critical funding that it needs so that this economic engine of our region and of our State can go forward. SEPTA serves hundreds of thousands of individuals, hardworking people trying to get to and from work every day, and the businesses that therefore support them as well. I am also concerned, Madam President, about the lack of the Earned Income Tax Credit, which I understand was also a matter of discussion. This is a tax credit that is in most States in the United States of America in order to provide low- and moderate-income people more income so they can meet the expenses--in some respects, high expenses--of day-to-day living.

Finally, Madam President, I am somewhat concerned about the net operating loss cost of about--my estimates are about \$43 million a year. This is on top of about \$4 billion in corporate tax breaks that we have provided over the last 15 years. This is a tax policy that is dependent upon, I believe, a trickle-down approach that eventually these tax benefits will trickle down to everyday workers. But we know that there are over 1.3 million Pennsylvanians, right now, making under \$15 an hour. And so, we know these trickle-down theories have some significant limitations. Madam President, these are my concerns with respect to this legislation. I hope that they can be remedied in upcoming discussions. Thank you.

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

Senator ROTHMAN. Madam President, I rise to urge a "yes" vote on Senate Bill No. 654 and specifically to talk about--my friend just mentioned--the net operating loss or, as we have been calling it for the last 9 months, the Pennsylvania startup penalty. See, when a business creates jobs, it requires investments, and by the way, investments are a nice way of saying losses, most businesses lose money. They have got to buy equipment, or they have got to hire people, or they have to find a facility, it requires losses. And in 48 other States, and the Federal government for that matter, businesses can take those losses over a period of time when they do start making money. I was always told by my mentors: you are going to lose everything you have got the first year; and the second year you hope to break even; and the third year you might make enough money to pay your bills; and then you start making money. But most businesses do not even last that long. Most investments do not pay off. But we know that our businesses are the ones that create those jobs. And we are penalizing businesses who want to come to Pennsylvania and invest in Pennsylvania by not allowing them to take those losses carried forward to neutralize future profits. This is money they spent. They invested in our Commonwealth to create those jobs and we have penalized them heretofore and taken those losses. Forty-eight States allow 80 percent; we only allow 40 percent. When this bill passes, we will incrementally, over 4 years, get to the 80 percent loss, having NOL carry forward that lasts for 20 years, by the

way. Because if you lose \$100 the first year, you have to make \$1,000 just to start getting that back the second year. So, allowing a 20-year carry forward is the right thing to do.

Madam President, this could be the difference between a new business picking Pennsylvania over Ohio. We have heard a lot about that in the last year. This simply put, NOL supports businesses looking to stay in Pennsylvania, to move to Pennsylvania, to create jobs in our Commonwealth. Now, however, this is a good start, unfortunately, this bill does not go all the way to allow businesses that have already invested in Pennsylvania to take those losses for past losses. But I am hoping that we will work on that in the future, but it is truly a good start.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Senator SCHWANK. Madam President, I too rise to urge a positive vote for this bill. There are lots of opportunities in this Tax Code. It is interesting on a budget, is it not, that sometimes you have to look through it and really understand what are the things in there. What are the factors that you can use to take back home to your community that will really make a difference. And there are a number of things in here that I would like to highlight and talk about. My county seat and the city that I represent, which is the city of Reading, a Third Class City in Pennsylvania among many, that is poised to take advantage of the opportunities that the Commonwealth makes available for them. It is a vibrant city, with a very diverse population, and developers are starting to take a second look at us because of some of the things that we have been able to implement through positive efforts by both our mayor and our city council. And I would like to talk about the CRIZ, which has also been addressed earlier, and explain that there are opportunities certainly for other communities within this Tax Code to apply for a CRIZ. And I know that Reading is poised to take advantage of that as soon as possible. We have been talking about this program since it was first developed a number of years ago. And really, we are not ready to actually take advantage of it, but now we are. The city of Reading is ready to take advantage of all the tools that might be made available to them.

In addition to the CRIZ, I would also like to address the issue of the Historic Preservation Tax Credits. We have developers because we are an older city--have a lot of old buildings and historic, you know, features--that are often trying to use this type of funding to make sure that they can actually implement projects. We have been able to do a number of things as a result of that. The other thing is the affordable housing funds. Like every other community, not just third-class cities in the Commonwealth, we have an affordable housing--we just have a housing crisis period; probably should not just say affordable. We need housing for all levels of our community. And so, this--you know, the increases in the amount of money that will be made available through the realty transfer tax will make a big difference, not only for Reading, but for a lot of other communities as well. And also, I would add the Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit, which will help organizations that are promoting economic development within our communities.

I plan to take this home after we get done, show this to our city council and our mayor and say: look, let us get ready, you know, we want to take advantage of some of these programs that are available; let us get our applications in; let us get this done. One

of the things that we like to say about our community is, "Reading is on the rise," and I believe that is really true, and we look forward to be able to implement some of the things that are available in this particular bill. I applaud the Governor, the legislature, the leaders who have helped to put this bill together and look forward to that "yes" vote. Thank you.

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I too rise in support of this very important and significant and, dare I say, historic legislation. And I want to thank my friend and colleague from Cumberland County for his steadfast work in doing everything that we can to reform the way we tax Pennsylvania. And, what I mean by that, Madam President, is when you look at the net operating loss carry forward issue, it is an issue that has been bandied about in this building for years. For years, Madam President, we have looked for a solution to the issue of net operating loss. Now, that sounds very technical to the people of Pennsylvania, and I understand that, but what we are talking about is unleashing investment and economic opportunity in every corner of this Commonwealth: to foster startup businesses; to develop employers who create jobs--by the way, jobs are created by employers; it is a symbiotic relationship. We are talking about living wages; we are talking about family-sustaining wages that can be created when we unleash economic opportunity.

In addition to that, Madam President, it is worth noting that we continue to reduce the corporate net income tax. That is another significant commitment that we have made to helping unleash economic investment in this Commonwealth. We all know our demographic crisis in this Commonwealth. We have to be bold. We have to be dynamic. This piece of legislation helps us achieve that. We are also supporting our financial institutions through the Goodwill exemption, through our bank shares tax changes. We all know what financial institutions mean to economic opportunity in this Commonwealth. We are boosting the waste coal tax credit, which is something that is so critical to cleaning up streams, to improving our environment. It is an environmentally friendly tax credit that encourages the private sector to clean up, literally, wastelands throughout the Commonwealth. And we put waste coal, which is otherwise useless, to a productive use by not only cleaning up streams, but creating electricity. So, there is a lot of good in this piece of legislation. It is a piece of legislation that we should be quite proud of because we are making historic investments in our Commonwealth, and those investments are being made by us not taking more from taxpayers and taxing entities so they can take those dollars, invest them in our Commonwealth, and make our Commonwealth a better place than it already is. For those reasons, I ask for an affirmative vote, Madam President.

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I too rise and ask for support of this Tax Code measure. To build upon some of the things that have already been talked about, there are a number of other items that I think are worthy of consideration of the Members and support. Probably one of the most important ones, I believe, is the Neighborhood Assistance Program where we are, again, increasing it from \$36 million to [\$]72 million. We know the impact that that particular program has in our neighborhoods and our

communities and allows for a lot of our local CDCs and so many other community organizations to have resources available to be able to rebuild our communities. Also, as it relates to the PHARE Program that my colleagues here have talked about previously, how important it is to be able to continue to grow the PHARE Program from [\$]60 million this year to 70, 80, then perpetually into 90 unless we increase it again. But also recognizing that, essentially, it will no longer be through the formula, but rather be something that will be done as a matter of right, so to speak.

The other pieces I think are important is the quadrupling of the historic tax credit program. I know my colleague Senator Nikil Saval has worked on this issue for a number of years and going from \$5 to \$20 million is another area where we are making investments in our neighborhoods and our community. When we think about those small communities that need support and revitalizing, you know, those corner buildings that need to be supported through historic tax credits, this allows that opportunity to be able to do that as well. And then the incentives for our employers to be able to work to ensure that they are trying to find things along the lines of employer tax credits, childcare tax credits, how important that is. And similarly, with employer contributions as it relates to investments in the 529 program. All of these things, I think, are an important part of what we need to talk about as well. And certainly, there is the conversation about the NOL. You know, I come from an area in the city of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, southwestern PA, where we are working very closely in large extent with a lot of the startups. The startups are the folks who take advantage of a program like this. So, I am pleased that this is part of that conversation as well. So, for all those reasons I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure. Thank you.

And the question recurring,
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-43

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

NAY-6

Cappelletti	Haywood	Muth	Williams, Lindsey
Collett	Kearney		

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.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Hughes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Hughes. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

HOUSE MESSAGES

SENATE BILL RETURNED WITH AMENDMENTS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 1009**, with the information the House has passed the same with amendments in which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

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

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE BILLS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 209**, **SB 559** and **SB 560** with the information the House has passed the same without amendments.

SENATE AT EASE

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I request the Senate please be at ease. For the information of the Members, I expect us to be at ease for perhaps an hour or so as we await further action from the House. I would ask that the Members of the Republican Caucus please come to the podium.

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

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 Yaw, Senator Bartolotta, and Senator Coleman.

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Muth.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Pittman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Yaw, Senator Bartolotta, and Senator Coleman.

Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Muth. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 3

MOTION NOTWITHSTANDING SENATE RULE 12

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I call up Senate Supplemental Calendar No. 3 and, notwithstanding the provisions of Senate Rule 12(m)(2), I move that the Senate proceed to consider House Bill No. 897 and House Bill No. 2310 contained on Supplemental Calendar No. 3.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 897 (Pr. No. 3505) -- 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 transfers of credits between institutions of higher education, further providing for definitions and for duties of public institutions of higher education, providing for guaranteed admission and further providing for applicability; in higher education accountability and transparency, further providing for definitions and providing for transparency and accountability; in miscellaneous provisions relating to institutions of higher education, providing for Dual Credit Innovation Grant Program; providing for institutions of higher education and for coordination of higher education; and making editorial changes.

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 gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I rise and ask my colleagues to support House Bill No. 897. Since earlier this year in January when Governor Shapiro introduced his blueprint for higher education, I have had the opportunity to work closely with the administration, as well as our House Democratic colleagues, Representative Kinkead and Representative Schweyer, as well as Members on the other side of the aisle. Our goal was to provide a new vision for the higher education community by doing a number of things, more specifically by providing an opportunity for improved student access, affordability, and outcomes; reinvigorate the governance structure that guides our institutions; establish a formula of accountability to ensure our universities are on the right path and delivering results. That process led to the introduction of both Senate Bill No. 1243 [1248], which I sponsored, and House Bill No. 2398, which was sponsored by Representative Schweyer. Once those bills were introduced, we began a full engagement in an open, spirited, and productive discussion that led

us here today with all parties involved. Our staffs worked diligently together and in a bipartisan fashion over the last several months to craft a noteworthy package of higher education reforms, and I am proud to have been a part of that process. House Bill No. 897 provides for several pieces of the package which were contained in Senate Bill No. 1248, including a new State Board of Higher Education that will provide recommendations across the higher education sector to better promote quality, accessibility, access, and affordable higher education. House Bill No. 897 also contains measures to provide for articulation agreements and dual credit programs, cost transparency for students as they decide what college they want to attend, and for financial counseling when students enter the workforce in the working world. This is part of a three-bill package that we will entertain this evening that is going to kickstart our higher education community and hopefully put this higher education community on a path to success that will attract and retain students and reinvigorate our economy.

Thank you, Madam President. I ask for an affirmative vote.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Muth, Senator Martin, and Senator Hughes have returned, and their respective leaves are cancelled.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator HUGHES. Madam President, what we are about to do with this legislation and during the rest of this evening, in many respects, is a culmination of a lot of work over a number of years to put Pennsylvania in a better position to attract students from across the country, if you will, and to invest in students here in Pennsylvania--homegrown talent here in Pennsylvania--to give them an easier, clearer, and more affordable track to achieve a 4-year degree or any advanced degree that may be within their desire. A number of years ago, we started a movement, or a conversation, called the Pennsylvania Promise. And in that conversation, we talked about a very simple concept: free and affordable higher education, because we all know that higher education has gotten out of reach for so many young people, and in fact, not-so-young people here in the Commonwealth, and in many respects, across the country. And that conversation, starting a number of years ago, has put us in a position to come together collectively to move this agenda forward. But I want to mention something very specific in this dialogue, in this legislation, and the others that we will be moving this evening: the idea of full transparency for young people and their families--students and their families--when they make decisions about going to college and what the cost will be and what their responsibilities will be. In many respects, too many of our universities--I am not going to say purposely or purposefully--hide that information or disguise that information, but clearly, we need to have a plain-language understanding embedded in the process so that young people and their families will understand what is in front of them when they make decisions about where they are going to attend and where

they will have significant financial responsibilities along with that.

The package that we are moving this evening, which begins with House Bill No. 897, will be able to reveal that information and make sure that it is in full display so that young people and their families know exactly line-by-line, item-by-item, what their responsibilities will be, in addition to, Madam President, what the financial aid package will look like in great detail, in grand detail, and in plain-language detail. But the final piece to add to that, Madam President, is not just what is going to happen on the front end, but will also be available on the back end. Once they graduate, once they finish up, they will know--they will get exit counseling, if you will--about what is available to them and what they can make sure that they have to handle their responsibilities and their obligations. That is a key component far often overlooked, far too often overlooked, in how families and young people make their decision to go to college, to complete their degree, and to have their responsibilities put in place properly so that they can handle them when they leave. This is a major effort that we are undertaking here in the Commonwealth. It started with the PA Promise. It has now moved to this effort right now, and I urge all of the Members to vote in support of House Bill No. 897 as part of a comprehensive package to move Pennsylvania into the 21st century as it comes to higher education. 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-46

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

NAY-3

Cappelletti	Muth	Williams, Lindsey
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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.

HB 2310 (Pr. No. 3506) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in emergency COVID-19 response, further providing for emergency education relief to nonpublic schools; providing for State Health Insurance Exchange Affordability Program; in Treasury

Department, further providing for investment of moneys; in oil and gas wells, further providing for Oil and Gas Lease Fund; in transportation network companies, motor carrier companies and parking authority of a city of the first class; providing for operation of taxicabs; in assessments, further providing for intermediate care facilities for persons with an intellectual disability assessments and for hospital assessments; in Attorney General, providing for costs of investigation and litigation under Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law; providing for Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority and for Agriculture Innovation Grant Program; in special funds, providing for Pennsylvania Convention Center; in Tobacco Settlement Fund, further providing for establishment of special fund and account and for use of fund; in Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund, further providing for distributions from Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund; in miscellaneous limitations and transfers, providing for refund of 2009 assessment by Insurance Department; in Clean Streams Funds, further providing for Clean Streams Fund; in Service and Infrastructure Improvement Fund, further providing for deposits; in general budget implementation, further providing for Executive Offices, for Department of Agriculture, for Department of Community and Economic Development, for Department of General Services, for Department of Labor and Industry, for Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and for Commonwealth Financing Authority, providing for Mixed-Use Revitalization Program, further providing for Supreme Court, for Federal and Commonwealth use of forest land and for Multimodal Transportation Fund and providing for School Safety and Security Fund; in 2023-2024 budget implementation, further providing for Department of Human Services and for Department of Transportation; providing for 2024-2025 budget implementation, for 2024-2025 restrictions on appropriations for funds and accounts, for Streamlining Permits for Economic Expansion and Development Program, for Pennsylvania Strategic Investment to Enhance Sites (PA SITES) Program and for fiscal supplements to statutory programs; making repeals; and making an editorial change.

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 York, Senator Phillips-Hill.

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Madam President, historic, comprehensive, game-changer. Madam President, we often overstate the impact of how legislation that we pass in this building will positively impact the hardworking people in Pennsylvania. Back home in southern York County, I have the unique vantage point at our State's border. Pennsylvania faces a problem that is plaguing many northeastern States. We are losing younger generations to other States due to the lack of economic opportunity. And why are we losing jobs to other States? I am not overstating it when I tell you that I have a local business developer who has shared with me that he can acquire all of the necessary permits, build, and open a new business in West Virginia before he can even get a permit to begin moving dirt in Pennsylvania. Our permit process is slow. Our permit process, it is not business friendly. Our permit process is filled with red tape and delays. In fact, it was in my district in York County where the literal red tape that bound Federal regulations was originally manufactured. But with this legislation, we change it. We change it with the Streamlining Permits for Economic Expansion and Development, or SPEED Act, included in House Bill No. 2310.

For years, sitting alongside the good gentleman from Cumberland County, we have pushed for comprehensive regulatory reform, and we have asked the business community: why are you

not growing in Pennsylvania? Why are you not expanding in Pennsylvania? Or to new businesses, we have said: why is Pennsylvania not on your radar? We have heard the answer. When DEP's acronym is jokingly referred to as "don't expect permits" among job creators, I think Members on both sides of the aisle can agree the status quo is not working. The SPEED Act changes that. This will guarantee an expedited permit review process by a third-party entity for permits that need to be approved by the Department of Environmental Protection and county conservation districts. This will create an accessible tracker to allow any permit applicant to track their permit from start to finish, much like we see in the private sector with DoorDash or Amazon. We also increase the accountability within DEP to ensure these permits are processed in a timely fashion. Earlier this week, the Governor unveiled new welcome signs at our State border. And perhaps before he takes a victory lap on welcome signs, he should think about putting up a different sign: Pennsylvania, the land of economic opportunity. This measure puts us on that path to economic opportunity. And, Madam President, I would be remiss if I did not thank all of the stakeholders who have spent far too many years advocating for this type of reform: the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business & Industry, the National Federation of Independent Business, and the Manufacturers' Association of Pennsylvania. And a special thank you to Adam Pankake from the President pro tempore's office for his diligence in getting us to this point here today. This will make a huge difference for Pennsylvania, and I respectfully ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote on House Bill No. 2310.

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-45

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

NAY-4

Coleman	Mastriano	Muth	Williams, Lindsey
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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.

SENATE AT EASE

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator Ryan P. Aument) in the Chair.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Yaw has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

HOUSE MESSAGES

SENATE BILLS RETURNED WITH AMENDMENTS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 24, SB 700, SB 1001, SB 1150 and SB 1154** with the information the House has passed the same with amendments in which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

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

RECESS

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

AFTER RECESS

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

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 24 (Pr. No. 1814) (Rereported) (*Concurrence*)

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in disposition of abandoned and unclaimed property, further providing for claim for property paid or delivered.

SB 688 (Pr. No. 1800) (Rereported) (*Concurrence*)

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in Pennsylvania Liquor Stores, further providing for sales by Pennsylvania Liquor Stores; in licenses and regulations relating to liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, further providing for liquor importers' licenses, fees, privileges and restrictions, providing for ready-to-drink cocktail permit and for authority to acquire ready-to-drink cocktail permits and further providing for distributors' and importing distributors' restrictions on sales, storage, etc, for unlawful acts relative to malt or brewed beverages and licensees, for unlawful acts relative to liquor, malt

and brewed beverages and licensees; and, in distilleries, wineries, bonded warehouses, bailees for hire and transporters for hire, further providing for limited distilleries and distilleries.

SB 700 (Pr. No. 1816) (Rereported) (*Concurrence*)

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, providing for advertising and sponsorships; in intermediate units, further providing for school safety and security enhancements; in professional employees, further providing for qualifications; in certification of teachers, further providing for State certificates, for career and technical instruction and for baccalaureate certification basic skills assessment; in Educator Pipeline Support Grant Program, further providing for definitions, for program establishment and duties of agency, for eligibility and for report; in school safety and security, further providing for School Safety and Security Grant Program, for school safety and security coordinator, for Targeted School Safety Grants for Nonpublic Schools and School Entities Program and for school safety and security training and providing for school safety and mental health grants for 2024-2025 school year; in school security, further providing for duties of commission, providing for school security personnel and establishing School Security Personnel Fund; in school security, further providing for duties of commission and providing for school security personnel and for School Security Personnel Fund; in school health services, further providing for vision screening and examinations; in Drug and Alcohol Recovery High School Program, further providing for establishment and payment of tuition; in administrative partnerships between school entities, further providing for legislative intent and for definitions, providing for instructional programming partnerships authorized, for school district feasibility study and for construction and further providing for establishment, for application, for grant awards, for technical assistance, for reports by school entities and for reports by department; in talent recruitment, further providing for Talent Recruitment Account; in charter schools, further providing for definitions, for charter school requirements, for powers of board of trustees, for facilities and for funding for charter schools, providing for funding for cyber charter schools, further providing for enrollment and notification and providing for enrollee wellness checks and for applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations; in disability inclusive curriculum, further providing for department responsibilities; in Schools-to-Work-Program, repealing provisions relating to expiration; 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, for tax credits and for limitations, repealing provisions relating to opportunity scholarships and providing for economically disadvantaged school scholarships; in course materials at institutions of higher education, repealing provisions relating to College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee; in sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking education, prevention and response at institutions of higher education and private licensed schools, further providing for memorandum of understanding; in miscellaneous provisions relating to institutions of higher education, repealing provisions relating to Public Higher Education Funding Commission; in funding for public libraries, providing for State aid for fiscal year 2024-2025; in reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for payments on account of pupils enrolled in career and technical curriculums and for student-weighted basic education funding, providing for student-weighted basic education funding beginning with 2023-2024 school year, further providing for State reimbursement for health services, for payments to intermediate units, for assistance to school districts declared to be in financial recovery status or identified for financial watch status and for Commonwealth reimbursements for charter schools and cyber charter schools, repealing provisions relating to administrative and instructional consolidation incentives and further providing for Ready-to-Learn Block Grant; in State Board of Education, further providing for powers and duties of the board; in construction and renovation of buildings by school entities, further providing for applicability; in School Environmental Repairs Program, further providing for School Environmental Repairs Program Restricted Account and for School Environmental Repairs Program; and making editorial changes.

SB 1001 (Pr. No. 1817) (Rereported) (*Concurrence*)

An Act to provide appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; to provide appropriations from special funds and accounts to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; and to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds to the Executive and Legislative Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

SB 1009 (Pr. No. 1813) (Rereported) (*Concurrence*)

An Act making appropriations from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund and from Federal augmentation funds to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

SB 1150 (Pr. No. 1818) (Rereported) (*Concurrence*)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in the State System of Higher Education, further providing for definitions and providing for Grow Pennsylvania Merit Scholarship Program; providing for institutions of higher education, for Grow Pennsylvania Scholarship Grant Program and for intercollegiate athletics; in ready-to-succeed scholarship, further providing for agency; and making a repeal.

SB 1154 (Pr. No. 1819) (Rereported) (*Concurrence*)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for institutions of higher education and for Performance-based Funding Council.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 6**

**PREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILL
ON CONCURRENCE IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS**

SB 1009 (Pr. No. 1813) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund and from Federal augmentation funds to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

On the question,
Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 1009?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 1009.

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-48

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

NAY-1

Coleman

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

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Bartolotta has returned, and her temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 6 RESUMED**

MOTION NOTWITHSTANDING SENATE RULE 12

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate proceed to consider Senate Bill No. 24, notwithstanding the provisions of Senate Rule 12(m)(2).

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

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

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 24 (Pr. No. 1814) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in disposition of abandoned and unclaimed property, further providing for claim for property paid or delivered.

On the question,
Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 24?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 24.

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-49

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

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.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 8**

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 688 (Pr. No. 1800) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in Pennsylvania Liquor Stores, further providing for sales by Pennsylvania Liquor Stores; in licenses and regulations relating to liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, further providing for liquor importers' licenses, fees, privileges and restrictions, providing for ready-to-drink cocktail permit and for authority to acquire ready-to-drink cocktail permits and further providing for distributors' and importing distributors' restrictions on sales, storage, etc, for unlawful acts relative to malt or brewed beverages and licensees, for unlawful acts relative to liquor, malt and brewed beverages and licensees; and, in distilleries, wineries, bonded warehouses, bailees for hire and transporters for hire, further providing for limited distilleries and distilleries.

On the question,
Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 688?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 688.

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Coleman has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

And the question recurring,
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-32

Argall	Comitta	Kane	Rothman
Aument	Costa	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Baker	Culver	Martin	Stefano
Bartolotta	Dush	Miller	Vogel
Boscola	Farry	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Brewster	Fontana	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brown	Hughes	Regan	Williams, Lindsey
Coleman	Hutchinson	Robinson	Yaw

NAY-17

Brooks	Flynn	Laughlin	Schwank
Cappelletti	Gebhard	Mastriano	Street
Collett	Haywood	Muth	Tartaglione
Dillon	Kearney	Saval	Williams, Anthony H.
DiSanto			

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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be at ease.
[The Senate was at ease.]

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 5**

MOTION NOTWITHSTANDING SENATE RULE 12

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I call up Supplemental Calendar No. 5, notwithstanding the provisions of Senate Rule 12(m)(2), and move that the Senate proceed to consider Senate Bill No. 700, Senate Bill No. 1150, and Senate Bill No. 1154 contained in Supplemental Calendar No. 5.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the motion?
A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

BILL OVER IN ORDER TEMPORARILY

SB 700 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order temporarily at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 1150 (Pr. No. 1818) -- 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 the State System of Higher Education, further providing for definitions and providing for Grow Pennsylvania Merit Scholarship Program; providing for institutions of higher education, for Grow Pennsylvania Scholarship Grant Program and for intercollegiate athletics; in ready-to-succeed scholarship, further providing for agency; and making a repeal.

On the question, Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 1150?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 1150.

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-49

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, Phillips-Hill, Pittman, Regan, Robinson, Rothman, Santarsiero, Saval, Schwank, Stefano, Street, Tartaglione, Vogel, Ward, Judy, Williams, Anthony H., Ward, Kim, 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 inform the House of Representatives accordingly.

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 1154 (Pr. No. 1819) -- 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, providing for institutions of higher education and for Performance-based Funding Council.

On the question, Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 1154?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 1154.

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-37

Table with 4 columns of names: Argall, Aument, Baker, Bartolotta, Boscola, Brewster, Brown, Coleman, Comitta, Costa, Culver, Dillon, DiSanto, Dush, Farry, Flynn, Fontana, Gebhard, Hughes, Hutchinson, Langerholc, Laughlin, Martin, Miller, Phillips-Hill, Pittman, Regan, Robinson, Rothman, Santarsiero, Schwank, Stefano, Tartaglione, Vogel, Ward, Judy, Ward, Kim, Yaw.

NAY-12

Table with 4 columns of names: Brooks, Cappelletti, Collett, Haywood, Kane, Kearney, Mastriano, Muth, Saval, Street, Williams, Anthony H., Williams, Lindsey.

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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be at ease. [The Senate was at ease.]

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 7

MOTION NOTWITHSTANDING SENATE RULE 12

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I call up Supplemental Calendar No. 8675309, and notwithstanding the provisions--strike that [laughter]. Mr. President, I call up Supplemental Calendar No. 7, and notwithstanding the provisions of Senate Rule 12(m)(2), I move that the Senate proceed to consider Senate Bill No. 1001 contained on Supplemental Calendar No. 7.

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

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

PREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILL ON CONCURRENCE IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 1001 (Pr. No. 1817) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act to provide appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; to provide appropriations from special funds and accounts to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; and to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds to the Executive and Legislative Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 1001?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 1001.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Collett.

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, now, we have quite a few things to celebrate with this 2024-2025 budget bill: historic funding for our public schools, including a \$7.7 million increase for schools in my Senate district alone; \$3 million for menstrual products in school restrooms across our school districts and in our CTE programs to make sure students are not missing class during their periods; significant investments in Pennsylvania's workers in the future of our economy, including \$2 million to renew my nursing workforce initiative; historic and long-overdue investments in intellectual disability and autism services; a new employer tax credit for childcare payments; and so much more. And while I intend to support the General Appropriation bill today, I would be remiss if I did not call attention to a significant missed opportunity, a failure to adequately invest in aging Pennsylvanians.

As the Democratic chair of the Committee on Aging and Youth, and as a nurse with long-term care experience, I was proud to have worked alongside my co-chair, Senator Judy Ward, and Secretary of Aging Kavulich, on the development of Aging Our Way, PA, a comprehensive 10-year roadmap to ensure Pennsylvanians could live and age with dignity. The Governor's proposed budget included \$11.7 million in new funding to fully implement Aging Our Way to make sure older and disabled Pennsylvanians can remain in their homes and communities, that their caregivers are supported, and that they have access to the services and resources they need to live life to the fullest.

This final budget package includes only a small fraction of that proposal with \$2.95 million for the caregiver toolkit. That is simply not enough if we want Pennsylvanians to know that we value them, if we want this Commonwealth to be the best possible place to retire. This does not include the long-overdue funding

needed to support our triple A's; fully address elder abuse, financial exploitation, and guardianship issues; nor to develop the structural supports we need in place to serve a population which wants to, deserves to, and indeed is encouraged by policies of our government to age in place. While I will cast my affirmative vote today, let us not let this budget be the end of these conversations. With one of the largest aging populations in the nation, we cannot afford to keep kicking the can down the road. And with the ability to allocate more than \$700 million to our Rainy Day Fund, it is clear that we have the resources available to make these investments. We just need to match those resources with the will to support our friends and family all across this Commonwealth. When we return to Session this fall, I hope we can work together to secure the critical funding that will make these programs a reality, sending a clear message to every aging Pennsylvanian: you matter.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Muth.

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to the General Appropriation bill, Senate Bill No. 1001. While I agree with Senator Collett's comments regarding some of the high points--and thankfully, there is a few--these are not missed opportunities. This, to me, is not historic. It is only historic in the way that the majority of the way this budget and its associated code bills and trade list bills have left a lot of Pennsylvanians behind and certainly pleased a lot of corporate for-profit entities with tax cuts that leave our State deficit larger than it already is, making our tax policies here in the Commonwealth, frankly, flat-out unfair with those companies and entities that use our public roads, public bridges, and resources not paying their fair share in taxes and, certainly, the regular resident of Pennsylvania being not only overburdened by rising costs from inflation from corporate greed, but also the lack of protections and public safety investments that this budget failed to implement. I want to just mention that this budget flat funds many critically important programs, and we all know that flat funding year-to-year means a cut because, as we all are well aware of, inflationary costs are annual. In fact, this General Assembly and the Governor's office got their own increase in funding to operate, but unfortunately, rape crisis centers, expanded medical services for women, behavioral health services, childcare assistance for working families, they were flat funded--zero.

The budget also completely includes zero dollars for a very successful and necessary program, the Whole-Home Repairs Program, which helped many homeowners across the Commonwealth and in every single Senate district in all 67 counties--zero dollars. Also, as the chair of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness in the Senate, this budget does nothing to help our EMS and fire companies who are all struggling. The Governor's budget proposal had an additional \$30 million for the Fire [Company] and EMS Grant Program, and unfortunately, that did not make the cut. Thankfully, the budget did reauthorize the actual program through 2029, but it fails to invest any additional funding into these necessary grant programs to keep all of our EMS and fire companies operating at full capacity with full resources. So, next time, if one of your constituents has a late response time to an emergency call, I hope we all recall this moment in time. Additionally, along with my other colleagues

who represent Chester County, we advocated along with Members on the other side of the aisle to ensure Chester County was included in part of the initiative for a fire tax millage pilot program. That did not make the cut, either, but other counties did. This would have been essential to address the concerns raised by Chester County municipalities and communities, and this millage increase would have been welcomed by the Chester County emergency services providers and municipalities.

Mr. President, a State budget is said to be a statement of our moral compass, our values, showing our constituents what the priorities of this legislature are for the people who we represent, and I cannot support a budget that ignores the priorities of so many of our constituents. I also cannot support a budget that greenwashes the harm being endured from the fossil fuel-induced climate crisis and having zero dollars to help prevent or recovery efforts when we have floods and extreme weather incidents. We had many Session days, we are late on this budget, and here we are at the final hour, again, reading hundreds of pages in the last minute. As my grandmother always said, haste makes waste. So, while there are some things in here in this budget that may be helpful, it certainly is not what public service is meant to be, and it is certainly not what our constituents expect from us. And, unfortunately, we are going to leave this building with a lot of people left behind. I encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on Senate Bill No. 1001.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

Senator STREET. Madam President, you know, in our budgets, it is a complicated process we go through each year, with folks negotiating from all walks of life from across this Commonwealth, and the goal is to come up with something that fairly represents the interests of people across the Commonwealth. And, certainly, there are things that I would have loved to have seen in this budget that do more, but we really should celebrate the work that has been done today in our pulling together a budget that does a number of things: billions of additional dollars for education, which will result in hundreds of millions of additional dollars for the Philadelphia School District and school districts across this Commonwealth; \$120 million in additional money for school safety and mental health grants; \$81.5 million for violence prevention grants. We have strengthened our healthcare opportunities for people to get it by strengthening our reinsurance programs, bringing down the cost of healthcare for Pennsylvanians. We expanded childcare tax credit opportunities through expansions of the employer childcare tax credit program. I certainly want to encourage this General Assembly to make sure we deal with transportation funding, which we have an opportunity to do later this year, and appreciate that there is some money for mass transit in this budget and transportation. But, clearly, we know we have work to do there. But overall, given the historic investments in education, given the opportunities to expand childcare tax credits, given the additional protections for folks who are accessing healthcare, and our critical violence prevention grants, which if you consider the \$120 million in school safety violence

prevention programs and the \$81 million in community violence prevention, it is over \$200 million in violence prevention. This is certainly a budget that I am proud to vote for and encourage others to do the same. I urge a "yes" vote.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

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

Senator HUGHES. Madam President, today's budget, as the previous speaker has indicated, is a culmination of, like most budgets, a culmination of some very complicated processes that come together to--in a sometimes unpleasant, sometimes heated back and forth--that comes together in a way that in this document, I believe, is worthy of support, worthy of a vote. And, in fact, in many respects, we are breaking ground here in places that we have been struggling to break ground in, but now, finally, finally, we are making some very significant progress. We can talk about economic development and job creation, well over \$500 million in a lauded and important new program that will be established in the PA SITES program. We can talk about continued investment in our neighborhood-based businesses, making sure that they get attention that for far too long has been denied them. That this General Assembly, for the last several years, has made that investment, and we are continuing in that space. Many of those neighborhood-based businesses still have not recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are responding to that. And that is a good thing. In this budget--it was talked about by previous speakers--we are continuing, I think, one of the key elements that has caused a reduction of violent crime all across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and in many communities--specifically, the city of Philadelphia sees the fastest and largest decline in gun violence and homicides of any major city in the country--and that is our violence intervention program. We are continuing investment there. In fact, growing that and adding a new program called the BOOST program, something that our Lieutenant Governor has been thoughtful about and working with us to get done.

We are doing things in spaces that merit attention because of the capacity of the State budget. The capacity of the State budget is so significant. We cannot ignore these areas because we have the financial capacity to get it addressed, and we are doing that, and that is important, and that is necessary. And in many cases, we are rising to the occasion to be our best selves; best represented in the conversation in the space about education, best represented there. In higher education, higher education, we are creating new programs and responding to a crisis that has existed for far too many years in supporting students--State-based, in-State students--to give them financial support to help them to attend all kinds of universities, but an extra special attention to our State-owned universities: the PASSHE system. Something that I have some generational familiarity with as my father was part of the beginning of the PASSHE system way back in the early 1980s and was an 18-year member of the board of governors. We are making investments in our State system and that is important, Madam President. We are making sure that students in Pennsylvania, in-State students in Pennsylvania, get extra financial resources to make college much more affordable, and they deserve it, they deserve it, and this State deserves it. We need them to be as talented as their dreams want them to be, and we are making that investment for them. We are providing guidance for them

when they enter the university with intense counseling and support and fully laying out all of the information that they need to have as they enter a college experience. But we are also providing them support when they leave the university setting by making sure that they have the full counseling, so they know what their responsibilities are, but not just what their financial obligations are, but know that they can and there are dollars and programs available to help them to reduce that, the pressure and, of course, the financial anxiety that goes along with it. Groundbreaking stuff in the higher education space and especially groundbreaking because, as we laid out in the PA Promise program, about 7 years ago, necessary to get done, we are finally rising to the occasion to get it done.

But most important, Madam President, most important is what we are able to get done in our K to 12 education system, our basic education system. And you all know, and we have spent many years, many hours over many years, at this podium talking about the need to invest in our schools. We spent time talking about the fact that for far too many years, Pennsylvania has ranked at the bottom of State support for our K to 12 system compared to other States around the country; a tragic, unfortunate place for us to be. We have talked from this microphone and from others all across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania about how every time that if you explore the background of a young person who has either committed a violent act or been the victim of a violent act, more than likely, that young person came out of an unconstitutionally funded, inadequately funded, and inequitably funded public school. The by-product of that neglect leads to tragedy in far too many cases. The by-product of that neglect leads to so many unrealized dreams and so much potential. We have talked about that. And so, the culmination of a lawsuit that started on November 10, 2014, and progressed to a final decision on February 6 [7], 2023, in an 800-page decision, the way we funded education in Pennsylvania was ruled by the president judge of Commonwealth Court to be unconstitutional, inadequate, and certainly insufficient. We went through a process to figure it out. How do we fix this? How do we address this? How do we respond to probably one of the most important civil rights court decisions in years? How do we deal with this? And as a result of that, our Governor laid out a financial investment plan that he produced on February 6, 2024, a year after the court decision was made. And we worked in a bipartisan fashion, in a bicameral fashion, to come up with a resolve that is historical, that is important, that is necessary. Over, over \$1 billion of new funding will be put in place to respond to that court decision and to help invest in young people and communities who have historically been neglected, consciously. This is not the perfect solution, but it is the footstool, it is the groundwork, it is the foundation of leading us to resolve this problem, hopefully, in a faster time period than even what the court and what our Basic Education Funding Commission has suggested. We have made a commitment. We have put our money into this system to get the best results for our young people because they deserve the investment. They deserve the support. Their dreams are just as important as our dreams, and we must invest in them so they can realize them. We are not done here. We still have far too many schools that are broken and toxic, where the heat does not work in the winter, and the air does not work in the summer. We have far too many schools that do not have sufficient equipment inside of them, where the textbook was written two decades

ago, where the computer systems are antiquated. We have too many classrooms where there are not enough teachers and we are responding to that particular crisis with the Student Teacher's Stipend [Support] Program, which we are doubling in funding. That is a good thing. But there are still too many crises that exists school to school, district to district, in every corner of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. And we must do more. But this, with over \$1 billion worth of investment, is significant, is important, is necessary, and this is what we have produced, and it is worthy of an affirmative vote.

Now, all of us have worked together, and I am obligated to thank my staff and Mr. Mekilo, who is sitting right here, who left the office at 3:30 this morning, and was back here at 7:30, and the entire team. And, of course, the team on the other side because, you know, you do not see, you do not see what happens behind the scenes. Folks are giving up holidays; folks are giving up time with family. Folks are trying to figure out their schedule and plans that were formerly in place, they may not be able to come together, but the staff who works in this building, supporting the Members and providing the good ideas to help us achieve this historic document, I thank you, and I know our Leader thanks you, and I know this Caucus thanks you. This is good work, and it needs to be supported, and it needs to send a message to us as elected officials that we can rise to the occasion and, in fact, do more. We have the capacity; we need to make sure that we have the will and that we maintain the will to get it done. On this day, this hour, on this issue, with this historic investment in the thing that is fundamental to the success of the young people of this Commonwealth--it is fundamental to the success of this Commonwealth--this historic investment of over \$1 billion in our K to 12 system deserves, requires, demands, an affirmative vote, and I suggest that we cast it and we cast it bravely. Thank you.

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

Senator MARTIN. Madam President, the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget is \$47.59 billion, or an increase of 4.7 percent from last year's budget, when supplemental spending and the final quarter of Federal stimulus funding are included, which is below the TABOR growth rate of 5.6 percent. Spending in this budget is nearly \$740 million below the level Governor Shapiro proposed in his February budget while also restoring approximately \$400 million for programs that are important to the General Assembly which were eliminated in the Governor's proposed budget. This year's budget transfers nearly \$740 million to the Commonwealth's Rainy Day Fund from last fiscal year, bringing the balance in the fund to more than \$7 billion. That reserve level represents about 15 percent, or 56 days of State spending, putting Pennsylvania's balance above the national average. Last year, the Rainy Day Fund generated nearly \$350 million of interest earnings.

This budget continues the phase down of the corporate net income tax from one of the highest in the nation, and last year being 8.49 percent down to 7.99 percent on January 1, 2025. The enacted budget provides increases to multiple programs in education at an overall amount that is more than [\$]200 million lower than the Governor's BEF requested amount. The basic education funding increased by \$285 million, including [\$]60 million to begin to address hold harmless provisions in the basic education funding formula. A new cyber charter reimbursement program

provides [\$]100 million to reimburse school district cyber charter costs. And cyber charter special education costs for school districts are reduced by about [\$]34.5 million by revising the formula used to calculate the tuition rate to use actual special education student counts. This change is effective January 1, 2025. The Ready to Learn Block Grant funding increased by \$526 million through a one-time formula to provide funding for school district adequacy and tax equity. School districts are required to use adequacy funding to the tune of \$494 million for best education practices such as before and after-school tutoring, improved reading curriculum, and other strategies that will improve student performance. Funding for tax equity in the amount of \$32 million will be used to mitigate lost revenue from assessment appeals and a reduced debt. Special education funding increased by \$100 million, and empowering families to make the right choices for their children remains a focal point as we have now hit a historic high of \$630 million for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program for families can find options that best meet their child's individual needs.

There have been additional investments made that include school safety and security and mental health funding, school facility improvements, and is part of our Grow PA package, and recognizing that so many of these institutions are busting at the seams across the Commonwealth, career and technical education receives an increase of [\$]25 million, or 21 percent, along with a \$5 million increase for CTE equipment grants.

In higher education, significant strategic investments are made for the implementation of the Grow PA package of bills. The Grow PA Scholarship Grant Program is funded at \$25 million and will provide \$5,000 in annual scholarships for resident students enrolled in educational programs in high-demand Pennsylvania job needs, who agree to not only work in Pennsylvania, but also live in Pennsylvania for at least 4 years after graduation. The Grow PA Merit Scholarship Program, aimed at attracting additional out-of-State students to Pennsylvania, will waive the difference between in-State and out-of-State tuition for non-resident students enrolled in high-demand educational programs who agree to work in Pennsylvania for 4 years after graduation as well. The Ready to Succeed Scholarship Program is increased by \$36 million to increase the family income limit to \$175,000 and to ensure a more appropriate grade point average requirement to participate in the program.

This budget also is investing where we have seen tremendous growth in our technical colleges, the schools of technology. Penn College of Technology, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, both who have seen tremendous enrollment growth, will also be getting an increase in this budget. And needless to say, to now be focused also on performance-based funding for our State-related institutions is another benchmark accomplished in this budget. We also make significant investments in county mental health, nursing home facilities, and also intellectual disability, autism services, including an initiative to provide services to 1,500 additional consumers. Along with additional funding in the budget, the accompanying Fiscal Code, which we have discussed, creates the Streamlining Permits for Economic Expansion and Development, known as SPEED Program, to establish permit review timelines for the Department of Environmental Protection and local conservation districts, a permit tracking

system and the option for third-party review of air, earth disturbance, and water permit applications.

This budget also bolsters our commitment to public safety here in the Commonwealth. Whether it is through renewed efforts related to human trafficking, whether it is cracking down on organized retail theft, or funding the SEPTA special prosecutor. This budget also continues funding to combat avian influenza through the agricultural preparedness and response appropriation. In addition, the budget creates a new agricultural innovation and development program. One of the items the budget includes, and what we often hear about in Pennsylvania when they talk about some of our nation's leading corporate taxes; when they talk about Pennsylvania's horrible permitting system; and when they talk about not having prepared sites here in PA, one of the items we are funding is the PA Strategic Investments to Enhancement [Enhance Sites] Program, known as SITES, which will assist in the development of sites for businesses to locate or expand in Pennsylvania, an additional [\$]100 million for the Commonwealth Financing Authority's Multimodal Transportation Funding [Fund] program, and Small Water and Sewer Grant program. We not only are committing to further reduce the corporate net income tax, we are now also on the path to eliminating the startup penalty that thwarts entrepreneurship and also removes another major barrier to attracting business growth here in the Commonwealth. We also are focusing on strengthening our commitment to workforce development programs that are actually getting real results in neighborhoods and communities across Pennsylvania. This budget also continues the phase down of the State Police reliance on the Motor License Fund and moves us 1 year closer to fully removing the State Police from that Motor License Fund, with only [\$]250 million of funding coming from the Motor License Fund in fiscal year '24 and '25, recognizing that those dollars should be focused on the infrastructure that plays such a key role in bolstering our economy and keeping our families safe.

Madam President, I recently was looking at data from 2023, and Pennsylvania was the 5th worst State in the country when it came to demographic loss, to the tune of about 10,000 more residents. And over the last few years, we have been focused on what we can do to turn around that lagging economy and to turn around Pennsylvania's demographic decline. And over those few years, addressing some of the core elements, the planting of seeds to move us in that direction, will reap results. Now, this is not the perfect budget for anyone, and no one is claiming that our issues or things that we are fighting for are going to end here. When we come back in not too long, we are going to continue to work on the Commonwealth's fiscal stability. Along the way, we all know the voters always get a say in the even number years as to what direction we head, but the work is far from over. But if we keep moving in the direction of pro-growth policies, which this budget absolutely entails and encourages, we will find ourselves turning that demographic and economic corner.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I rise and ask my colleagues to support this budget. Madam President, this budget is built on two fundamental principles of this Senate Republican Majority: honesty and empowerment. Indeed, Madam President, this is an honest budget. It is honest about the realities and the

limitations of divided government. It is honest about the reality of a Commonwealth Court ruling that has charged the Governor and the General Assembly with coming up with new ways to fund educational opportunities in this Commonwealth. It is honest about the impacts of inflation, particularly as it relates to those in the human services and healthcare fields. It recognizes that our home care providers, our nursing home providers, our providers of those who cannot support themselves, have increasing demands on their need to support the labor force that it takes to support the least among us. Madam President, it is honest about paying the bills. There are no tricks in this budget; there are no gimmicks; there are no games. In fact, this budget continues, continues an objective of making our spending align with the resources and the sources of those dollars and where they come from. And what I mean by that, Madam President, is, for example, for years, we have embarked on the State Police funding being removed from the Motor License Fund and put into the General Fund budget where it belongs, where it belongs, allowing the dollars for vehicle registrations and what the motorists pay at the pump to be used for its intended use, which is, in fact, transportation.

Indeed, Madam President, this is an honest budget. This is also a budget that empowers. Let us be very clear, between the work we did in December and what we are doing here today, we are adding \$225 million to the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. That is \$225 million of new resources to empower parents to make decisions to the benefit of their children, because we do believe in empowerment, and we do believe that parents have the ultimate responsibility for their children's education. This budget takes a step forward in empowering. This budget empowers job creators. Generational permitting reform--the gentledady from York County spoke again earlier this evening--we would have never imagined permitting reform as fundamental as what we have achieved in this budget to occur. We are going to allow shovels to get into the ground to create economic opportunity in every corner of this Commonwealth. We are further empowering job creators, as the gentleman from Cumberland County spoke earlier, by continuing to reduce the corporate net income tax, by finally coming out of the Stone Ages and allowing businesses and start-ups to have the net operating loss carry forward. And, yes, we are making investments in economic development. Madam President, we are empowering job creators.

Madam President, we are also empowering the law enforcement community. Several months ago, we passed legislation to bring law and order to SEPTA--a special prosecutor in bipartisan fashion--and tonight, we are giving the Attorney General the dollars to be empowered to ensure law and order is enforced on the SEPTA network. And, Madam President, we are empowering the taxpayers because we are transferring \$700 million into the Rainy Day Fund to further protect taxpayers from a future rainy day. We are also empowering property taxpayers by removing the exemptions that school districts can apply to, to apply for, to increase property taxes even beyond the rate of inflation. For the schools that receive the Ready to Succeed dollars, they will not be able to use those exceptions to further increase property taxes. I want to be clear, Madam President, that this is not a perfect product. This is not a perfect budget. This is not a budget that if I were crafting unilaterally, I would have designed. But let me be clear, this is a product of divided government. We, in our Senate Republican

Majority, accept the responsibility of governing. We accept the realities of what it means to be in the Majority in a divided government.

And to those across the building who choose to criticize this budget, to those outside of this building who choose to criticize this budget, let us be very clear, elections have consequences. Let me say it again. Elections have consequences. Yes, we have an electoral mandate. We embrace that mandate, but the reality is those who are at the budget table with us also have an electoral mandate. Our Governor does have an electoral mandate. The House Democrat Majority does have an electoral mandate. And it is our obligation to figure out how, in divided government, we take those individual and unique electoral mandates and make it work. That is what this is about; this is about making it work. And in this divided government, it is the best product that we could deliver at this moment for the people of this Commonwealth. You know, Madam President, we are all stewards of this institution. This institution has endured because of those who have preceded us, and it is our obligation to continue to be stewards of this institution so those who succeed us can allow it to continue to endure.

Madam President, in each of our desks, there is a list of the Members who preceded us who sat at our desks, and I often look at those names and I think about the history of what they did in their moment. And what I think we have to remember is behind each and every one of those names is a family, a family that we all love; is our constituents, our constituents who we are proud and humbled to represent in this institution; and also, our staff. Our institution endures because of those who support us, our families who support us, our constituents who support us, and our staff who support us. We have an obligation to help this institution endure, to recognize what it means to sacrifice time away from your families. I know I miss mine, and I am sure all of you miss yours, but we have stepped up and we have chosen to accept that sacrifice. We also know what it means to come here and try to be the voice of our constituents. That is part of what keeps this institution alive and thriving. But our staff as well, Madam President, we as Members reflect our staff. Our staff are a reflection of us, and together we all reflect one another. And I am thankful for our staff who have helped us through this difficult process. I am thankful for our colleagues who have worked as collaboratively as possible, despite our divergent philosophical vision for where this Commonwealth should head; that right now, we do have an opportunity to meet a moment, to pass a budget that is built on honesty, that is built on empowerment, and that does move this Commonwealth forward, and I ask for an affirmative vote.

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

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

YEA-44

Argall	Costa	Kane	Santarsiero
Aument	Culver	Kearney	Saval
Baker	Dillon	Langerholc	Schwank
Bartolotta	DiSanto	Laughlin	Stefano
Boscola	Dush	Martin	Street
Brewster	Fary	Miller	Tartaglione
Brooks	Flynn	Phillips-Hill	Vogel

Brown	Fontana	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Gebhard	Regan	Ward, Kim
Collett	Haywood	Robinson	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Hughes	Rothman	Yaw

NAY-5

Coleman	Mastriano	Muth	Williams, Lindsey
Hutchinson			

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.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 5 RESUMED
RECONSIDERATION OF SB 1154**

SB 1154 (Pr. No. 1819) -- Senator COSTA. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now reconsider the vote by which the Senate concurred in House amendments to Senate Bill No. 1154, Printer's No. 1819.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the motion?
A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 1154?

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

YEA-38

Argall	Culver	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin	Schwank
Baker	DiSanto	Martin	Stefano
Bartolotta	Dush	Miller	Street
Boscola	Farry	Phillips-Hill	Tartaglione
Brewster	Flynn	Pittman	Vogel
Brown	Fontana	Regan	Ward, Judy
Coleman	Gebhard	Robinson	Ward, Kim
Comitta	Hughes	Rothman	Yaw
Costa	Hutchinson		

NAY-11

Brooks	Haywood	Mastriano	Williams, Anthony H.
Cappelletti	Kane	Muth	Williams, Lindsey
Collett	Kearney	Saval	

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.

RECESS

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I would ask the Republican Members to go to the Rules room for a brief Republican caucus.

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I request that Senate Democrats meet in the rear of the Chamber for a caucus immediately.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For purposes of a Republican caucus to be held in the Rules room and a Democratic caucus to be held in the rear of the Chamber, 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 LEAVES

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Collett, and legislative leaves for Senator Haywood and Senator Brewster.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Collett, and legislative leaves for Senator Haywood and Senator Brewster. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 5 RESUMED
SB 700 CALLED UP**

SB 700 (Pr. No. 1816) -- Without objection, the bill, which previously went over in its order temporarily, was called up, from page 1 of Supplemental Calendar No. 5, by Senator PITTMAN.

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 700 (Pr. No. 1816) -- 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 preliminary provisions, providing for advertising and sponsorships; in intermediate units, further providing for school safety and security enhancements; in professional employees, further providing for qualifications; in certification of teachers, further providing for State certificates, for career and technical instruction and for baccalaureate certification basic skills assessment; in Educator Pipeline Support Grant Program, further providing for definitions, for program establishment and duties of agency, for eligibility and for report; in school safety and security, further providing for School Safety and Security Grant Program, for school safety and security coordinator, for Targeted School Safety Grants for Nonpublic Schools and School Entities Program and for school safety and security training and providing for school safety and mental health grants for 2024-2025 school year; in school security, further providing for duties of commission, providing for school security personnel and establishing School Security Personnel Fund; in school security, further providing for duties of commission and providing for school security personnel and for School Security Personnel Fund; in school health services, further providing for vision screening and examinations; in Drug and Alcohol Recovery High School Program, further providing for establishment and payment of tuition; in administrative partnerships between school entities, further providing for

legislative intent and for definitions, providing for instructional programming partnerships authorized, for school district feasibility study and for construction and further providing for establishment, for application, for grant awards, for technical assistance, for reports by school entities and for reports by department; in talent recruitment, further providing for Talent Recruitment Account; in charter schools, further providing for definitions, for charter school requirements, for powers of board of trustees, for facilities and for funding for charter schools, providing for funding for cyber charter schools, further providing for enrollment and notification and providing for enrollee wellness checks and for applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations; in disability inclusive curriculum, further providing for department responsibilities; in Schools-to-Work-Program, repealing provisions relating to expiration; 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, for tax credits and for limitations, repealing provisions relating to opportunity scholarships and providing for economically disadvantaged school scholarships; in course materials at institutions of higher education, repealing provisions relating to College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee; in sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking education, prevention and response at institutions of higher education and private licensed schools, further providing for memorandum of understanding; in miscellaneous provisions relating to institutions of higher education, repealing provisions relating to Public Higher Education Funding Commission; in funding for public libraries, providing for State aid for fiscal year 2024-2025; in reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for payments on account of pupils enrolled in career and technical curriculums and for student-weighted basic education funding, providing for student-weighted basic education funding beginning with 2023-2024 school year, further providing for State reimbursement for health services, for payments to intermediate units, for assistance to school districts declared to be in financial recovery status or identified for financial watch status and for Commonwealth reimbursements for charter schools and cyber charter schools, repealing provisions relating to administrative and instructional consolidation incentives and further providing for Ready-to-Learn Block Grant; in State Board of Education, further providing for powers and duties of the board; in construction and renovation of buildings by school entities, further providing for applicability; in School Environmental Repairs Program, further providing for School Environmental Repairs Program Restricted Account and for School Environmental Repairs Program; and making editorial changes.

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 700?

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. 700.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Lindsey Williams.

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Madam President, some people may hear about the total amount of funding for K to 12 education and say, wow, that is a lot of money, that is hard to turn down. But this is not a hard vote. This is an easy "no" vote, and here is why. It is simple: that large number is smoke and mirrors just like it has been for the last few years. The quote, historic investments that we applaud in press releases has barely kept up with inflation. It has been 18 months since the court ordered the General Assembly and the Governor to devise a plan to fund public schools in a way

that passes constitutional scrutiny. The court expert testified before the Basic Ed [Education] Funding Commission that we needed more than [\$]6.4 billion in K to 12 for adequacy--excluding facilities--and [\$]1.1 billion for early childhood. The advocates wanted to spread that out over 5 years, so that comes out to [\$]894 million per year over 5 years for adequacy. The Basic Ed [Education] Funding Commission report cut that number to [\$]5.1 billion for adequacy and proposed to spread it out over 7 years, so [\$]734.8 million per year. And today we have even less; [\$]494 million for adequacy for this year, and this year only. I have no idea how long it is going to take to fully fund, because there is no plan or no commitment for future years. There is no commitment to put a single additional dollar into districts that are unconstitutionally underfunded. This budget was held up in part because of a dispute about how we measure poverty for the adequacy supplement formula. For decades, the State has used quote, economically disadvantaged data in various programs as a more accurate reflection of the poverty rate of students in our schools. So, it would make sense when creating a new formula to fund the students in low-income schools that we would use the most accurate measure possible. Yet, this bill uses census data, which the court specifically rejected as quote, misleading. And we know this census data is a problem. We know it because this budget acknowledges that it is a problem. Eleven schools get an extra pot of money to make up for the fact that we are not using accurate data. I do not know why those 11 schools were chosen to benefit or why the other schools harmed were not. Maybe it is the same process by which certain districts were chosen to get a quote, tax equity supplement, which benefits some of the wealthiest schools in Pennsylvania; 19 districts, which are not underfunded, get this extra pot of money. Once again, we are letting inadequacy and inequity run rampant but just buried in multiple lines and in new and different ways. We are, once again, picking winners and losers. Not based on a transparent and predictable formula, but on the political whims of whoever was at the negotiation table. This is how we allocated school funding before we had a funding formula, and this is the same system of funding public education that the court found unconstitutional.

The court found that public education is a fundamental right. That means it is a priority. It takes precedence over other funding. It takes precedence over tax cuts to wealthy individuals and corporations. It takes precedence over pet projects. It takes precedence over millions of more dollars going to private schools through existing vouchers of EITC and OSTC. It takes precedence over arming school security. At every single BEFC hearing there were testifiers who spoke to the tremendous mental health needs of students and educators. We did little to increase the number of school counselors or to protect the work that they already do, but we are pushing guns into the hands of school security. Not a single testifier asked for guns in schools, but somehow we came to a deal on that. To be clear, the adequacy supplement is not the only remedy needed to fulfill the court order, but we did not do a good job on those other pieces, either. The court said a thorough and efficient system of public education included significant investments in early childhood, facilities, and special education. We put minimal dollars in early childhood, a measly \$100 million in facilities, which does not even cover the cost of one school building, and largely ignored student supports such as school counselors. I do not want to just fix public education for just some school

districts. We need a structural fix that goes farther than BEF or adequacy. If we do not solve the money that is flying out the door to charter schools, if we do not fund facilities, if we do not fund special education, we will be back in court, just with different schools.

So, to recap, we went from \$894 million for 5 years to \$735 million for 7 years to \$494 million for 1 year. Either we agreed to cut in half the billions of dollars that we constitutionally owe our students, or we dragged it out over 10 or 12 years so that the kids will not graduate with a constitutionally funded system. That is the big number, that is the number we should be paying attention to. I am proud to vote "no," and I encourage my colleagues to do the same. Thank you.

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I just want to rise just to make a few comments with respect to this particular piece of legislation. At the end of the day, I do intend to support it, but I have concerns about some parts of it. Certainly, some of the things that my colleague from Allegheny County raised are important to us and important to myself. That being said, though, there is a particular part that I am very much concerned about. That is the expansive growth of the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. This program has blossomed into a significant amount of money that is being driven out in this tax credit program. And while I recognize that it is an important program to many, I think we need to be cautious about how we improve it or how we address it, I should say, in its growth. Particularly at a time when it is my understanding is that folks are not fully subscribing to the program. That is a concern to us, we had that conversation in our Caucus. At the end of the day, I will be supporting this bill, but continue to express our continued concern about the growth of the EITC Program in Pennsylvania, and OSTC, and make certain that we are making the improvements that need to be done to the program itself. And for those reasons, we expressed that concern, but I, at the end of the day, support this measure.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I was interested in my friend and colleague, the gentlelady from Allegheny County's, comments about smoke and mirrors. Let me tell you what is really smoke and mirrors. Smoke and mirrors is trying to drive out dollars with self-reported data; that is smoke and mirrors. What we have stood for in this School Code and what we have stood for in funding schools in this Commonwealth is using census data that is accurate, that is verifiable, and is used to drive out every other source of funding when it comes to education. So, what we have put in this is accountability. What we have put in this is transparency. What we have put in this is a degree of taxpayer protection. And what we have done is acknowledge what the Commonwealth Court actually told us. The Commonwealth Court told us that the Governor and the General Assembly have to figure this out, and that is what we are trying to do in this legislation. That is what the Commonwealth Court told us. And, yeah, a big part of this legislation is about empowering parents because that is educational opportunity for students in this Commonwealth. And if we want to have a conversation about educational opportunities for students, we have to recognize that that is

all opportunities. We are blessed to have a myriad of options for parents because parents have the ultimate responsibility for their children's education. Parents must accept responsibility for their children's education. And this piece of legislation helps advance just that. There is not smoke and mirrors here, there is transparency, there is accountability, there is facts that back up what we have put in this piece of legislation. And let us make it very clear that when we have a conversation about what is fair in public education, recognize that we have 500 different school districts in this Commonwealth. And I bet you if you asked each and every one of them, they give you a different definition of what they think is fair. And so, we as a General Assembly are charged with trying to figure this out, and that was underscored by the Commonwealth Court, and that is what we have done in this piece of legislation. It is thoughtful, it is transparent, it has accountability, it has taxpayer protections, and it deserves our support.

Thank you, Madam President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

And the question recurring,
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-42

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

NAY-7

Cappelletti	Kearney	Muth	Williams, Lindsey
Coleman	Mastriano	Saval	

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.

HOUSE MESSAGE

SENATE BILL RETURNED WITH AMENDMENTS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 831**, with the information the House has passed the same with amendments in which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

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

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY**

The SECRETARY. Permission has been granted for the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to meet off the floor in the Rules room today to consider Senate Bill No. 831.

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 Rules and Executive Nominations, which will be held immediately in the Rules room.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. For the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations 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.

BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 831 (Pr. No. 1793) (Rereported) (Concurrence)

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 the Environmental Hearing Board; and establishing the Carbon Dioxide Storage Facility Fund.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 9**

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 831 (Pr. No. 1793) -- 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 the Environmental Hearing Board; and establishing the Carbon Dioxide Storage Facility Fund.

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 831?

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. 831.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

Senator MUTH. Madam President, I rise today in strong opposition to Senate Bill No. 831. A late State budget, 11 days beyond the constitutional deadline, which is clear we have given up on adhering to the Constitution, including the right to clean air and clean water. Like many bills that come across this Chamber for a vote, this legislation would serve only to benefit the oil and gas industry, waste taxpayer dollars, task already insufficient staffed State regulatory agencies with oversight, and bring further harm to the environment, as well as put Pennsylvanians in harm's way. Senate Bill No. 831 sets up a regulatory framework for unprecedented amounts of captured carbon from gas power plants to be pumped underground for storage. It would also mean a massive build-out of CO2 pipelines for transportation to these underground storage areas. Further troubling is the claim that this pilot technology is some sort of climate crisis solution, which is absolutely false--not my opinion, science. It is an expensive boondoggle being pushed by the oil and gas industry to continue regular business as usual, looting and polluting and using the government to subsidize its profits. Moreover, carbon capture is incredibly energy intensive, meaning that it would only lead to more gas extraction and the greenhouse gas emissions and other harms that go along with it. And of very important note is that very little, if anything, is ever mentioned about fugitive methane emissions, which are far more harmful on our environment than carbon dioxide, but yet, no one seems to worry about these increased methane emissions.

Simply put, carbon capture and storage via underground sequestration will entrench and grow the pollution that has already plagued frontline communities across Pennsylvania for decades and will mean a massive build-out and expansion of these CO2 pipelines through communities all across the Commonwealth, regardless if you are in the area of high gas extraction. An amendment to the bill in the House last month did nothing to address these environmental and climate concerns, nor protect Pennsylvanians and their private property rights. Senate Bill No. 831 would declare carbon sequestration to be in the public interest so that landowners could be forced to have it pumped under the land if a certain percentage of impacted landowners consent. So, for example, if four farms or four properties are in the area of impact for an underground sequestration, carbon capture well, if 3 of those 4 property owners consent to this development and one does not--let us say a dairy farmer, beef cow farmer, someone who values their land and uses it for resources--they have no say in the matter; they are overruled by their three neighbors. Their property, their assets, completely compromised. The bill allows for the storage under public lands if the local government gives permission. The public is supposed to believe that this is a benefit? We know that these carbon capture sequestration efforts have caused earthquakes; have caused aquifer contaminations; and also, when these pipelines have leaks, they literally suffocate humans and living beings. The amendment that was passed in the House changed the minimum time operations must cease before a certificate of completion can be issued and liability transferred from 10 years to 50 years. But the amendment also added the

clause "or until approved alternative period of time," effectively reducing the time to an unstated minimum before liability is transferred to the Commonwealth. The State, we the people, have to put up this financial burden of the liability.

Madam President, there are still Pennsylvania families across this Commonwealth from Dimock, Pennsylvania, to Washington County, to Westmoreland County, to Cambria County. I have talked to residents in many counties where gas extraction activities have literally decimated their drinking water--to this day are unable to use their private well for drinking water, some of which receive water deliveries because of this contamination. I urge my colleagues to vote "no," but the influence on this bill is hefty to say the least. Unfortunately, again, this budget theme and this bill at this fine late hour here on a Thursday night shows that Pennsylvania's legislature remains loyal to corporations and not the people that it serves.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Madam President, I will be very brief. I am speaking in favor of Senate Bill No. 831, primarily because of where my district sits. I literally sit in the arms of West Virginia, and for far too long, Pennsylvania has been losing: losing industry, losing jobs, losing opportunity in many, many different industries, but especially in the energy industry. And the new technology that is coming forward in this space is remarkable. We have an opportunity in Pennsylvania to take advantage of a carbon sequestration possibility--a new animal if you will--in this space. This legislation merely paves a pathway and wraps its arms around a burgeoning industry, and like I said, I sit in the arms of West Virginia in my district. West Virginia has passed similar legislation twice. They are ahead of the curve. We are tired of losing constantly. We have heard our Governor, Josh Shapiro, say over and over again: he hates to lose to Ohio, to West Virginia. This is a way we could win. This is something that is beneficial to Pennsylvania. This is something that will help with our environment. This is a way to capture carbon and sequester it and then to utilize it in other ways. This technology is burgeoning. It is something that we actually could, should, and must get ahead of and use the benefit of Pennsylvania. This is something that the laborers, the environmentalists, the trial lawyers, legislators, so many different groups that are not always on the same page, they are on the same page and for a very good reason. I encourage a "yes" vote.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lycoming, Senator Yaw.

Senator YAW. Madam President, I rise today in support of Senate Bill No. 831. Senate Bill No. 831 would establish the regulatory framework for carbon capture and storage in Pennsylvania. The bill also provides for liability during the operation of carbon storage facilities and long-term monitoring after closure. The Great Plains Institute, using data from a 2009 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources report, estimates that the State could store about 2.4 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide underground. Madam President, reasonable people, from organized labor to industry to mainstream environmental advocates, see this legislation for what it is: a significant step forward to continue our historic emissions reduction in Pennsylvania without

jeopardizing the reliability of our energy grid, a proactive step in attracting investment development and economic opportunity in our State for decades to come.

Madam President, about 2 months ago, I had the opportunity to talk to a person, yes, involved in energy, but also an expert in carbon. And the person told me: Senator, you do not know what this bill you have introduced, what it does. He said: you do not know what you have done. And I was kind of taken aback by that comment at first, and he said: what this bill does is it opens the door for Pennsylvania to have access to about \$400 billion in carbon capture funds that are available through the Federal government. I heard nothing more about it. The irony is, this week the Federal Department of Energy released the first money relating to the carbon capture storage issue in the United States, and it designated three projects where the money is going first. The first project is in Baytown, Texas: \$270 million to do carbon capture on a combined cycle gas-fired power plant. That has the equivalent of saving the emissions generated by 450,000 cars. The other project that they approved was Center, North Dakota: \$350 million to that project. That is a coal-fired power plant, and it has the savings of 890,000 vehicle emissions of CO₂. The third project that they approved was Yuba City, California, which is also a gas-fired combined cycle power plant: \$270 million, and this savings and emissions is equivalent to 390,000 vehicles. We can either stand by and do nothing or we can participate, and the participation that we are looking at is Federal Department of Energy funds and a Federal Department of Energy project involving carbon capture. I respectfully ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 831 on concurrence from the House of Representatives.

Thank you, Madam President.

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 Judy Ward.

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

And the question recurring,
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-37

Argall	Culver	Langerholc	Stefano
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin	Street
Baker	Farry	Martin	Tartaglione
Bartolotta	Flynn	Miller	Vogel
Boscola	Fontana	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Brewster	Haywood	Regan	Ward, Kim
Brown	Hughes	Robinson	Williams, Anthony H.
Cappelletti	Kane	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Collett	Kearney	Schwank	Yaw
Costa			

NAY-12

Brooks	DiSanto	Hutchinson	Phillips-Hill
Coleman	Dush	Mastriano	Rothman
Comitta	Gebhard	Muth	Saval

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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator Ryan P. Aument) in the Chair.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY**

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024

10:30 A.M.	EDUCATION (public hearing on combatting antisemitism on Pennsylvania college campuses)	Hearing Room 1 North Office
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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2024

10:00 A.M.	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (S) and AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (H) (joint informational meeting on Partnerships in Agriculture: A Sweet Investment in On-Farm Conservation and any other business that may come before the committee)	Red Barn Annex Ag Progress Days Site 2710 West Pine Grove Road PA Furnace
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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 169, 170, 173 and 1255; and House Bills No. 1409 and 2328)	Rules Committee Conference Room
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Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider certain Executive Nominations)	Rules Committee Conference Room
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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

10:30 A.M.	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bills No. 1131 and 1289; and House Bills No. 2160, 2265 and 2288)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
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10:30 A.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to consider Senate Bills No. 1278 and 1316)	Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
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11:00 A.M.	TRANSPORTATION (public hearing to collect testimony on optimizing Pennsylvania's multimodal transportation system)	Hearing Room 1 North Office
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12:30 P.M.	BANKING AND INSURANCE (to consider Senate Bill No. 967)	Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

9:00 A.M.	AGING AND YOUTH and BANKING AND INSURANCE (joint public hearing on protecting seniors from financial exploitation)	Hearing Room 1 North Office
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9:30 A.M.	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY (public hearing on waste to fuels)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

10:00 A.M.	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (public hearing on the American Red Cross-Past, Present, and Future)	Washington Co. Ag. Center Admin. Bldg. 7313 Sharpsburg Boonsboro, MD
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PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise because today marks 6,577 days since our Commonwealth's legislature last passed an increase in our minimum wage. It is a sad day, Mr. President. We finalized our Commonwealth's budget for the coming year, but unfortunately, we left what I think was one of our most glaring issues out of the packages of legislation passed as part of the trades and compromises that were a part of this year's budget. We failed to address our embarrassing, low, poverty-level minimum wage. And it is sad, Mr. President, that we have again told our minimum-wage and low-wage earners that they are not [as] important as the special interest that gets their needs and wants addressed while they are left behind. But even in my sadness, I am optimistic. I am optimistic that the tides are changing. I am optimistic that the vast majority of the public believes our minimum wage is immoral and too low, and I am optimistic that we can and will raise our minimum wage when we return in the fall. I do not want to beat a dead horse, and I will be brief since we have had such a long day, but I want to speak to the people who believe, like I do, that we need to raise our minimum wage. Please know I see you; please know I hear you; please know that I am fighting alongside of you. Mr. President, when we return to Session in the fall, I will return to this Chamber with a renewed vigor and drive to act and raise our minimum wage. I hope my colleagues will join me in my efforts to raise the wages of our low-wage and minimum-wage earners.

Thank you, Mr. President.

HOUSE MESSAGES

**HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS
TO HOUSE BILLS**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the Senate to **HB 613, HB 897, HB 1032, HB 1540, HB 1633, HB 1993, HB 2216** and **HB 2310**.

**HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS
TO HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the Senate to House amendments to **SB 654**.

BILLS SIGNED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair wishes to announce the following bills were signed by the President pro tempore (Senator Kim L. Ward) in the presence of the Senate:

SB 24, SB 209, SB 559, SB 560, SB 654, SB 656, SB 688, SB 700, SB 831, SB 1001, SB 1009, SB 1150, SB 1154, SB 1246, HB 115, HB 327, HB 613, HB 663, HB 897, HB 1032, HB 1540, HB 1633, HB 1853, HB 1889, HB 1993, HB 2216 and HB 2310.

RECESS

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, September 16, 2024, 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 9:50 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.